

LATECOMERS TO THE LANGUAGE - JOINING WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Why choose Welsh?

Whichever language you speak at home, Welsh-medium education can give your child additional opportunities, experiences and skills. Choosing a Welsh-medium education provides your child with the opportunity to extend their bilingual skills creatively and academically. There are wider benefits to a bilingual education including a positive effect on a child's cognitive abilities, and these benefits last a lifetime.

We would be delighted to welcome your child to our school at any age and offer a dedicated transition programme to support your decision to move your child to a Welsh medium education.

The majority of pupils who attend our school come from non-Welsh speaking homes. Welsh is the official language of our school, and our aim is to develop children's ability to embrace and use two languages effectively by the time they leave primary school.

With this in mind we focus solely on Welsh during Foundation Learning (nursery to year 2) and children are immersed in the language both in class and around the school.

The aim is then to foster bilingualism throughout Key Stage 2. Children who start in year 3 or above, who are new to Welsh, are supported through a dedicated and cohesive 10 week language immersion programme funded by the Local Authority.

In the mornings, children are part of a small learning group taught by specialists in teaching Welsh, who are supported by one of Flintshire's Welsh Advisory Teachers. During the afternoon, children follow the usual school curriculum in class where they have opportunities to practise using the language they have been learning in the mornings.

After 10 weeks, children remain in the classroom full-time, and class teachers draw on a bank of resources to continue to support children as they develop their linguistic skills.

The 10 week programme is available as a fully digital resource, so parents can also access the programme and choose to learn alongside their children should they wish. Login details are available from the child's school.

Introductory video to the programme here:



Fflam Fflint Video.mp4

ADVANTAGES OF BEING BILINGUAL:

Having the ability to speak Welsh is either an essential or desirable skill for a growing number of jobs.

Being able to apply knowledge in at least two languages.

Increases capacity to learn another language.

Learning Welsh offers opportunities to experience two cultures – including literature, music, digital media, and a host of other things.

Speaking Welsh can help to build a fuller understanding of a person's wider community and their place within it.

Research shows that children who understand two languages think more flexibly and creatively.

It can help with intergenerational transition if one's grandparents or family members are more comfortable in one language.

To learn more about these advantages, see the videos and article below:

Ted Talk: The Benefits of a Bilingual Brain (4:49s):

https://www.ted.com/talks/mia_nacamulli_the_benefits_of_a_bilingual_brain/transcript?language=en

Menter Iaith: A series of short videos (all under 1 minute) highlighting the advantages of a bilingual education:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLad5Y0wC3xUCNqG0KE8qrq9rDG_dgZQCh

Article: Bilingual children have more efficient thinking skills, research by Bangor lecturers reveal (2 minute read):

<https://nation.cymru/news/bilingual-children-have-more-efficient-thinking-skills-research-by-bangor-lecturers-reveals/>

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS

We are very experienced in supporting both pupils and parents.

All communication from school is sent home bilingually. Your child's teacher will be more than happy to help you with your child's homework. In fact, research suggests that dealing with their work in two languages can actually help children understand the subject that they are studying and can lead to more independent learners.

For more information on Secondary Welsh-medium education in Flintshire, visit [Link to Ysgol Maes Garmon website here](#)

For more information on Welsh-medium education in Flintshire, visit: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Welsh-Medium-Schools.aspx>