

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Gwynedd Schools' Language Charter

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 03-03-2016

1	Name	Gwynedd Schools
2	Language	Welsh
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Education, teaching, leisure, administration
4	Email and phone number for contact	Gwenan Ellis Jones (Language Charter Co-ordinator) Telephone: 01286 685045 Email: GwenanEllisJones@gwynedd.gov.uk
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/Schools-and-learning.aspx

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Gwynedd Schools' Language Charter
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>The Gwynedd schools Welsh language Charter was launched in 2011 in order to increase the use of Welsh by children in a social context. The simple objective of the language Charter is to provide a clear framework, which can be used to promote, encourage and inspire children to speak Welsh.</p> <p>To ensure that all efforts are rewarded, the Charter is based on the principle that every individual school may set its own challenging and attainable vision in connection with promoting the use of the Welsh language. This recognizes that circumstances may vary from school to school and provides an opportunity for every school to implement its own programme.</p> <p>The initial section of the Bronze programme is based on steps that are simply deemed to be good practice and that every school should be able to implement. Achieving these initial goals in the first year will ensure a Bronze Award for the school.</p> <p>Each school will then have an opportunity to create its own bespoke set of challenging and achievable targets whilst working towards the Silver Award. The same pattern applies whilst working towards the Gold Award. The aim is to achieve the Gold Award over a three year period. Maintaining the requirements of the Gold Award and measuring the effects of its' implantation by means of the Language Web is the objective after that.</p>
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	The worrying results of the report written in 2008 showed that only 30% of Gwynedd school's primary aged children made voluntary use of their Welsh



		language within a social context. A clear strategy with an appropriate method of setting a baseline and of evaluating success was essential so as to reach the objective of increasing children's use of the Welsh language
4	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the use of Welsh by children in a social context To provide a clear framework, which can be used to promote, encourage and inspire children to speak Welsh
5	Main and close working areas	The Language Charter exhorts participation from every member of the school community and members of the school workforce and council, the pupils and their parents, school governors and the wider community are all encouraged to take full ownership of it. This leads to forging links as well to the community and organisations beyond the school gates e.g. leisure centres, Urdd, Hunaniaith, Mentrau Iaith Cymru, etc.
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	Leisure Centres, S4C-Welsh-language public-service television channel, Urdd-youth movement, Cwmni Da- producers of Welsh language programming, Hunaniaith, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
7	Implementation period	Following a report written in 2008 which noted a marked deterioration in the use of the Welsh language by primary school children in Gwynedd, a committee was set up to deliberate on possible strategies to deal with the situation. The Welsh Language Charter is a direct result of the committee's discussions and deliberations. The Language Charter in its original form was launched in 2011

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	The strategy has now been expanded to all the other counties in North Wales (6 counties). By 2017 the programme will be expanded throughout Wales
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	50% of the wages is supported by Government grant
10	Results	Successive data have shown a marked increase in the use of Welsh by children aged from 3-11 years old. The cohort amongst schoolchildren of this age in Gwynedd is 10,000 pupils. We will expect our next set of results by March 22 nd , 2016
11	Documentation, reference material	The Welsh Language Charter programme/ Language Web programme: http://moodle.cynnal.co.uk/pluginfile.php/36651/mod_resource/content/0/Siarter%20Iaith%202014%20S.pdf
12	Presentation video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8KBKcG1kbo&sns=em
13	Other relevant information	https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/January-2016/ExtendingWelshLanguageCharterschoolsacrossnorthWales.aspx?utm_medium=SocialSignIn&utm_source=Facebook
		Resources: Language Web Programme- the data from this multi lingual programme

(developed by Gwynedd County Council) provides firm evidence of the language situation at every school. It allows us to establish a baseline from which every school will be able to develop its own individual vision. By analyzing the data, it is possible to determine which specific aspects each school should focus upon. The second reading during the school year will observe the impact that has been made in connection with promoting and developing the use of Welsh in a social context

Short sociolinguistic situation:

Promotion of the Welsh Language which is spoken by 20% of the population of Wales. In Gwynedd, 65% of the population are bilingual. The Gwynedd County Council policy states that every child will be fully bilingual by the time they leave their primary school education

Advice:

- The Language Charter is a clear strategy that every school is able to implement.
- The Language Web programme gives a clear result to all schools and indicates the success achieved having worked towards all the targets in the Language Charter programme