

# Cwmffrwdor Primary School



## Welsh Language and Bilingualism Policy 2022-23

## **A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050**

*“The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. Our ambition as Welsh Government is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. This is certainly a challenging ambition, but a challenge we believe is worthwhile and necessary if we are to secure the vitality of the language for future generations.*

*Education is central to our vision, but we must ensure our young people come out of the education system ready and proud to use the language in all contexts.*

*The overarching message in this document is that we need to reach a position where the Welsh language is an integral element of all aspects of everyday life. If we want to achieve this, the whole nation has to be a part of this journey – fluent Welsh speakers, Welsh speakers who are reluctant to use the language, new speakers who have learned the language, and also those who do not consider themselves to be Welsh speakers. Everyone has a part to play, and we want everyone to contribute by realising our ambition.*

*By raising our expectations and adopting an ambitious vision, we have the potential to change the future outlook for the language. Together, we can enable the Welsh language to grow, and create a truly bilingual Wales with a living language for all.”*

## **Introduction**

This policy is a statement of the aims, strategies and principles for Welsh Language and bilingualism in Cwmffrwdroer Primary School. In accordance with the Government's 'A million Welsh speakers by 2050' strategy, we at Cwmffrwdroer Primary School are committed to maintaining and further developing a bilingual ethos. Although most of the learners at Cwmffrwdroer Primary School come from English speaking backgrounds, they all share the common experience of living and learning in Wales and are entitled to have this reflected in the school curriculum. We pride ourselves on providing exciting, interesting and relevant experiences to enable our learners to acquire sufficient familiarity with Welsh in order to encourage our children to develop further language learning skills for life.

## **Aims and Objectives**

At Cwmffrwdroer Primary school we believe that all learners are entitled to learn about the language, culture and heritage of their country, Wales. Welsh is an established part of school life and is used by both staff and learners as one form of communication. Through the development of skills in oracy, reading and writing, positive encouragement from each other and adults

around them, learners are encouraged to communicate bilingually as a natural part of their learning.

At Cwmffrwdoer Primary School, we aim to:

- Stimulate learner's curiosity, interest and enjoyment to encourage feelings of belonging and a sense of heritage, roots and community
- Foster positive attitudes in all stakeholders towards the Welsh Language and make them aware of the advantages of learning Welsh and becoming increasingly bilingual
- Create, foster and develop a Welsh atmosphere and environment in the school such as through ensuring Welsh has an audible place in all areas of school life e.g. on the playground, classroom routines, school assemblies, concerts, outdoor activities and school visits, and that Welsh has a visual place in and around the school e.g. signage, displays, newsletters and website
- Offer a variety of interesting, exciting and purposeful experiences that will enable the learners to develop confidence when using the language, including across the curriculum to enhance the development of learners' knowledge and understanding of the Welsh language
- Provide opportunities for learners to develop their use of Welsh in a range of situations beyond their Welsh lessons e.g. playground games, tuck shop, the implementation of a reward system

### **Effective Teaching of Welsh**

We believe that learners should acquire and absorb Welsh through a holistic approach to learning. Our principle aim is to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of learners through use of a progressive continuum, considering 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.

Hearing and understanding are the first steps towards the acquisition of any language. Teacher and support staff model correct pronunciation and appropriate intonation incidentally. Learners are encouraged to use Welsh naturally as a form of communication throughout the day.

At Cwmffrwdoer Primary School we understand that not all learn in the same way. Teachers therefore use a blend of teaching approaches that allow learners to learn in different ways and to explore skills in a way that suits them. We

encourage learners to collaborate and to take some ownership for their learning with adults facilitating this, willing to learn alongside.

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### The role of the co-ordinator

The school has a Welsh co-ordinator/leader. Their role is to:

- Take the lead in policy development and support the delivery of Welsh through the use of the continuum, ensuring continuity and progression across the school
- Support colleagues in teaching the subject content, development of planning, implementation of the continuum and record keeping activities
- Monitor teaching and learning to continue to support improvement in learner progress and report back to the headteacher, staff and governors
- Have responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for Welsh and relevant ICT resources
- Keep up to date with current initiatives and curriculum development
- Disseminate the information to staff and keep them informed of professional learning opportunities
- Collaborate with colleagues in other schools

#### The role of the teacher

All members of the teaching staff have a responsibility for the teaching of Welsh and they need to ensure that their knowledge is continually updated.

Their role is to:

- Provide appropriate time allocation to enable learners to make and sustain good progress in Welsh (10 minutes a day plus a longer lesson per week of 30 mins PS1, 45 mins PS2 and 1hr PS3)
- Ensure that all learners receive regular high-quality structured Welsh Second Language teaching
- Plan challenging, relevant and interesting activities for all learners to achieve good standards and make good progress in their knowledge, understanding and skills in Welsh Second Language
- Motivate and secure the active engagement of learners in Welsh Second Language through using a range of suitable teaching and training methods

and resources, including reading materials and materials to promote ICT in Welsh Second Language

- Give all learners, irrespective of ability, equal opportunity to learn Welsh
- Provide learning experiences across the curriculum to enhance the development of learners' knowledge and understanding of the Welsh language
- Make rigorous use of assessment for learning by enabling learners to evaluate their own work, the work of others and set targets for improvement to meet their individual overall needs

### **Criw Cymraeg**

In school we have established a 'Criw Cymraeg' who are a pupil voice group to encourage and promote the Welsh language. Our Criw Cymraeg consists of two learners from each class from Year 3 to Year 6, and is supported by the Welsh co-ordinator.

The Criw Cymraeg meet regularly where they reflect on progress towards the Silver Award (Welsh Language Charter) and share ideas to make further progress towards the award. They also keep the school informed of progress with their section on the newsletter.

Criw Cymraeg lead the weekly gwasanaeth where the whole school attends. Criw Cymraeg introduce 'ymadrodd yr wythnos', 'trac yr wythnos', distribute 'siaradwr yr wythnos' certificates, share the class postcards, gêm y mis, provide opportunities for learners to perform through the medium of Welsh and lead a Welsh prayer.

Criw Cymraeg aim to promote a strong Welsh ethos throughout the whole school and community of Cwmffrwdoer Primary School. They support the co-ordinator to provide a range of enriching opportunities to support the learners enjoyment when learning Welsh.

### **Review**

This policy was written March 2023.

The policy was adopted by governors in \_\_\_\_\_.

The policy is to be reviewed March 2025.