

## Becoming Bilingual in Caerphilly County Borough

Thinking about sending  
your child to a Welsh  
medium school?

FIND OUT  
MORE  
INSIDE!

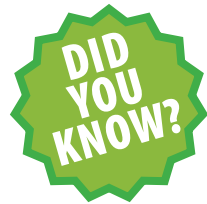


# So, what does being bilingual mean?

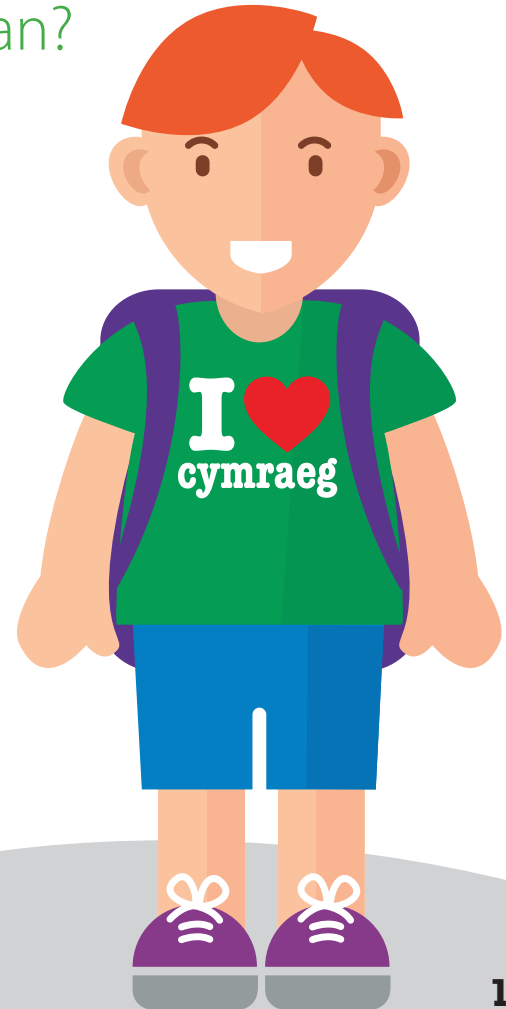
## **It's the ability to live your everyday life with two languages.**

As a parent, deciding on your child's education will be one of the most important decisions that you will make. An increasing number of parents can testify that choosing Welsh medium education for their child has been a positive and worthwhile experience and an advantage when starting in work.

- The aim of this booklet is to answer questions, address concerns and state the advantages of being bilingual.
- This booklet also maps a clear Welsh medium journey for your child through the school years from nursery, to primary, secondary schools, further education and beyond.



**About 88% of pupils in Welsh medium education in Caerphilly County Borough come from non Welsh speaking homes.**



# Do you want your child to be bilingual?

## **But we don't speak Welsh!**

With parents who don't speak Welsh in the majority, schools provide everything in English and Welsh.

## **What about their English language skills?**

When children leave Welsh medium primary school they are fluent in Welsh, and as fluent in English as children from English medium schools.

## **Why Welsh medium education?**

The quality of education is excellent, it's easy to learn a language from an early age, and children enjoy their lives in English and Welsh!

*\*Estyn Thematic Report 2014 English at key stages 2 and 3.*



# Play and learn in Welsh from birth...

## 0-4 year olds

### **Cymraeg i Blant – Cymraeg for Kids**

*Free support groups for new parents.*

Baby massage, baby yoga and baby sign and rhyme sessions in Welsh and English. Suitable for parents and babies from birth onwards.

### **Day Nursery/Childminder**

*Private childcare.*

Around 8am-6pm Monday to Friday.  
Ask at your local nursery how they use Welsh in everyday activities.

### **Cylch Meithrin / Flying Start**

*Playgroup. Around 2-2 ½ hours.*

Children from 2 years old to school age.  
Some groups provide rising 3 places.  
Wraparound Service available.

### **Ti a Fi**

*Parent and toddler group sessions run by Mudiad Meithrin. Around 1-2 hours. An opportunity for parents with children up to school age to socialise, sing and play in Welsh.*

### **Menter Caerffili's Welsh Medium Out of School Childcare Provisions**

Welsh medium childcare before school, after school and during the school holidays for school aged children. Wraparound care for children attending part-time school nursery class provision.

