

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Foundation Phase
Welsh Second Language Development Policy

Our school policy is that every child will be taught Welsh in an environment which reflects the Church's teachings of love, tolerance and respect and will be helped to reach their full potential.

At **St Mary's Catholic Primary School** we believe all children are entitled to learn about the language, culture and heritage of their country, Wales. Most of our children come from non- Welsh speaking homes and thus the only regular and meaningful contact they have with the Welsh language is through their experiences in school.

Our aim is to develop children's confidence and competence to understand and use Welsh to express their feelings, thoughts and imagination. We aim to ensure they acquire positive attitudes toward Welsh and bilingualism and that this promotes tolerance to other cultures and other languages.

Aims and Objectives

Welsh is an established part of school life at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. It is strongly embedded in the school ethos and is used by both staff and pupils as one form of communication. Through the progressive development of children's skills in oracy (speaking and listening), reading and writing, positive encouragement from each other and adults around them, children are encouraged to communicate bilingually as a natural part of their learning.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we aim to:

1. Stimulate children's curiosity, interest and enjoyment to encourage feelings of belonging and a sense of heritage, roots and community.
2. Support and encourage children to gain bilingual competence (through oracy, reading and writing), taking account of age and ability.
3. Offer a path into cultural and social opportunities; literature, music, film, television, theatre and the richness of different cultures.
4. Support an understanding of the Welsh culture – Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig, and promote better understanding of others.
5. Encourage children to see differences between people as positive rather than threatening.

Teaching and learning style

We believe children should acquire and absorb Welsh through a holistic approach to learning. Our principle aim is to develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding through a structured developmental and

progressive continuum, taking account of their learning needs and allowing for spontaneous developmental opportunities when they arise. Teachers identify and use effective strategies for using language as a 'tool' for learning, creating opportunities for practical and purposeful language use. We aim to ensure learning is exciting, challenging and creative, and that learners understand what they need to do to improve and how they can do this.

Hearing and understanding are the first steps towards acquisition of any language. Teachers and support staff model correct pronunciation and appropriate intonation incidentally, through stories, rhymes and songs, in role-play and in other play / experiential learning situations. Children are encouraged to use Welsh naturally as a form of communication throughout the day.

We recognise all children are different and provide suitable learning opportunities for all by matching the challenge of the activity to the needs / ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies taking account of all learning styles and extending children's thinking skills. Opportunities are planned for children to learn collaboratively taking some ownership for their own learning.

Welsh Second Language Development across all areas of learning in the Foundation Phase

Effective provision for the development of Welsh in the Foundation Phase is carefully planned across all areas of learning to ensure that children have opportunities to develop, apply and extend their communication, speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a variety of media.

Opportunities to develop skills across the curriculum of thinking, communication, number and ICT are carefully planned across all areas of learning. Specific activities and resources will also promote the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

Children's familiarity with Welsh is promoted through a bilingual environment. Models of good language are used and displayed at all times. The use of Welsh for everyday routines, songs and rhymes reinforce language development and are embedded within the school day.

Personal and Social Development and Well Being

- Discussing moral issues through the medium of Welsh, e.g. emotional phrases and sentences to describe how they are feeling- Sut wyt ti heddiw?.
- Through role / imaginative play children practise their responses related to sharing and caring, e.g. diolch / thank you; os gwelwch yn dda / please.

ESDGC / Cultural Diversity

- Discover similarities and the uniqueness of the variety of cultures within Wales today.

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills

- Listening to and joining in with rhymes, songs and stories in Welsh, extending to children creating and reading simple dialogues/ stories independently.
- Through their play children can use a variety of media and ICT to communicate and practise their writing skills using Welsh vocabulary and language patterns. This can be extended to using simple Welsh dictionaries.

Mathematical Development

- Listen to and join in singing counting rhymes through the medium of Welsh, which can be extended to undertaking relevant mental maths problems,
- Handling and building up vocabulary relating to 2D and 3D shapes, e.g. cylch, triongl, etc.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Observe Welsh / bilingual signs in their own environment and develop this vocabulary / phrases / sentences in play.
- Use Welsh reference books / sources and ICT to explore and discover places in the world.

Physical Development

- Give and receive instructions in Welsh in games / gym activities, e.g. neidwch/ jump, rhedwch / run, gwnewch res/ make a line etc.
- Expressing feelings after exercise in Welsh.

Creative Development

- Listen and respond to different types of Welsh music.
- Follow and give simple directions in movement in Welsh, progressing to learn simple Welsh folk dances.
- Observe examples of work from Welsh artists / crafts people.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we extend this to include:

Spiritual and Moral Development

- Emphasis is placed on the diversity of spiritual and moral beliefs within Wales.

Additional Learning Needs inc. More Able & Talented

Welsh Second Language development is developed with all children, whatever their ability. It forms part of a broad and balanced education for all children.

Learning opportunities are matched to the needs of all children to include challenge and support for our most and least able children. When necessary these take account of any relevant targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

St Mary's Catholic Primary School recognises and supports the needs of all children. Pupils will be offered appropriate challenging opportunities to generate their own learning, to think and work independently.

Equal Opportunities

In St Mary's, we have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships.

Equality of opportunities is always observed with positive attitudes to Welsh Second Language Development being developed irrespective of disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, culture, language or religion.

Curriculum Cymreig

Opportunities are provided to develop and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of the cultural, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales. The local and school environment is utilised to support this. Welsh prayers, music, hymns and songs are used regularly in our school assemblies/ masses/ celebrations.

Children also participate in our annual Eisteddfod and St. David's Day Mass (including wearing national costume), participation in Urdd competitions each year, and participation in the LA 'Jambori' events.

Parental Involvement, Partnerships & Community

Parents and members of the community are encouraged throughout the school to support their children's learning.

Each week there is a 'Welsh phrase of the week' introduced by the Criw Cymraeg during our Welsh assembly.

We also encourage parents to support their children with activities related to our St. David's Day activities and school Eisteddfod.

Parents are actively encouraged to support their children's involvement in the Urdd competitions.

Transition

Whole school planning allows for smooth transition between phases. Regular curriculum meetings take place to ensure progression, smooth transition and continuity between the phases.

Marking, feedback and assessment

Marking, feedback and assessment will take place in line with the Marking and Feedback Policy.

Non-statutory assessments will take place in line with agreed procedures.

Resources

There are a wide range of resources, including ICT resources to support Welsh language development across the school. These are kept in the Welsh development learning areas / classrooms and in central resource areas.

Monitoring

This takes place in line with the Monitoring Policy.