

Partner, Promote & Provide

A quick guide for schools in supporting and promoting the use of Welsh and Welsh language skills amongst parents and pupils



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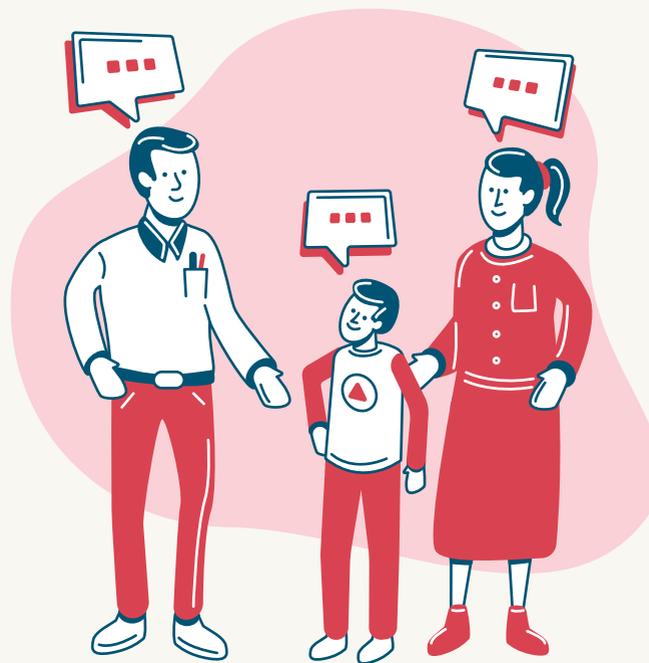
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The foundations for these suggestions

These recommendations are grounded in the latest research on the experiences of parents during and after the challenging lockdown periods.

The feedback we've gathered highlights the real-world concerns and needs of parents and pupils alike, helping us to shape practical solutions that schools can implement to promote and normalise the use of Welsh.

Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on learners in Wales



Accessing Welsh during the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and support for non-Welsh speaking households



Progressing from Primary to secondary education during the COVID-19 pandemic: qualitative study of the experiences of learners in Welsh-medium education and families where Welsh is not spoken



All the quotes in this guide come directly from this research, and offers insights into what has worked—and what can be improved.

Purpose of this guide

This guide provides ideas on how schools, teachers, and parents can create an inclusive, supportive environment where the Welsh language can flourish, both inside and beyond the classroom.



It focuses on three core areas:

1. Partner:

Build strong, effective communication strategies with parents.

Why is this important: Exploring strategies for communicating with parents can ensure they feel involved and supported in their child's education, whether or not they can speak Welsh.

2. Promote:

Offer appropriate support for both parents and pupils.

Why is this important: Considering practical ways for you to break down language barriers can help parents feel empowered in supporting their children's Welsh language journey.

3. Provide:

Explore ways to create and promote opportunities for pupils and parents to engage with Welsh outside the classroom.

Why is this important: The research highlights the importance of promoting opportunities to use and experience the language in a relevant and fun way so that pupils and families experience its value in everyday life.

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Partner with parents to help on the language journey:

“ Parents noted how communication with schools was key, and that a consistent approach would prove beneficial... [They] stated that engaging with their children’s work, and their ability to provide support was impacted by the form that communication from schools took... In addition to the linguistic nature of materials provided to their children and communicated to parents, some parents requested increased communication to allay fears and ensure closer partnerships between them and the school... ”

Lloyd-Williams, Thomas, Evans, Jones, Jones, Tomos,
Joseph-Williams, Sha’aban and Edwards, 2023:35



Appoint a ‘Welsh Support’ contact

Consider appointing a designated contact person for the Welsh language.

This person could:

- Help provide additional support, answer questions, and offer reassurance about children’s progress in Welsh;
- Be a particularly useful point of contact for non-Welsh speaking parents. These parents may have higher levels of anxiety about supporting their child in Welsh, especially if it’s not spoken at home.

“ You can search it [for a translation] and you can figure it out , but it’s not always readily accessible... ”

Be conscious of the home language

It's important to understand the language(s) spoken at home as this can aide you in offering better support.

