

Mount Street Nursery & Infants School



Whole School Approach to Bilingualism

Date	June 2023
Review Date	Jun 2026

Whole School Approach to Bilingualism

Mount Street Infant and Nursery School is situated in the centre of Brecon town. Despite being nestled in the heart of the Welsh countryside Brecon is a predominantly anglicised area where the tradition of Welsh speaking families has faded over the years. At present, no children come from a Welsh speaking home. There is also a growing minority of pupils with English as a second, or even third language enrolling in our school with the majority being Nepali pupils from families which have been posted to Brecon by the British Army. Our links with the British Army also ensure that we receive pupils from the whole of the United Kingdom. Providing a fully inclusive environment where all pupils are provided with the skills and opportunities to become bilingual in English and Welsh regardless of background is our aim at Mount Street Nursery & Infant School.

Bilingualism is promoted positively across the school and also features in our pre-school playgroup as an important part of everyday language. Incidental Welsh is evident and encouraged in all aspects of school life ranging from collective worship to playtime. Our aim is to provide children with the confidence, skills and vocabulary to enable them to use their knowledge of the Welsh language in as many contexts as possible. Most importantly, we as staff aim to be good role models inspiring children to use Incidental Welsh.

Our Languages, Literacy and Communication co-coordinator has completed two terms of the Sabbatical Course for Teachers which not only resulted in an improvement in her own language skills and confidence but also up-skilled her in her ability to teach a second language, skills which she has now been able to share with all other staff in the school.

As a school, in October 2018, we were successfully awarded the Bronze Award of the Siarter Iaith, a Welsh Language Charter. This initiative is driven by the whole school with Criw Cymraeg playing an important role. We are currently working towards the Silver Award.

We aim to encourage our pupils to use Welsh in as many of the following contexts as possible.

- During registration, both attendance and dinner.
- During lessons, incidentally and in role play.
- Greeting peers and staff.
- During collective worship and concerts.
- When being dismissed from the yard.
- In the dinner hall.
- On displays throughout the school.
- Ymadrodd yr Wythnos (Welsh Phrase of the Week).
- Seren Cymraeg (weekly achievement award).

- Through resources including books and Apps and websites.
- Through story-telling.
- Through off-site visits.

Moving Forward

We aim to build our strengths in the use of incidental Welsh as follows:

- Continue with our work towards the Silver Award of the Siarter Iaith initiative.
- Enhancing and using appropriate resources.
- Purchasing resources relevant to children’s learning as and when they become available.
- Continuing training for all staff.
- Monitoring and evaluating teaching and use of incidental Welsh.
- Continue to promote and praise bilingualism through the ‘Seren Cymraeg’ initiative.

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Date:

Date of Review: