

YOUR GIFT. THEIR FUTURE.

A guide to
Welsh-Medium Education
in Pembrokeshire

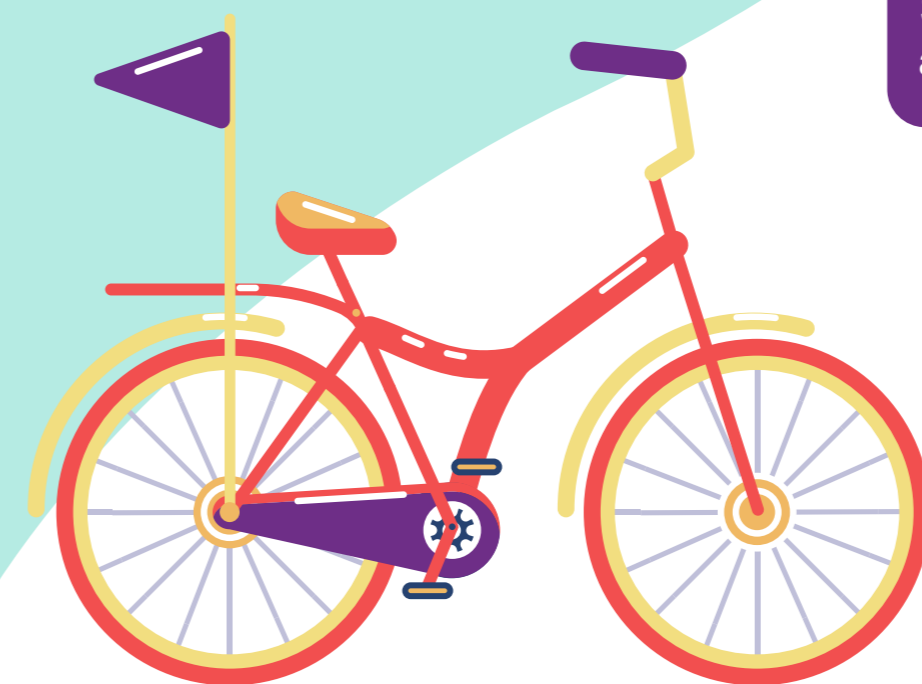


THE WELSH LANGUAGE BELONGS TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF WALES

No matter what your home language, your child can **access and thrive** in Welsh-medium education.

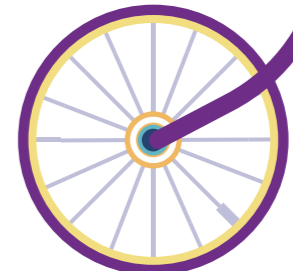


THINK OF LANGUAGES LIKE THE WHEEL ON A BICYCLE



One wheel (one language) can get you places...

So can a big wheel and a little wheel...



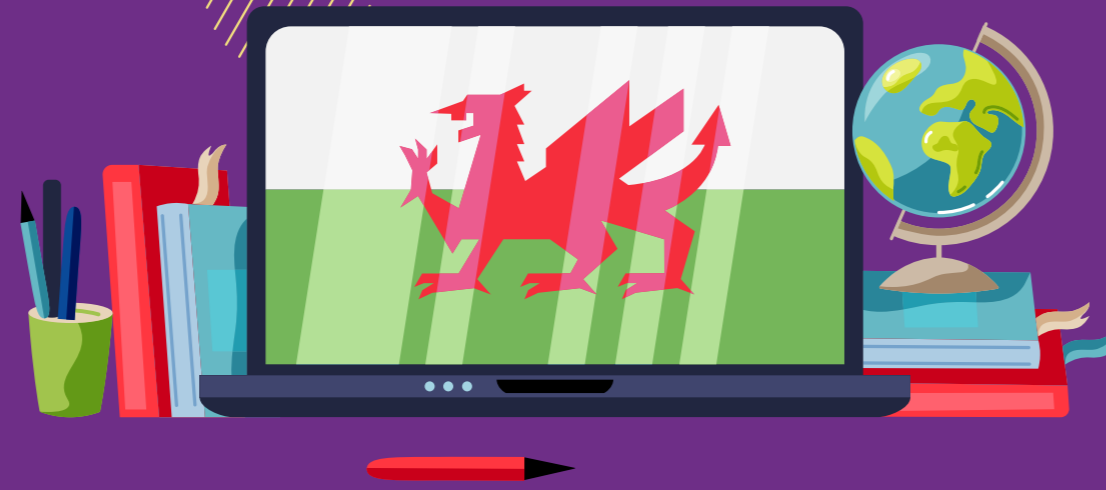
However, when your wheels are nicely balanced and fully inflated you'll go farther!