You can gather this information through:

- **Your designated 'Welsh Support' contact (see the previous recommendation);**
- **Language/Background Questionnaires;**
- **Face-to-face or online induction sessions for parents and pupils.**

Bilingual induction packs could also be used. These could include a language questionnaire asking about the language(s) spoken at home, and:

- **Timetables**
- **School uniform details**
- **Assessment arrangements**
- **Tips on how parents can support their children**
- **Etc.**

Tip: Don't rely only on digital methods. Think about letters, and personal contact. These works wonders alongside technology!

Bilingual communication

It's not just about sending out bilingual letters. Make sure that all communication channels make use of both Welsh and English.

This includes:

Social Media

If possible, use bilingual posts to give Welsh equal prominence.

Why is this important: Although it is possible to maintain separate accounts in Welsh and English, a bilingual account promotes the Welsh language and avoids the tendency to look at English content only.

Communication Apps

Communicate bilingually on platforms like ClassDojo, Google Classroom, School Gateway, etc.



WhatsApp for parents

Encourage parents to set up WhatsApp groups for mutual support – it's a simple and effective way to stay connected.

As one parent noted:

“ [A] good WhatsApp groups to keep in contact... is important for me as a non-Welsh speaker. I found that very important... One of the parents has set that up... [for] the class group... One of the parents organised little quizzes and stuff for them... [It was] nothing to do with school, but just [came] through the connection of knowing each other through school. ”

Translations of key terms

Parents noted that having lists of key Welsh terms would make a difference:

“ It would give you some help with, you know, deciphering what's going on

It would be nice to have just like a list of simple stuff ”



These can be provided as part of contact books and could include simple things like common terms used in school or on homework assignments.

Example: curricular terms

Gwers	Lesson	Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad	Area of Learning and Experience
Cerdd	Music	Y Celfyddydau Mynegiannol	The Expressive Arts
Celf	Art		
Hanes	History	Y Dyniaethau	The Humanities
Daearyddiaeth	Geography		
Addysg Grefyddol	Religious Education		
Cymraeg	Welsh	Ieithoedd, Llythrennedd a Chyfathrebu	Language, Literacy and Communication
Saesneg	English		
Ffrangeg	French		
Sbaeneg	Spanish		
Mathemateg	Mathematics	Mathemateg a Rhifedd	Mathematics and Numeracy
Gwyddoniaeth	Science	Gwyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg	Science and Technology
Bioleg	Biology		
Cemeg	Chemistry		
Ffiseg	Physics		
Dylunio a Thechnoleg	Design and Technology		
Technoleg Gwybodaeth	Information Technology		
Ymarfer Corff	Physical Education	Iechyd a Lles	Health and Well-being

Example: key instructional terms

Welsh Terms	English Terms
Mynegi	Express
Newid	Amend/Change
Nod	Goal
Pam	Why
Paratoi	Prepare
Parhau	Continue

Welsh Terms	English Terms
Pryd	When
Pwy	Who
Pwysigrwydd	Importance
Rhaid	Must
Siarad	Speak/Speaking
Sillafu	Spelling

Example: key feedback terms

Welsh Terms	English Terms
Annog	Encourage
Beth oedd yn dda	What went well
Camgymeriad	Mistake
Canolbwyntio	Focus
Cefnogaeth	Support
Cryfderau	Strengths
Cyflawni	Achieve
Cymorth	Help
Cynnydd	Progress
Cynllunio	Planning
Cysylltu/ Ymgysylltu	Connect

Welsh Terms	English Terms
Cywiro	To correct
Datblygu	Develop
Dealltwriaeth	Understanding
Deall	Understand
Dyfalbarhau	Persist
Dyfodol	Future
Edrych	Look/Looking
Gwahanol	Different
Gwell	Better
Gwell fyth os...	Even better if...
Gwella	Improve
Meddwl	Think/Thinking

Curriculum overview

Offer a simple overview of curriculum content. These can be key themes, or a brief overview of the subject/area of learning for the (half) term.

As a parent noted:

“ I could then have the expectations, without necessarily being given the support materials. For someone like me, that predominantly speaks English, I could be able to support my son in sort of meeting those requirements ”



Don't always offer word for word translations

Be mindful that providing an equivalent English translation can cause pupils to rely on it rather than engaging with Welsh.

