Amberleigh Care
Specialist Therapeutic Care & Education

Polisi Strategaeth Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Strategy Policy

Procedure/Guidance

Policy Issued: August 2024

Policy Author: Sioned Davies (Headteacher)

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Reviewed by: Bethan Jones

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Welsh Language Strategy

Overview

At Amberleigh Therapeutic School, we are proud to support the Welsh Government's *Cymraeg 2050* initiative, which aims to achieve one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

English is the main language of communication, teaching, learning and assessment at Amberleigh Therapeutic School, Golfa Hall. However, the school is committed—alongside the Powys Local Authority Welsh Education Scheme and its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan—to promoting the aims and aspirations of the Welsh Government by:

- Recognising the important contribution our school makes to the goal of "increasing the number of people who both speak and use the language" (*A Living Language: A Language for Living*, 2012).
- Ensuring that the school ethos reflects an "awareness of the value of Welsh, both as part of our national heritage and as a useful skill in modern life" (*A Living Language: A Language for Living*, 2012).

Pupils are encouraged to use both Welsh and English. Around 40% of pupils have previously been taught some Welsh during their early education. All pupils come from English-speaking homes; 50% of pupils are from Wales and 50% from England. As all now reside in Wales, the school community is committed to ensuring pupils can live their lives through the medium of Welsh should they choose to do so.

Aims

We aim to:

- Promote an ethos that values and promotes the Welsh language and Welsh culture.
- Ensure Welsh is heard across school life—for example, during classroom routines, celebration days, outdoor learning and educational visits.
- Ensure Welsh has a visible presence around the school through bilingual signage, displays, newsletters and the website.
- Provide equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of ability, to learn Welsh through lessons and clubs.
- Offer learning experiences across the curriculum that enhance pupils' understanding of the Welsh language, culture and heritage.

Curriculum Cymreig

The Curriculum Cymreig acts as a unifying principle, fostering a sense of belonging and helping pupils understand the country in which they live. Learning is planned to meet individual needs, with a strong focus on developing pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in a Welsh context.

Through Humanities lessons, extra-curricular activities, trips and social communication sessions, pupils have opportunities to:

- Celebrate the distinctive cultures, languages and traditions of Wales, while respecting other cultures (e.g., a weekly Welsh Club).
- Gain knowledge of their local community, its values and traditions (e.g., meeting local councillors, undertaking historical walking tours, and speaking with local entrepreneurs).
- Explore creative and expressive arts in Wales and the wider Celtic tradition, including literature, music, art, craft, dance and sport (e.g., attending an Eisteddfod).
- Develop understanding of religious beliefs and practices in Wales—past and present—and their influence on Welsh life.
- Gain insight into the political life of Wales.
- Explore Wales' connections with the UK, Europe and the wider world.

Cymraeg Campus

Introduced in September 2025, Cymraeg Campus is a Welsh Government–supported Language Charter framework designed to increase pupils' use of Welsh, especially in English-medium settings. It provides a structured, whole-school approach to fostering a strong Welsh ethos and encouraging everyday Welsh language use.

Main Aims

- Promote a strong Welsh ethos across the whole school.
- Encourage pupils to use Welsh socially as well as academically.
- Provide enriching activities that make learning and using Welsh enjoyable.
- Engage the entire school community—pupils, staff, parents, governors and the wider community.

Tocyn Iaith (Language Token System) Incentives

Our Welsh Lead Bethan Jones Introduced the 'Tocyn Iaith' system (September 2025) Where all staff can reward pupils who use incidental Welsh or demonstrate good use of Welsh during oracy, reading, writing or other curriculum activities.
Pupils post their tokens into a collection box, and tokens are counted at the end of each half term. Pupils can earn rewards such as:

- 10 tokens — Welsh dragon keyring
- 25 tokens — Welsh dragon pen
- 50 tokens — Welsh dragon socks
- 100 tokens — Welsh dragon mug

Daily Handover – Siarad Cymraeg

The online daily handover template includes a section where staff record the names of pupils who have used Welsh that day.

Siaradwr Cymraeg yr Wythnos (Welsh Speaker of the Week)

The Welsh coordinator has introduced incentives for pupils to speak Welsh on a daily basis.

Staff review pupils' use of Welsh throughout the week. During Friday's whole-school meeting, one pupil is recognised and awarded a certificate for outstanding use of the Welsh language.

Signage

Permanent internal and external signage is bilingual. Classrooms are named after local Welsh lakes and rivers:

- Hafren
- Efyrnwy
- Banwy
- Elan
- Clywedog
- Camlad
- Hafesb

Welsh Displays

Each classroom displays essential Welsh-language posters, including greetings, emotions, days of the week, months, numbers and colours. A permanent Cymraeg Campus display is located outside the office on the top corridor.

Welsh Language House Assemblies

Each term, a one-hour Welsh-themed house assembly (for Alpha, Omega and Nant) is held. Examples include:

- **Autumn Term** — *Nadolig* (Christmas activities)
- **Spring Term** — *Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant* (St David's Day activities)
- **Summer Term** — Welsh myths and legends

Welsh Resources

Following pupil voice discussions, the school has purchased Welsh dictionaries and simple reading books.
Pupils also enjoy using online Welsh-learning platforms during break times (e.g., *Learn Welsh*, BBC Welsh learning resources, Duolingo).

Educational Visits – Pupil Voice

Recent visits include Powis Castle, a renowned 13th-century fortress in Welshpool. Pupils have requested future visits to the National Urdd Eisteddfod, Beddgelert, Devil's Bridge and Corris Mines.

Visit to a Welsh Book shop

During the Summer term 2026, some of the pupils visited Siop Cwlwm in Oswestry, which is a family run shop offering books, cards, music and gifts that celebrate the Welsh Language and Culture.

Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Language Music Day)

An annual music workshop will be organised, enabling pupils to listen to, join in with and perform Welsh music.

Own Clothes Day

On St David's Day, pupils wear red, white and green (*coch, gwyn a gwyrdd*) to celebrate Welsh traditions and express cultural pride.

Welsh After-School Club

A weekly Welsh Club is offered to all pupils, usually on Mondays or Wednesdays from 3:30–4:00pm.

Merchandising and Literature

Where possible, the school prospectus displayed in Wales will be made available in Welsh.

Translation Service

A local Welsh first-language teacher provides translation services for external documentation.

Welsh-Speaking Staff

The *Iaith Gwaith* (Working Welsh) badge system is used to show who can speak Welsh.
Four members of the teaching team (including the Headteacher) speak Welsh, and seven are currently learning. The school is committed to ensuring all staff receive sufficient training to deliver Welsh Second Language within and beyond the classroom.

Information on Welsh courses is shared with staff to promote Welsh language development.

Recruitment

Where appropriate, the ability to speak Welsh will be considered desirable when recruiting for roles in Wales. External job adverts may be issued bilingually.

Document Control

This policy will be reviewed annually.
Headteachers will support the monitoring and review of this policy by:

- Gathering feedback from the teaching team.
- Ensuring alignment with Welsh Government guidance.