CYMRAEG. IT BELONGS TO US ALL

The Welsh language is one of Wales' treasures and is part of what defines us as people and as a nation.

Welsh is one of the oldest languages in Europe.

As of September 2020, around 29% of the population of Wales aged three or more reported being able to speak Welsh, and about 16% spoke Welsh daily.



A THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

The Welsh Government's vision for the Welsh language in Wales is to see, by 2050, a million speakers using the language in every aspect of their lives, and doubling the percentage of people in Wales who speak and use the language daily.

WHY IS BILINGUALISM IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN IN WALES?

“**BILINGUALISM INCREASES OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICES.**”
- Professor Colin Baker

IT WILL AFFECT THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!
IT IS LIKELY TO...

- AFFECT A CHILD'S IDENTITY
- NETWORKS OF FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES
- SCHOOLING
- EMPLOYMENT
- MARRIAGE
- PREFERRED AREA OF RESIDENCE
- TRAVEL
- THINKING

SWITCH ON THE BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM

The ability to speak and switch between languages can boost a child in many ways.

Being able to switch naturally between languages makes children feel good about themselves and their abilities and raises their self-esteem. When learning any language, young children mix and experiment with words – this doesn't mean that they're confused, it's part and parcel of learning.



- **BILINGUALISM STRENGTHENS COGNITIVE ABILITIES**
- **BILINGUALS CAN BE MORE OPEN-MINDED**
- **BILINGUAL PEOPLE TEND TO BE MORE CREATIVE AND FLEXIBLE**
- **BILINGUALS FIND IT EASIER TO FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF TASKS SIMULTANEOUSLY**

WHAT IS WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION?

By choosing Welsh-medium education your child will achieve fluency in both Welsh and English.

Welsh-medium education is offered across Pembrokeshire within a reasonable distance to your home.

Welsh is the main language of the classroom and the schoolyard in these schools.

Your child will study and socialise in Welsh.

Regardless of home language, your child will be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision and by the end of Key Stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.



DID YOU KNOW?

Increased demand and provision for Welsh language education in areas of Pembrokeshire such as Tenby, Pembroke and Haverfordwest has resulted in an increase in the number of Pembrokeshire residents that say they can speak Welsh.

BILINGUALS

Speaking two or more languages on a regular basis from a young age can have a **positive effect on the brain.**

... TEND TO DO BETTER AT SCHOOL - THIS MAY RESULT FROM MULTIPLE FACTORS E.G. HIGHER SELF ESTEEM, CREATIVE THINKING, A WIDER WORLDVIEW.

- Professor Colin Baker

... HAVE A REDUCED RISK OF MEMORY LOSS IN LATER LIFE.

- Dr Ellen Bialystak, University of York, Canada

... SHOW MORE ABILITY IN OTHER SUBJECTS WHEN THEY ARE FOUR AND FIVE YEARS OLD.

- Dr Ellen Bialystak, University of York, Canada

... CAN OUTPERFORM CHILDREN WHO SPEAK ONLY ONE LANGUAGE IN PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS AND CREATIVE THINKING.

- Research led at the University of Strathclyde

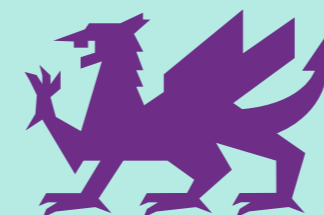
...FIND IT EASIER TO LEARN A THIRD LANGUAGE.

- Professor Colin Baker

... DEMONSTRATE BETTER EXECUTIVE CONTROL THAN MONOLINGUALS. IN CHILDREN, EXECUTIVE CONTROL IS CENTRAL TO ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND IN TURN, ACADEMIC SUCCESS IS A SIGNIFICANT PREDICTOR OF LONG TERM HEALTH AND WELL BEING.