Parents noted that they would rather be provided with a short summary in English rather than a translation because:

“ Having some English support... but not too much that the kids are like, “oh, I'll just read, you know, the English” ”

Resource of the week

Create a weekly resource suggestion or ‘**tip of the week**’ that you can share with parents through newsletters or social media.

It could be...

A Website | App | E-resources | Etc



Tip: Keep it simple —one tip per week is enough!

Make contact over coffee

Organise informal coffee mornings or conversation groups for parents. These can be a way for them to connect and support each other, especially if they're nervous about helping their children with Welsh at home.



One parent mentioned:

“ I just love the sense of community, and they're really, really nice people. ”

Explore the interest in learning Welsh

Ask parents if they are interested in learning Welsh themselves and signpost them to local Welsh language classes or resources like the **National Centre for Learning Welsh**.



National Centre for Learning Welsh

Promote, and provide opportunities:

// How am I meant to support them? //



Engaging with the language outside the classroom

Parents highlighted the importance of using Welsh beyond the classroom in the school setting.

One parent said:

// It's great for them to see the language not being just associated with lessons... //

Set up lunchtime or after-school clubs where pupils can use Welsh in a fun, relaxed setting.

Clubs could include:
Chess, Art, Music Club or Choir, Coding, Etc.

Promote clubs and societies in the community

Help parents and pupils find opportunities to use Welsh outside of the school setting by promoting local **sports clubs**, **youth groups**, or **drama societies** that use Welsh.

Parents told us:

// It's that small thing isn't it? That opportunity to use it [Welsh]...[but] we need to know. //

The opportunities offered in the community could include:

- Sports Clubs
- Youth Clubs
- Creative Arts Clubs, such as Drama/ Dance/Singing Clubs
- Other Society or Club provision
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Young Farmers' Clubs
- Etc.



Welsh 'buddy system'

Establish a **"Buddy System"** for non-Welsh speaking pupils to be paired with Welsh-speaking classmates.

One parent suggested:

// *Utilising a language on paper is one thing, but of course to build confidence using a language it's important to speak [it]... maybe it would have been good to have a kind of... to link people up. like a kind of buddy system. If they could link the children... Like if they could have someone from a Welsh speaking family, and someone without that, they could like call each other up and have a chat. //*



Parents' night

Make use of bilingual signs and materials at parents' evenings and school events.

It can make a big difference for parents who don't speak Welsh fluently.



One parent's experience highlights the importance of this:

// *I couldn't work out... because there were so many subjects to sort out for parents evening... what was what and I did end up getting them mixed up and I was speaking to the wrong teacher! //*

Class visits / open classes

Offer the opportunity for parents to visit or volunteer in the classroom. This can provide an insight into their child's learning; the support offered to them; and to see the benefits of Welsh language education at work.



Get them discussing

Promote discussion between parents and their children.

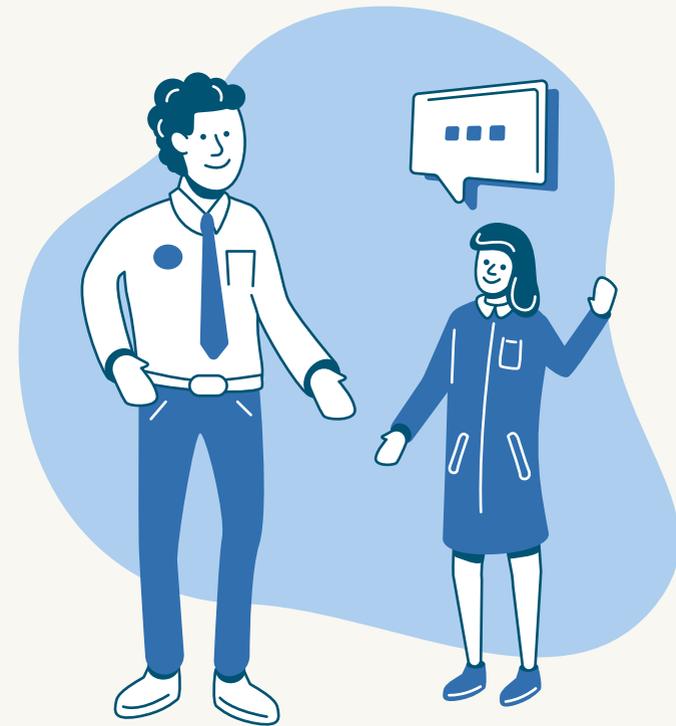
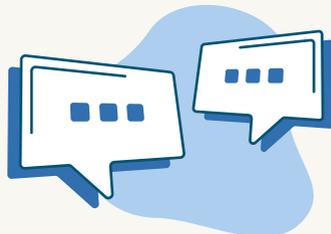
This can be really beneficial.