# Their bilingual education experience... 4-18 year olds

In Caerphilly County Borough, there are eleven Welsh-medium primary schools, all with nursery provision and one Welsh medium secondary school, now with two campuses. For a map of school catchment areas go to [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

## Welsh Primary Schools (3-11 years)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta

Central Street, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7XQ  
01443 814883 [yympa@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:yympa@caerphilly.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Sannan

Heol Tŷ Fry, Aberbargoed, Bargoed, CF81 9FN  
01443 828000 [ygbasa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:ygbasa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon

Gwyddon Road, Abercarn, Caerphilly, NP11 5GX  
01495 244267 [yggpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:yggpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen

Beech Grove, Oakdale, Blackwood, NP12 0JL  
01495 226062 [ycdpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:ycdpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili

Pontywindy Road, Caerphilly, CF83 3HG  
02920 852531 [ygcpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:ygcpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

## Welsh medium Secondary School

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini (11-18 yrs)

**Gelli-hâf Campus** Heol Gelli-hâf, Fleur de lis, Blackwood, NP12 3JQ. 01443 875227. **Gwyndy Campus** Pontywindy Road, Caerphilly, CF83 3HG. 02920 863367

### Ysgol Gymraeg Y Castell

Crescent Road, Caerphilly, CF83 1WH  
02920 864790 [yycpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:yycpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Penalltau

Cwm Calon Road, Hengoed, CF82 6AP  
01443 862974 [ypepa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:ypepa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn

Commercial Street, Pengam, Blackwood, NP12 3ST  
01443 821600 [ygtpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:ygtpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Y Lawnt

Surgery Hill, Station Road, Rhymney, NP22 5LS  
01685 840285 [yylpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:yylpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Bach

Windsor Way, Ffordd Ifor, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4AB  
029 2083 0375 [yibpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:yibpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

### Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargod

Commercial Street, Gilfach, Bargoed, CF81 8JG  
01443 875528 [ygbpa@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:ygbpa@caerffili.gov.uk)

## Further Education, Training and Work

(16+)

### Coleg y Cymoedd

Ystrad Mynach Campus, Twyn Road, Ystrad Mynach  
CF82 7XR. 01443 816888 [lois.roberts@cymoedd.ac.uk](mailto:lois.roberts@cymoedd.ac.uk)

### Coleg Gwent

Crosskeys Campus, Risca Road, Crosskeys, NP11 7ZA.

# So, what are the benefits of being bilingual?

## **You can live your life in two (or more) languages**

Living in Wales your life is enriched when you can speak Welsh. If you want to travel or already speak other languages at home, learning another is easier!

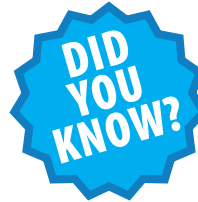
## **There are fantastic work and career opportunities**

Speaking two languages offers more employment opportunities as well as an additional skill on your C.V.

Talking with people in their choice of language is an advantage. These career areas in particular are keen to employ Welsh speakers - media, information technology, health, the public sector, sports and leisure, retail, and the childcare sector etc.

## **Boost your brain**

International research shows that bilingual children tend to achieve higher within the curriculum and perform better in exams. They also tend to do better working under pressure.



**Welsh is one of the oldest living languages spoken in Europe.**



*International Research by Prof. Colin Baker, Dr. Ellen Bialystok, Prof. E. Bylund, Prof P. Athanasopoulos and Dr. G.Poarch*