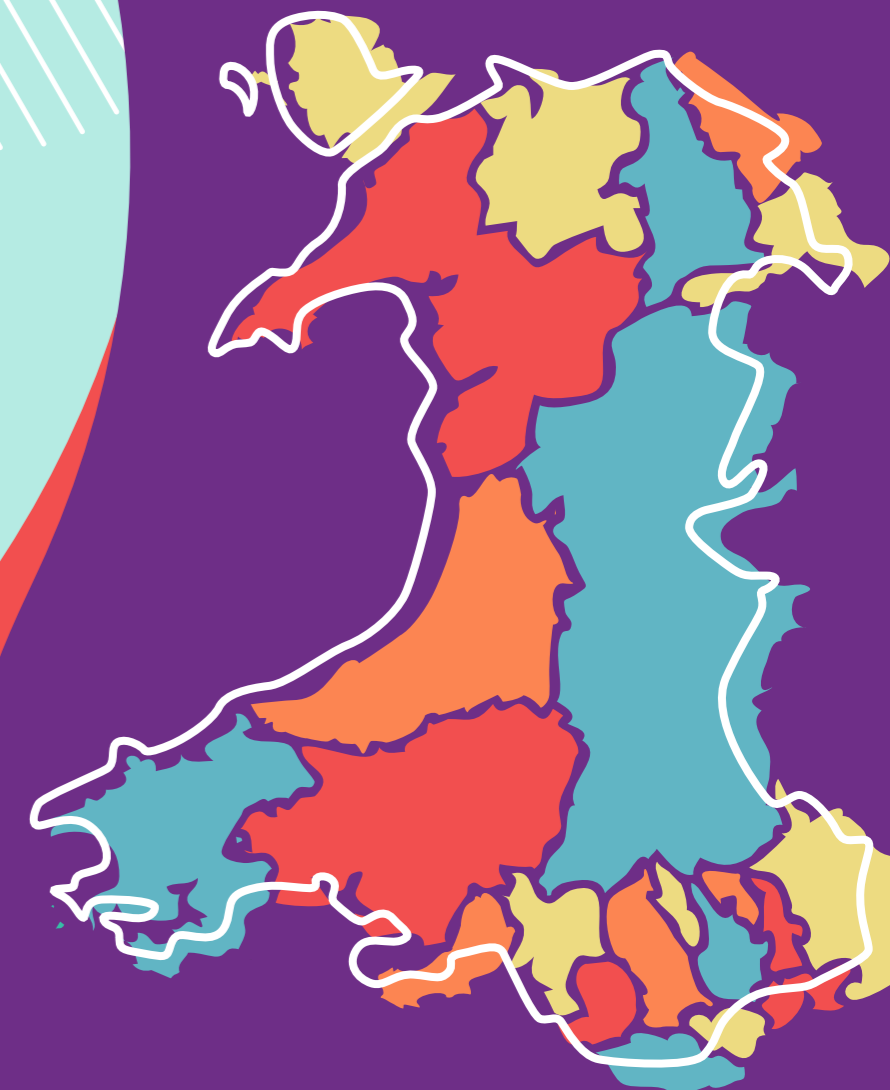
- Dr. Ellen Bialystok

A WHOLE NEW WORLD



Being bilingual will open up two worlds of experience for children.

Being able to speak Welsh will give your child access to many aspects of Welsh culture, history and identity.



BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS

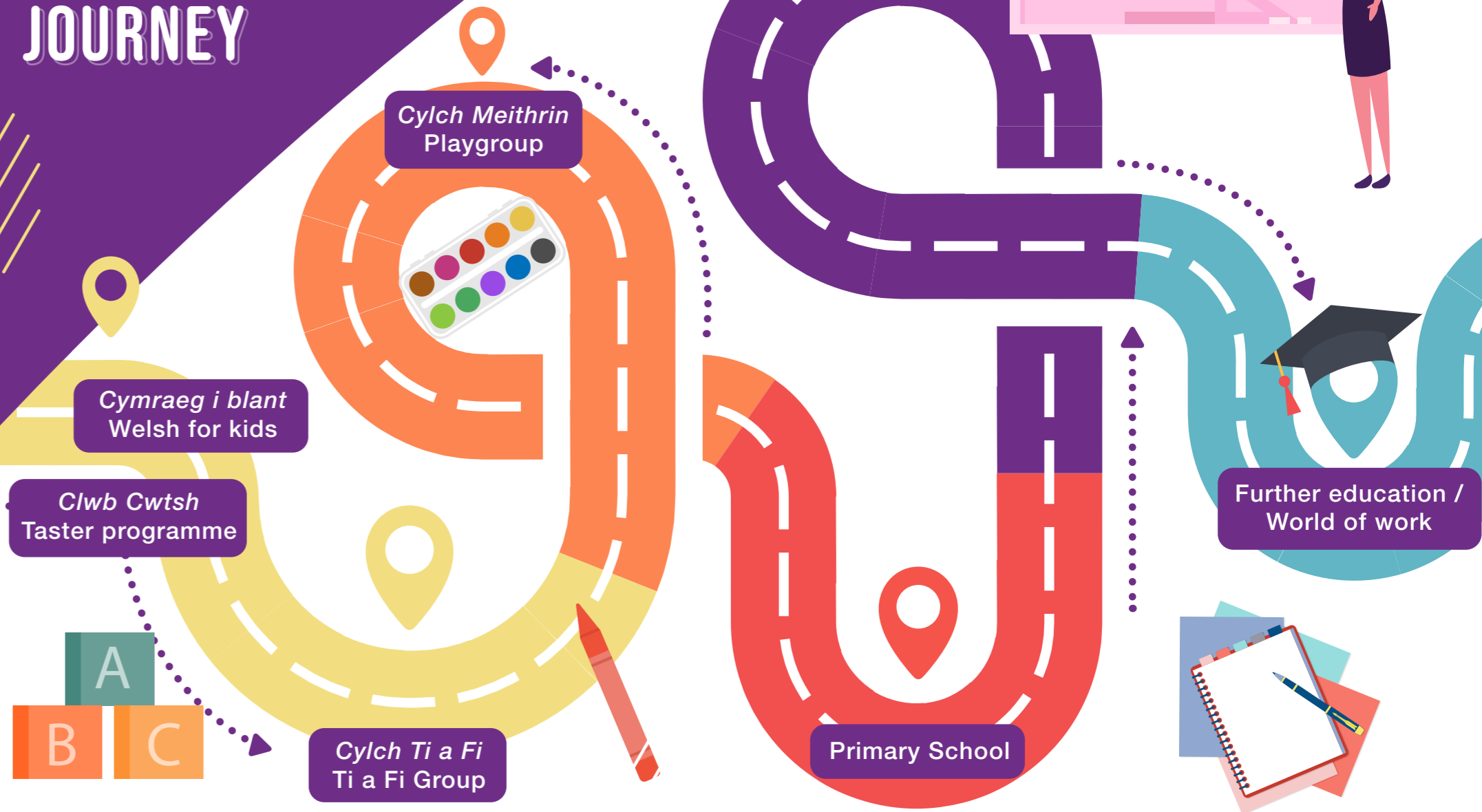
- They can enjoy a rich culture that's part of our living heritage with a range of festivals such as the eisteddfodau
- They can discover celebrated Welsh-language literature by inspirational authors
- They'll be able to read and write in two languages to unleash their imagination and creativity
- They can enjoy a whole range of TV programmes and the colourful content made especially for children by S4C
- They can be part of a rich community life enjoying a whole host of activities in Welsh, from building friendships on a rugby field, to taking part in activities as part of a club

“ **THE WELSH LANGUAGE IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT DIFFERENTIATES WALES FROM THE REST OF THE UK AND IT CAN BE A POWERFUL LINK BETWEEN WELSH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE** ”

- Professor Colin Baker

- They can discover the vibrant Welsh language music scene with some incredible music to enjoy
- They'll have a wider cultural experience giving them a greater understanding of lifestyle differences and tolerance towards other cultures

YOUR CHILD'S WELSH LANGUAGE JOURNEY



A SOLID FOUNDATION

If you're choosing Welsh-medium education, there's plenty of support available to give your child a solid foundation from an early age.

PRE-SCHOOL

Cymraeg i blant - (Welsh for Children) Antenatal groups, Massage groups, Baby yoga groups and Story and Song groups.

Clwb Cwtsh - Is a fun-filled taster programme aimed at parents and extended family members, focusing on speaking Welsh with young children. You don't need to be able to speak or understand any Welsh to join.

Cylch Ti a Fi - (Ti a Fi Group) Groups for parents and small children where your child can enjoy playing and making friends in a Welsh environment.

Nurseries - There are bilingual day nurseries that introduce Welsh to children from the start, through activities in Welsh and communicating in Welsh with the babies and small children.

Cylch Meithrin - (Playgroup) Education sessions and development for two-year-old children up to school age. The children have an opportunity to socialise and learn.

Nursery classes at school - Some Welsh-medium schools have Nursery classes.



PRIMARY

Children develop their language skills in various fun and practical activities in the Foundation Phase. Oral experiences are used to help them to develop their reading and writing skills. They are immersed in Welsh up to the age of seven.

Welsh continues to be the main teaching medium at Key Stage 2. English is introduced at Year 3 and by the end of year 6, children will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.

BUILDING THEIR FUTURE



AM I TOO LATE?

We have dedicated language centres in Pembrokeshire for primary children who have recently moved to the area or would like to move to a Welsh-medium education. Our language centres will support your child's transition to their new school by providing Welsh language instruction and support.



SECONDARY

Children from Welsh medium primaries will be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision regardless of home language.

