



ARCHBISHOP
MCGRATH CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

POLISI DWYIEITHRWYDD / BILINGUALISM POLICY

OUR VISION

‘Christ at the Centre’

Our core purpose is to ensure that all pupils reach or exceed their potential by using their God-given talents to develop as healthy, ambitious, capable, life-long learners ready to live as valued members of our local community, Wales and the world.

We aim for all our pupils to leave our school as:
Empowered, Virtuous and Employable individuals.



Formulated by:	Dr. J Wall DHT
Approved by:	Full Governing Body 23.06.2026
Review:	Every 2 years or subject to changes in statutory guidelines or legislation
Next Review:	June 2028

Date of any amendments made to policy and brief points:

Date	Section
Summer 2026	Page 1 – outdated contextual information removed

Aims

- To encourage a culture where the Welsh language is a rich resource to everyone in the school community
- To encourage a multilingual community where experiences are shared among our pupils
- To provide every opportunity for exposure to the Welsh language
- To provide support for the teaching and learning of the Welsh language in a variety of practical ways for both students and staff
- To provide opportunities for the use of Welsh inside and outside the classroom
- To ensure that all members of the school are made aware of their cultural identity
- To maintain and further develop bilingual policies and good practise already in operation in our partner Primary Schools and develop these skills further upon arrival at Archbishop McGrath

Welsh Language Provision

Pupils at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School are provided with high quality Welsh language teaching, which is provided by an experienced and enthusiastic department. Pupils are provided with a range of teaching strategies and have access to contemporary and skills-based curriculum.

The Curriculum

- Welsh 2nd language is taught as a core subject in years 7 to 11.
- All Schemes of Work encourage pupils to take an active part in language and develop these skills as well as a sense of belonging to Wales

Pupils are provided with:

- Three hours of Welsh in KS3
- Four lessons of varying lengths a fortnight for a Welsh qualification at KS4
- Eight lessons a fortnight for AS and A level.

Establishing a Welsh Ethos within the school

Archbishop McGrath promotes the Welsh language and recognises that a strong Welsh ethos is an essential part of developing bilingualism. As a school we therefore encourage the following practises throughout the school:

- Pupils should be led to appreciate that Wales has its own language and culture. This is achieved through the effective teaching of lessons which encourage pupils to use the Welsh language in all subjects and refer to Welsh culture as standard.
- Every effort should also be made to use Welsh in the everyday life of the school. (The Welsh department offers support for all members of staff on using as much Welsh as possible.)
- A prominent place will be given to Welsh in visual form around the school. Bilingualism is strived for whenever appropriate. Pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school in Welsh.

- Every consideration will be given to ensuring a Welsh dimension, where possible, to teaching materials across all departments' curriculum.
- Everyday Welsh should be used throughout the day, providing a degree of bilingualism whenever possible. This will ensure that children hear the language as a natural part of classroom life.
- Welsh should be used in assemblies/mass when possible.
- Welsh is celebrated annually through our school Eisteddfod and Welsh cultural days. All children are encouraged to compete in a number of Welsh language and cultural competitions.

Welsh and the Catholic Ethos

With the Welsh language having equal status as English in Wales, as a Catholic School it is most important that the Welsh language and the Catholic ethos are combined and supportive of each other every day. Where appropriate, Welsh is used to support morning prayer and Mass.

Staff Training

Archbishop McGrath recognises the need for all staff to contribute to the Welsh language development of the school. Support for everyday Welsh and developing bilingual and multilingual approaches are available from the Languages department. Audio clips to help with pronunciation and words written phonetically are available on the public drive. Requests should be made to the HOD. Placemats with classroom phrases are available for every member of staff. A Welsh language support group has also been formed within the school. A staff booklet is distributed during INSET training. Staff within the Welsh department are on hand to help.

Monitoring

The head teacher and SLT will monitor the use of everyday Welsh when conducting lesson observation as part of the performance management cycle.

The SLT, HOD and Welsh department will monitor everyday Welsh used in the school and will also monitor levels of Welsh on displays in classrooms and around the school.

Roles and responsibilities

Role of the Headteacher and SLT

- To create and nurture a Welsh ethos in the school.
- To support and encourage the Welsh department in their teaching of Welsh as a second language, ensuring the provision of teaching time and funding of quality Resources.
- To encourage the department's attendance on all suitable courses.
- To discuss future developments with the Head of Welsh and the advisory services.
- To promote and use every day Welsh in school, including during assemblies.
- To greet and praise pupils in Welsh.

- To greet staff appropriately in Welsh.
- To monitor everyday Welsh throughout the school.
- To provide training opportunities for all members of staff.

Role of the Welsh Department

- To teach Welsh in accordance with the National Curriculum and be aware of the requirements of good practice.
- To use and encourage everyday Welsh whenever appropriate.
- To teach enthusiastically.
- To display written words around the classroom.
- To attend suitable courses.
- To seek advice from the advisory service if any difficulties arise.
- To provide pupils with a progressive and interesting curriculum.
- To ensure pupils receive high quality teaching and language experiences and achieve the best possible grades at GCSE, appropriate to pupils' ability levels.
- To support all colleagues in the development of everyday Welsh.

Role of the Head of Welsh

- To encourage and support members of the department.
- To liaise with the advisory service.
- To attend HOD courses and keep abreast of current developments within and outside the county.
- To ensure continuity and progression.
- To ensure classes are suitably resourced with Welsh materials, within the budgetary provision.
- To monitor the teaching of Welsh throughout the department and assist the SLT with the monitoring of everyday Welsh throughout the school.

Role of all HODs

- Consider a suitable coverage of the Welsh dimension within departmental schemes of work.
- Identify areas within SOW which lend themselves to the use of everyday Welsh.
- To monitor the use of everyday Welsh used by departmental members.
- To ensure that all departmental displays contain elements of Welsh.
- To liaise with the Welsh department to develop lists of appropriate and suitable vocabulary.
- To audit training needs for members of the department.

Role of all teachers

- To learn and use a range of language patterns and vocabulary.
- To greet pupils using Welsh and prepare them for the subject lesson in Welsh.
- To form dates in Welsh.
- To use Welsh comments in marking.
- To identify suitable vocabulary to display around the classroom.
- To ensure all displays contain elements of Welsh.

- To ensure classroom doors are signed in Welsh.
- To use positive praise in Welsh.
- To encourage the use of Welsh by pupils in lessons.

Roles of all associate staff and office staff

- To learn and use a range of language patterns and vocabulary.
- To greet pupils using Welsh.
- To form dates in Welsh.
- To greet visitors (including phone calls) in Welsh.

Extra-Curricular

- Continue with residential Welsh language opportunities for all pupils, e.g. Llangrannog, Glan Llyn, St Fagans, Youth Parliament (Senedd).
- Continue with the school Eisteddfod in March.
- Continue with marking the Welsh Saints feasts of the Church's year.
- Continue with the house system, using Welsh saints as patrons of the houses.
- Take every opportunity to celebrate Welsh culture and religious life.
- Diwrnod Shwmae introduced in 2013 (October 15th).
- Opportunities for students to attend the 'Cymraeg Bob Dydd' initiative with the Urdd.
- Increase opportunities for Welsh learners in the Urdd Eisteddfod.