

Bilingualism Policy



Signed:

Date:

Review Date:

What is Bilingualism?

“Bilingualism is the ability to speak, read and write in two languages and research suggests that bilingual education offers pupils the added benefits of being able to use two languages and being aware of two cultures.” (Developing Dual Literacy: An Estyn discussion paper – 2002).

Most researchers agree that a child, who is exposed to two languages at an early age, and simultaneously, will naturally learn to use both languages. (The American Speech – Language – Hearing Association).

In St Mary’s, nearly all pupils come from English speaking backgrounds.

How does St Mary’s aim to develop and promote Bilingualism?

The Governors, Head and Staff of St Mary’s School are committed to developing children’s ability to use the Welsh language and as such, Curriculum Guidelines for Welsh Second Language have been in operation throughout the school.

The Subject Leader offers support and guidance to all staff to help them deliver the Scheme of Work and incidental Welsh.

The Athrawes Bro visits School regularly, offering support to the Subject Leader and other staff as and when the need arises.

In School, teachers regularly use incidental Welsh in all lessons and around the school when speaking to children, and children are encouraged to and rewarded for speaking to adults and other children in Welsh. Teachers are increasingly striving to be heard using Welsh when conversing with each other.

St Mary’s School prides itself on having created a strong bilingual ethos evidenced in its wide range of signs in Welsh around the school. Welsh language wall displays are evident in classrooms and displays are evident in other areas to support children’s learning in Welsh.

“Cymal yr Wythnos” (Phrase of the Week) is practised by all children and staff throughout the week. Welsh stickers are awarded to children to recognise and reward their efforts in using Welsh.

The school rewards children who are heard using Welsh with each other by awarding stickers in the Sharing Assembly every Friday.

The school has a good supply of up to date Welsh Second Language resources.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging to Wales and enjoy using Welsh, singing songs in Welsh, and performing in the School’s St David’s Day Assembly and Eisteddfod.

Staffing

Our aim is to ensure all teaching staff and assistants receive training. Our Subject Leader recognises the importance of bilingualism and is keen to develop and promote it in School.

The Governors, Headteacher and Staff of St Mary's School recognise that the development of bilingualism will take some time but it believes that, with the commitment of all the above mentioned, it has in place the grounds for success in this area.