In exactly the same way as in primary school, Welsh and English are taught as individual subjects in Welsh-medium education. Other subjects as well as extra-curricular activities are taught through the medium of Welsh. In this way, the young person's bilingualism is maintained and developed throughout his education.



THEIR LICENSE TO THRIVE!

16+

Your child can choose to attend 6th form to study a range of courses through the medium of Welsh.

Studying Welsh as an A Level subject could open doors to careers in lots of different areas, including health, sport, education, journalism, marketing, finance, science, design, and much, much more.

Pembrokeshire College

The college offers a range of opportunities to develop and consolidate Welsh language

skills. From completing aspects of the main qualification in Welsh to taking part in Welsh themed social activities, the Welsh language team are here to guide and support your child. We have dedicated Bilingualism support tutors and a team of Llysgenhadon Cymraeg who are on hand to help your child with their Cymraeg journey.

Teachers or careers advisers will be able to discuss options and how Welsh can tie in with any university courses, jobs or careers your child might be considering.

THE WELSH LANGUAGE WILL ALWAYS BE A BENEFIT

HIGHER EDUCATION

Welsh-medium courses have increased over the past few years – both in traditional academic areas and more vocational subjects too. There are over 500 courses you can choose from – law, design, history, business, physics, and nursing to name a few.

Choosing to study through the medium of Welsh at university will enhance your career and study options as well as open the door to a new world at university and beyond.



No matter what you end up doing, the Welsh language will always be a benefit, whether you're staying in or Wales moving to the other side of the world. Being bilingual can also help you learn other languages and always looks good on a CV.

The **Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol** works with further education and universities across Wales to ensure and develop more Welsh-medium opportunities for learners, students and apprentices in Wales. They can support your child to find suitable courses.

Did you know? You can apply for funding to study through the medium of Welsh at universities across Wales. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol offers scholarships to undergraduate students who wish to pursue degree courses at universities across Wales.

A COMPETITIVE EDGE WHEN JOB SEEKING

Speaking two languages is an extra skill to put on your application form

- Jobs advertised in Wales often ask for Welsh as essential or desirable. If you have Welsh language skills and the other candidates trying for a job don't then you're already one step ahead
- All public sector organisations in Wales have to provide Welsh language services so this makes Welsh-speaking employees an asset to companies

82% OF BUSINESSES IN WALES SAY THAT USING THE WELSH LANGUAGE ADDS VALUE TO THEIR SERVICES. AN INCREASING NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR STAFF WITH BILINGUAL SKILLS.

A STUDY BY PROFESSOR ANDREW HENLEY REVEALED THAT EMPLOYEES WHO CAN SPEAK BOTH WELSH AND ENGLISH EARN BETWEEN EIGHT AND 10% MORE THAN THEIR MONOLINGUAL COUNTERPARTS.

DID YOU KNOW?

Only **6%** of the world speaks English as a first language; **75%** do not speak it at all

COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I DON'T SPEAK WELSH?

Don't worry. Many children in Welsh-medium education in Pembrokeshire come from a non Welsh speaking background. You'll be well supported by your chosen school. They communicate with parents in both languages and there is plenty of support to help with schoolwork.

WILL LEARNING WELSH AFFECT MY CHILD'S ENGLISH?

No! In fact, it may even help your child's English. By learning two languages at the same time, children become aware of how languages work in general. Recent results suggest that children who receive a bilingual education do better in subjects across the curriculum – including English! Research shows that being able to speak and use two languages improves a child's ability to use and learn language in general.

SHOULD I LEARN WELSH ALONGSIDE MY CHILD?

Some parents, after choosing a Welsh-medium school for their child, decide to learn Welsh as well. It's a great opportunity to learn together, to practice your language skills on each other and spend quality time together. Learn Welsh Pembrokeshire have a variety of courses that are suitable for learners at all levels.

WILL I BE ABLE TO HELP WITH HOMEWORK LATER ON?

Welsh-medium schools are well-equipped to support parents from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds with many different tools to help you. Schools can send homework out bilingually, which will help to foster your child's translation skills and your child's teacher will be more than happy to help you with your child's homework. Research has also shown that children who have to translate a task for their parents get a better understanding of the subject, as the process of translation actually reinforces the subject in the child's mind.

**BILINGUALISM IS
A PRIVILEGE
AND AN OPPORTUNITY.**

- Antonella Sorace, Professor
of Developmental Linguistics,
Edinburgh University



**GIVE YOUR CHILD
A BRIGHT FUTURE.
GIVE THEM THE GIFT OF
WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION.**





Provided by Pembrokeshire's
Welsh-Medium Education
Department.