

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

L'Office du Jèrriais

GENERAL INFORMATION		DATE: 2016- March
1	Name	L'Office du Jèrriais
2	Language	Jèrriais
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Education, language promotion
4	Email and phone number for contact	info@jerriais.org.je 0044 1534 449290
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	www.jerriais.org.je www.facebook.com/jerriais Twitter: @le_jerriais www.youtube.com/user/officedujerriais soundcloud.com/jerriais
DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE		
1	Description of the practices	A teaching programme for Jèrriais in primary and secondary schools and for adults
2	Brief description of the practices	L'Office du Jèrriais was established in 1999 to teach and promote the Jèrriais language. Initially teaching was in 13 schools, steadily increasing until Jèrriais was offered in all primary schools. Since 2012 a new model has been introduced, using 4 primary schools as Pallions (Jèrriais centres) for after-school lessons. Teaching in secondary schools is provided where there is a demand and adult classes take place at different levels.
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	Prior to World War II most people outside St Helier spoke Jèrriais. The 1987 census showed a decline in speakers to around 5700. In 2001 this number had dropped to around 2700, with only 113 saying that they used Jèrriais as an everyday language. There may now be as few as 1000 speakers, but a survey in 2012 showed that around 30% of the sample could speak and understand <i>some</i> Jèrriais. When parents of primary-school children were asked in 1997 if they would wish their children to have the opportunity to learn Jèrriais, there was an overwhelming response. This resulted in government funding for the introduction of lessons run by Le Don Balleine Trust, an organisation which had previously been a publisher of Jèrriais. The Trust set up L'Office du Jèrriais, initially with a single member of staff, later supplemented to reach 3 staff members and a number of volunteers. However 2 full-time staff are now reaching retirement age and with a budget cut of almost 20%, the programme faces a difficult future.



4	Objectives	To ensure the survival of Jersey's official minority language by capturing the imagination of students with the colour, piquancy and vigour of Jèrriais
5	Main and close working areas	Jersey - but we take advice and work with member administrations of the British-Irish Council. We also maintain contacts with speakers of Nouormand in Normandy and Gallo in Brittany, as well as the language communities in Guernsey and Sark.
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	States of Jersey provides funding to Le Don Balleine, who run L'Office du Jèrriais. Within Jersey, we also work on language promotion with L'Assemblée d'Jèrriais, which provides opportunities for speakers to meet each month, and with the Section d'la Langue Jèrriaise of the Société Jersiaise, which was set up for the study of Jèrriais.
7	Implementation period	1999 to present

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	See results
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	Our current budget is £147,000 per annum but this is to be cut by 19% in 2017. We have 3 staff but this will be reduced to 2 from July due to retirement and so far no replacement has been identified, despite the need for a year's training before the new teacher becomes effective.
10	Results	Several thousand adults and children have had some contact with Jèrriais and many more will be aware of its existence. Jèrriais is more evident on the visual landscape but much more needs to be done, especially regarding adoption and recognition by government. Unfortunately, the States of Jersey has no plan for Jèrriais.
11	Documentation, reference material	
12	Presentation video	
13	Other relevant information	