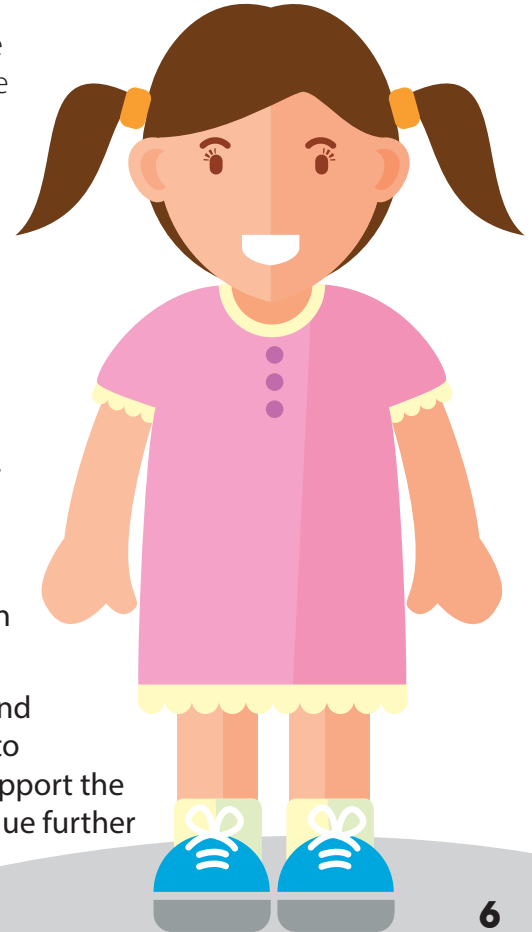
# How is Welsh taught in a Welsh medium School?

- When children begin learning Welsh, they will be immersed in the language from the start, however, the staff are flexible and can use English if necessary to help the children.
- Welsh is the language of Education in the Foundation Phase (nursery-Y2) and then children will have lessons in English and use English in their lessons across the curriculum.
- This is an internationally recognised method of learning languages now including in Canada and the Basque Country.

## Welsh Language Immersion

There are many ways to learn Welsh in Caerphilly county borough. Research suggests that immersing children, young people, or adults in the language is the fastest way to learn a new language. Welsh language provision allows children and young people to experience the Welsh language and become immersed in it day on day enabling quicker language acquisition.

Our Caerphilly latecomers immersion model is being developed and aims to support children and young people new to the language to become immersed in Welsh taught by specialist staff to quickly support the foundation development of their Welsh language skills and continue further development in their own school.



# How to help your child from the start?

Even during pregnancy, babies can hear voices and music.

So if you're keen to raise your child bilingually, now's the time to start speaking and singing in Welsh to your baby.

For Welsh Government information about Welsh language for parents search for [Cymraeg.gov.wales](http://Cymraeg.gov.wales)

For information on learning Welsh as an adult search for [learnwelsh.cymru](http://learnwelsh.cymru)

## Cyw

Cyw is S4C's range of programmes, apps, live shows etc. for children. You can find Cyw and friends across a range of platforms, all for free.

## Television

Watch Cyw programmes with your child every morning on S4C, including Patrol Pawennau (Paw Patrol), Bing, Deian a Loli, Peppa Pinc (Peppa Pig) and other favorites in Welsh.

Children don't have to speak Welsh to enjoy cartoons in Welsh!


Download [S4C Clic](http://S4C Clic) or go to [www.s4c.cymru/cyw](http://www.s4c.cymru/cyw) to watch Cyw programmes at any time.





# Fun and educational apps for small children

**These handy apps will help you along the way.**

 **Cyw apps** Search for 'Cyw SAC'

Cyw apps are designed for small children to use and feature Cyw and friends.

 **Magi Ann apps** Search for 'Magi Ann'

Have fun learning to read with the award winning Magi Ann stories. See and hear the stories in English and in Welsh.

 **Selog apps** Search for 'Selog'

Listen to songs and stories in Welsh, you can find accompanying Alun yr Arth (Alun the Bear) books in Caerphilly Borough's libraries.

**Welsh language resources to buy:**

[www.siopdewinadoti.cymru](http://www.siopdewinadoti.cymru)

[www.gwales.com](http://www.gwales.com)

Caerphilly County Borough Council's libraries have thousands of Welsh and bilingual children's books for children of all ages.



# Directory

## Welsh Government Cymraeg

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Website with information on a range of Welsh language matters and a portal to other sites - events finder, app of the week, Welsh for Adults courses and much more.

[www.llyw.cymru/cymraeg](http://www.llyw.cymru/cymraeg)

📧 @Cymraeg



Byw Dysgu Mwynhau

## Cymraeg i Oedolion@Coleg Gwent

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People have different reasons for wanting to learn Welsh - to support children in Welsh medium education, perhaps, or to widen job choices. A range of Welsh courses are held across Gwent. Please contact us for more information.