Parents noted:

// *[My child] and I, we do chat a lot. So, I'm quite lucky in terms of, you know, him coming and saying, "oh I'm not sure about this" or, you know, "we've done this, but..."*

Sometimes he'll come and ask me like general questions and we'll kind of talk, or we'll Google them together... He'll do all that translating and asks me "oh, do you know anything about this? Do you know anything about that?" We'll look it up in English and then he'll write it in Welsh. **//**

Encouraging communication between children and parents about what they have learned is an useful learning tool. They're translating and adapting what they have learned from one language to another. This is a form of translanguageing which helps the child to deepen their understanding of what they have learned about, and it strengthens their language skills in Welsh and English.



Parents can be encouraged to ask:

- "Tell me about what you've learnt today."
- "Tell me about what homework you've got to do."
- "Can you explain what you did today/to finish your homework?"

This helps and encourages children to think critically about their learning. It also helps build the child's confidence in using both languages.

Tip: Visit this resource for help an support on translanguageing strategies.



Inspiring Welsh role models

As one parent noted:

“ There are some really great inspirational role models that help make the language really cool... [They] help develop a confidence... for speaking Welsh out of the the lesson and enhancing the confidence in using the language as well. ”

Whether they're actors, musicians, athletes, or other inspiring figures, their presence can show pupils that Welsh isn't just for the classroom.

For example, you can host an event or an assembly with a special guest.

Promoting events

Parents often find it difficult to discover events where they can experience Welsh culture:

“ We've been to quite a few concerts and gigs...where there are young Welsh language musicians playing rock and and all that kind of stuff... But there isn't like the communication...of these events for us to be able to encourage our children to partake in them always. And I think those are great opportunities so they don't just see language being boring and being associated with...school. ”

Keep a record of gigs, festivals and events in your a community.

Create a school noticeboard, either physical or online, to promote these local events and give pupils the opportunity to engage with Welsh culture outside of school.

Contribute at festivals and events

Contribute to local Welsh activities and festivals.

As a parent noted:

“ it's quite easy to not be that exposed to the Welsh language ”

This might include taking part in Eisteddfodau or other community events that celebrate the Welsh language.

Introduce Welsh medium apps

Introduce parents and pupils to Welsh medium apps.

There are lots of great apps available that can help parents and pupils engage with Welsh in fun and useful ways.

Sharing a list of popular apps can help make Welsh more visible both in and outside the classroom.



Be proactive, because, as one parent mentioned:

“ I don't know of many Welsh educational apps... [and] that's really, really hard... [as] so much is now online... So, if there is a way to develop a list of things like that, I think it would be a massive, massive help. ”

Media

TV and radio can support parents and pupils engage with Welsh outside the classroom.

You might want to recommend S4C, Radio Cymru, Radio Cymru 2 and other regional radio stations which provide Welsh content.



One parent said:

“I’d like a little more support, like, here’s some music to listen to which is in Welsh. Here’s some, you know, online places to go to access more Welsh, you know, and things like that...”

S4C



Radio Cymru:



Radio Cymru 2:



Tip: You can include a “media resource of the week” section in newsletters or on your school’s social media to share interesting Welsh content with pupils and parents.

Learning Welsh

Share apps that help with learning Welsh. These are useful for both parents and pupils.



Popular apps include:

Duolingo (for beginners)

SaySomethingInWelsh (for conversational skills)



App Store



Google Play



App Store



Google Play



The BBC Radio Cymru podcast, ‘Y Podllediad Dysgu Cymraeg’ might be of interest to some of your parents.



S4C Dysgu Cymraeg has valuable content for supporting those who want to start learning Welsh alongside their children.



