

DEVELOPING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

PREAMBLE

“The Welsh Language is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the education system in Wales” (*Building Excellent Schools Together – Chapter 5*). It remains that the furtherance of the Welsh Language at Porthcawl Comprehensive School is essential for those who are a part of it and for the wider benefit of Wales. If we are serious about giving every young person a real opportunity of experiencing, and contributing to, the rich and rewarding cultural heritage of Wales, the school must face the challenge of not only giving every pupil a chance to learn the language, but broaden its brief to embrace all matters that would involve being *Welsh*.

The Welsh Assembly Government’s Culture Committee is currently reviewing all aspects of Welsh Culture. The Assembly set out its long-term vision for Wales in **better.com**. This included a commitment to “fostering its (Wales’) unique identity”. The review will pay particular attention to:

- enabling people to use either language or both in all aspects their work.
- supporting Welsh as a family and community language.
- providing opportunities for people to learn Welsh, and to use it.
- promoting equal respect for both Welsh and English, and maintaining a consensus and good will about bilingualism.

POLICY

- Porthcawl Comprehensive School will endeavour to reflect the life of the community in such a way as to ensure that pupils have opportunities of extending their personal interests together with the knowledge of the language, culture and heritage of Wales.
- The School will have a positive corporate image and the ethos will reflect its determination to further the Welsh dimension.
- The School will maintain its statutory obligation to provide lessons in the Welsh Language at Key Stages 3 and 4.
- Further, the curriculum at Porthcawl Comprehensive will reflect the changing nature of Welsh society and prepare its pupils for the demands of that society.

PROCESS

The **Governing Body** should receive appropriate reports from the Headteacher as the need arises.

The **Headteacher** should:

- Publicise the School’s policy on the promotion and support of Welsh Culture activities and give it a high profile/ priority in school.
- Monitor progress made.
- Ensure that parents/ guardians are informed about this strategy.
- Liaise with the LEA where appropriate.
- Initiate with appropriate staff strategies to improve the provision of Welsh Culture.

The **SMT** should:

- Assist the Headteacher in the promotion of Welsh Culture.
- Collaborate with HOYs in the promotion of Welsh Culture.

Heads of Year should:

- Work in partnership with pupils to promote Welsh Culture as individual, group or corporate

Form Teachers should:

- Explore with pupils ideas for promoting Welsh Culture.

Classroom Teachers should:

- During their lessons, apply appropriate examples from Wales of activities that may or may not have a national identity.

School's Council should:

- Explore with pupils ideas for promoting Welsh Culture.

PROCEDURES

WHO	WHAT	HOW
Welsh Department	Teaching of the Language Welsh Culture <i>Eisteddfod</i> Carol Service School Assemblies Clwb Cymraeg Tocyn Iaith Urdd	Promoting its activities, literature, music, S4C Leading the <i>Eisteddfod</i> as a major School Calendar Event Giving Welsh a prominent spot in the service Encouraging and supporting a Welsh dimension weekly event promoting the language and culture oral incentive scheme, in conjunction with the Merit System school support for residential courses
WHO	WHAT	HOW
Whole School	Supporting Bilingualism Extra Curricular Activities <i>Eisteddfod</i> Transition Carol Service	Signs, publications, web-based, etc. Urdd, music, etc. support for its organisation and place of prominence in the School Calendar reinforce sound relationships between feeder schools and ourselves – enhances curriculum 5-14 readings, music
Year Group and House System	Welsh Assemblies House Activities - <i>Eisteddfod</i>	encouraging Year Tutors and House Leaders to include a Welsh dimension in Assemblies
Departmental	Art Business + + Computing DT, Food and Textiles Drama English	Cwricwlwm Cymraeg The unique position of the Welsh Language and Welsh Culture can be promoted through subjects that add a

Departmental	History Geography Mathematics Media Studies MFL Physical Education Religious Studies Science Welsh Sociology Economics Music	Welsh dimension in the wider sense to their Schemes of Work. This school sees the need to prepare pupils for the increased number of career opportunities that now exist for citizens who possess varying degrees of proficiency in English and Welsh alongside other European languages.
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