[www.dysgucymraeg.cymru](http://www.dysgucymraeg.cymru)

[www.learnwelsh.cymru](http://www.learnwelsh.cymru)

[welsh@coleggwent.ac.uk](mailto:welsh@coleggwent.ac.uk)

📧 @CymraegGwent

01495 333710



dysgucymraeg.cymru  
learnwelsh.cymru  
Gwent

## Mudiad Meithrin

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Mudiad Meithrin supports young children in Wales to access early years services and experiences through the medium of Welsh.

[www.meithrin.cymru](http://www.meithrin.cymru)

📧 @mudiadmeithrin

01970 639639



## Cymraeg for Kids

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A scheme that supports parents to follow a bilingual journey by choosing Welsh medium childcare and education for their child.

[Llyw.Cymru/CymraegiBlant](http://Llyw.Cymru/CymraegiBlant)

[cymraegiblant@meithrin.cymru](mailto:cymraegiblant@meithrin.cymru)

📧 Cymraeg i Blant Caerffili

📧 @CymraegforKids

01970 639639



I Blant  
For Kids

# Directory

## Yr Urdd

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The Urdd is a youth organisation which offers opportunities and events to all the young people of Wales (up to the age of 25). It is a lively organisation which is a part of the life of children who attend Welsh medium education, through sports, music, the Eisteddfod, residential centres and youth groups.

[www.urdd.cymru](http://www.urdd.cymru)

📧 @urdd

01495 752589



## Caerphilly Early Years & Childcare Service

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For information on childcare, education, activities and services for families contact the Caerphilly Early Years Hub.

**Helpline: 01443 863232**

[earlyyearshub@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearshub@caerphilly.gov.uk)

📱 CaerphillyFIS



## Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili

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Menter Iaith Caerffili promotes, co-ordinates provides a range of services and activities in Welsh across Caerphilly Borough including out of school childcare, activities for children and young people, opportunities for Welsh learners, community events, Welsh language support for the childcare sector, support for local businesses with the Welsh language and much more.

[www.mentercaerffili.cymru](http://www.mentercaerffili.cymru)

📧 @mentercaerffili

01443 820913



## Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)

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Parents for Welsh Medium Education exists to support and promote education through the medium of Welsh throughout Wales and to ensure equal opportunities for those who wish their children to be taught through the medium of Welsh.

[www.rhag.net](http://www.rhag.net)

📧 @RhAG1



## From experience...

*I think that speaking different languages allows you to interpret the world in different ways and allows children different avenues to explore the world.*

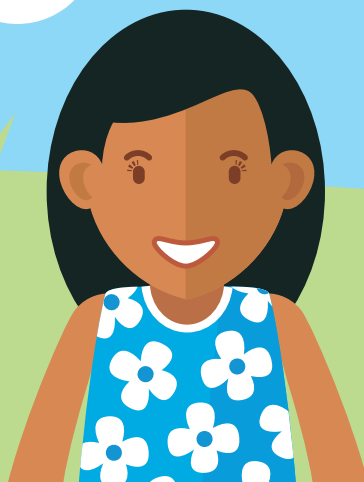
**Siân Cross, Owen's mum**

*I have decided on Welsh education for my daughter because I feel it will give her the best start in life. I feel it will open many doors and provide more opportunities for her in her adult life, particularly if she chooses to work in Wales. The many benefits of bilingualism have informed my decision even more!*

**Vicky Hughes, Sophia's mum**

*Welsh is our first language at home, and we agreed as a family that it is vital that our children attend a Welsh-medium school to ensure that the language continues to thrive in the area. As a Welsh speaker, I feel it's important to socialise with people who can speak the language as well as help to develop learners' skills in a fun and engaging way. It is important that Steffan has the opportunity to play and learn through the medium of Welsh.*

**Huw Euron, Steffan's dad**





For more information about becoming bilingual in Caerphilly County Borough, please point your smartphone camera at the QR code.

**What are the benefits of being bilingual?**