You can also share resources that can help parents and pupils with pronunciation. **Here’s an example:**

techiaith.cymru/leferydd/textun-i-leferydd



Help Parents Translate

Identify how parents can translate resources in Welsh.

This will help them access materials provided by the school and other supportive materials.

One parent mentioned how they dealt with translating:

“What I do... is I get Google Translate [Lens] and I scan it... you know there's that um photo function on Google Translate and so I'll take a picture and then I'll translate it and then I'll show it to [my son] and he'll say “no, that hasn't translated that accurately” or “that doesn't mean that, that means this”, and so he'll proof it for me. ”



Tip: You can incorporate QR codes into weekly resources, or develop an information sheet to help highlight these resources to parents.

Introduce apps:

App Suggestion: “Translate”

- Open the Translate app on your iPhone, then tap Camera.
- Choose the language you want to translate your selected text into.
- Position your phone so that the rear camera can translate the desired text.
- Note: As you move the rear camera, text is translated in real-time.
- You can zoom in to get a closer look at the overlaid translations.
- Tap the shutter button to capture a photo of the translation.
- Tap an overlaid translation to show the translation card, then do any of the following:
 - Copy Translation: Copy the translated text.
 - Add to Favorites: Add the translation to a list of favourites.
 - Listen to Original Text: Tap more, then tap the Gray Play button to Listen to the original text.
 - Listen to Translated Text: Tap the blue Play button to listen to the translated text.
- When you're finished, tap the End button.



Download the Translate app



App Suggestion: “Google Lens”

- Open the google lens app on your Android phone and select the translate option.
- Position your phone so that the rear camera can translate the desired text.
- The language will be detected automatically, and the language of the translation can be selected.
- Note: As you move the rear camera, text is translated in real-time.
- You can zoom in to get a closer look at the overlaid translations.
- Tap the shutter button to capture a photo of the translation.
- You can then choose to do any of the following:
 - Select All: Select all translated text and copy; listen to the selected text; further translate; or search.
 - Listen: Listen to the translated text.
 - Share: Share a copy of the image.
 - Download Language: Download the language pack to use offline.
 - Open in Translate: Open the selected text in Google Translate.
 - When you’re finished, close the app.



Download the
Google Lens app



Dictionary apps

Highlight dictionary apps, too.



Ap
Geiriaduron

App Store



Google Play



Geiriadur
Prifysgol Cymru:
A Dictionary
of the Welsh
Language

App Store



Google Play



Audio Books

Identify audio books which might inspire your pupils!

The following resources might be worth highlighting:

Ffolio



Dref Wen



ffolio
e-lyfrau o Gymru
e-books from Wales

Darganfyddwch lyfrau llafar yn y Gymraeg!

Discover Welsh language audiobooks!

E-books

Signpost parents and pupils to resources in their local libraries.

BorrowBox, a repository of e-books, is a great resource to promote.

BORROWBOX

Gwasanaeth ar gyfer e-lyfrau ac e-lyfrau llafar, gydag amrywiaeth o deitlau ffuglen a ffeithiol.

A service for e-books and e-audio books, with a range of fiction and non-fiction titles available in Welsh.

Find out more about your local library's collection, here:



Find magazines

It is worth referring pupils and parents to some of the Welsh medium magazines available.



But there are a wealth of other magazines, including:

Barn



Wcw a'i Ffrindiau



Cara



Lingo Newydd



Urdd



4 CYLCHGRONAU ORAU?

THE BEST MAGAZINES?

Wcw
CYW BACH CIWT

lingo
Dad! adnabod Adam yn yr Ardd

boreda

CIP

Mawr Yr Haf!

Cyfrifiad 2
RhifEdition No. 1



Reminder of Key Messages

To effectively support the use of Welsh and Welsh language skills in your school, efforts need to be focused on:

- **Partnering:** Building stronger, more effective communication strategies with parents.
- **Promoting:** Offering appropriate and empowering support for both parents and pupils.
- **Providing:** Creating and sharing opportunities for pupils and parents to engage with Welsh outside the classroom.

This will aid in build an enriching environment for the Welsh language, making it a more exciting and integral part of school life, not just in lessons, but throughout the everyday experiences of both pupils and parents.

Thank you for reading

Notes:





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