

Welsh Language Immersion Service
RHONDDA CYNON TAF

TAITH IAITH

Eich taith **GYMRAEG**
Your **WELSH** language journey



Our History. Our Culture.
OUR FUTURE!



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

PROSPECTUS



CROESO... WELCOME...

We are delighted that you are considering the Taith Iaith service for your child's language journey.

OUR AIM...

...to support pupils so that they're able to confidently converse using the Welsh language.

This will enable pupils to access Welsh medium education and receive their education through the medium of Welsh for the remainder of their time in statutory education.

The Welsh language immersion service, named Taith Iaith, is an **inclusive service** that provides an **immersive learning experience**, supporting and inspiring pupils to become independent and confident Welsh speakers.





OUR VISION...

...to increase the number of pupils receiving their education through the medium of Welsh in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is a ten year plan for the planning and improvement of Welsh medium education, outlining ambitious targets to increase the number of learners in Welsh education by 2032.

The Council's WESP targets are driven by Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 vision of a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050, recognising the importance of this strategy and how essential the education system is to achieving these targets.

Don't think that it's too late for your child to learn Welsh!

Scan the QR code to watch our video that gives an overview of the programme.



WHAT WE OFFER...

- **An opportunity for newcomers to learn the language and access Welsh medium education.**
- **An immersive learning experience tailored to suit each individual.**
- **A step-by-step guide to learning the Welsh language.**
- **Support and guidance for pupils, staff and parents/carers.**
- **Continued support for pupils when returning to the Welsh medium classroom.**

THE JOURNEY...

START...

The pupil will meet the member of the team who will be supporting them at their new Welsh school. A baseline oral assessment is completed to establish the level of support required.



1 The pupil will receive a minimum of one Welsh lesson a day at their school with ongoing support provided to pupils to support them in the classroom between sessions.

Throughout the process, the Taith iaith team will provide regular updates to parents/carers and staff at the school.

2 A further oral assessment is completed halfway through the scheme to assess and track their progress.

3 At the end of the 20 week period, a further oral assessment is completed to assess their progress. If the pupil meets the required criteria, the daily sessions will come to an end.

The pupil will work through a rigorous scheme of work for a minimum period of 20 weeks.

4 Aftercare is offered to any pupils requiring additional support with their language skills. This support is tailored to each pupils individual learning needs.

THE END?

ONWARDS!

The Taith iaith team work closely with staff and pupils of the school to ensure a seamless transition into the Welsh classroom.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

We use the Common European Framework for Reference for Languages (CEFR) to measure how well individuals use the Welsh language.

A1

Basic User

Can use simple words and phrases.
Can say who they are and ask basic questions.

A2

Basic User

Can understand and use everyday language.
Can talk about familiar topics like family, shopping, and school.

B1

Independent User

Can handle most situations when travelling.
Can talk about experiences and give opinions.

B2

Independent User

Can understand more complex ideas.
Can speak fluently and explain views clearly.

C1

Proficient User

Can use language effectively for work or study.
Can express ideas fluently and flexibly.

C2

Proficient User

Can understand almost everything.
Can speak and write with precision, even in complex situations.



To reinforce learning from the classroom, the team will occasionally take pupils outside of the school premises to provide opportunities to use their Welsh in different contexts. This could be a visit to a local park, cafe, or supermarket.

All off site visits are recorded on schools' online health and safety application for recording school trips. The Taith Iaitth team work with schools to complete vigorous health and safety checks and parents/carers are informed of these visits in good time.

ASSESSING AND RECORDING

To ensure pupils' progress is kept under close review, assessments are carried out at key intervals of the minimum 20 week period: at the beginning, halfway through and again at the end.

Informal assessments are conducted weekly to monitor progress against the previous week. This assessment system allows for the team to monitor each pupils' progress to ensure they are moving forwards with their learning.

Results of formal assessments are shared with parents/carers and staff at the school so that everyone plays a part in the pupil's Welsh language learning journey.

The team involve parents/carers in the immersion process by providing regular updates on their child's progress through the Seesaw application. These updates include photographs and/or videos of the children during their sessions and supports the reinforcement of learning at home.



SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

In line with the principles and values of all schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf, your child's wellbeing is of the utmost importance.

On accessing the service initially, parents/carers are required to complete a one page profile to help the team to familiarise themselves with the pupil and to ensure that the appropriate level of support and care is offered. In addition, contact is established between the parent/carer and the member of team who will be supporting the pupil prior to sessions so that you feel reassured that any concerns can be communicated clearly.

Following each session, the pupils' progress is recorded detailing their strengths, behaviours and next steps for the following session. All progress records are readily available to parents/carers should they wish to view them.

For further information on schools' core principles and values, contact your local Welsh medium school.



ATTENDANCE

Critical to the success of the Taith Iaith service is attendance and engagement with the daily sessions.

Pupils are required to attend a minimum of 75% of the sessions to ensure they are fully immersed in the Welsh language and are able to progress as quickly as possible.

In instances where pupils are going to miss their sessions, we ask for parents/carers to inform the school of this at the earliest opportunity.



TRANSITION

Ensuring a seamless transition process for pupils as they adjust to their new Welsh medium school at the end of the scheme is important to us.

The support provided to each pupil is tailored based on their individual learning needs. Throughout their time accessing the service, the school is kept up-to-date on their progress. In addition, resource packs are shared with schools and with parents/carers to further support the pupil with their learning to support a smooth transition into their Welsh classroom.

At the end of the minimum 20 week period, some pupils' transition independently into the classroom with no requirements for additional support. For pupils who may require further support with their learning, the team offer aftercare support tailored to each individual's learning needs to ensure they can seamlessly transition into the classroom.

Support continues until the pupil feels confident and ready for it to end.

HOW TO ACCESS THE SERVICE...

There are just a few simple steps to follow to access the Taith Iaith service...

You can find a directory of Welsh Medium schools here...
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/WelshMediumEducation

1 Get in touch with your local Welsh school...

You can arrange a visit at the school to look around and get a feel for it should you wish to do so; schools will be happy to support you.



2 Contact the Council's School Admissions team...

if you would like to continue with transitioning your child(ren) to the school.

To get in touch with the School Admissions team regarding a school transfer, please contact:
SchoolAdmissions
[@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolAdmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk)

3 Begin your journey...

once the pupil has successfully transferred to the new Welsh school, the headteacher of the school will contact the Taith Iaith leader to arrange a start date for the sessions.

The Taith Iaith service leader will be more than happy to discuss any queries you may have before, or at any part of your child's Welsh language journey.

Email us at:
WelshLanguage Immersion
[@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:WelshLanguageImmersion@rctcbc.gov.uk)

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/TaithIaith



Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh