

The Welsh Language Commissioner's Education Pack

Introduction for Teachers and Practitioners

The aim of this education pack is to provide a range of resources for teachers and practitioners to use when teaching Year 5 and 6 learners in primary schools in Wales about the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner and the relevance of the Commissioner's work to their use of Welsh in their everyday life. The pack includes:

- A PowerPoint presentation to be used in the classroom to introduce and encourage discussion about the background and role of the Welsh Language Commissioner and learners' use of Welsh;
- A pack of suggested cross-curricular activities to accompany the PowerPoint presentation, along with appendices of supporting resources and a list of further useful resources to deepen learners' understanding of the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

The pack has been designed to align with the requirements of the **Curriculum for Wales**, offering a range of activities that give learners the opportunity to *learn about their own cultural identity and foster pride in their own sense of identity and belonging to Wales as citizens of a bilingual Wales in a multilingual world.*¹

A number of activities give learners the opportunity to develop the Curriculum for Wales' mandatory cross-curricular skills, which are **literacy**, **numeracy** and **digital competence**, and to encourage them to apply and develop them further across the Curriculum's **six areas of learning and experience**:

Languages,
Literacy and
Communication

Mathematics
and Numeracy

Expressive
Arts

Humanities

Science and
Technology

Health and
Well-being

One of the main aims of the pack is to give learners the opportunity to realise the **four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales**, which are intended to encourage every child and young person to develop as:

- ambitious, capable learners
- enterprising, creative contributors
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The pack is designed to be flexible so that teachers and practitioners can use it in a way which suits their learners and the time available. The activities are suitable for older primary school learners as well as younger secondary school learners, and can be adapted and differentiated as required.

1 [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Statements of what matters - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

Activities

1. Discussion/ expressing opinion task

Share some of the discussion cards (Appendix 1) with learners in small groups and encourage them to discuss and express their opinion on the information/ statements/ questions displayed, using suitable language for expressing opinion.


2. Ranking tasks

- Give learners the 'Advantages of Bilingualism' cards (Appendix 2) in small groups, as well as the one blank card also found in Appendix 2. Ask them to discuss the statements on the cards and decide as a group on one additional advantage to write on the blank card. Then, ask them to prioritise the nine advantages in the form of a diamond ranking diagram, explaining and justifying their views.
- Share a number of blank cards (Appendix 3) of your choice (e.g. eight, ten or twelve) with learners in small groups. Ask them to discuss and list the most obvious words that come to mind when thinking of the Welsh language, before writing each word on individual cards and ranking the cards in order of importance, according to the views of the group.




3. Additional cross-curricular tasks

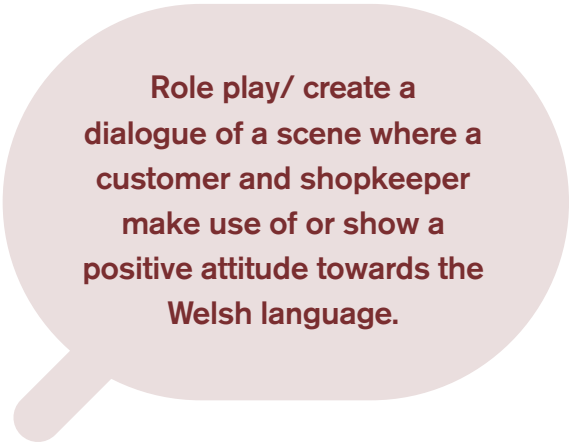
Here are a few examples of additional cross-curricular tasks that you could encourage learners to complete in response to the content of the PowerPoint presentation and/ or the initial discussion tasks:



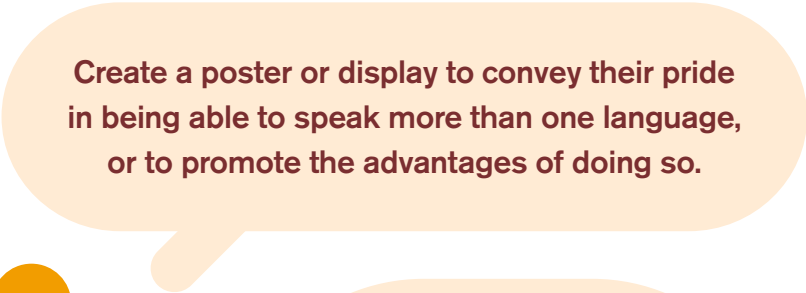
Create a digital pamphlet or video clip presenting information about the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner.




Create a list of appropriate questions to ask the Welsh Language Commissioner about her work.




Role play/ create a dialogue of a scene where a customer and shopkeeper make use of or show a positive attitude towards the Welsh language.



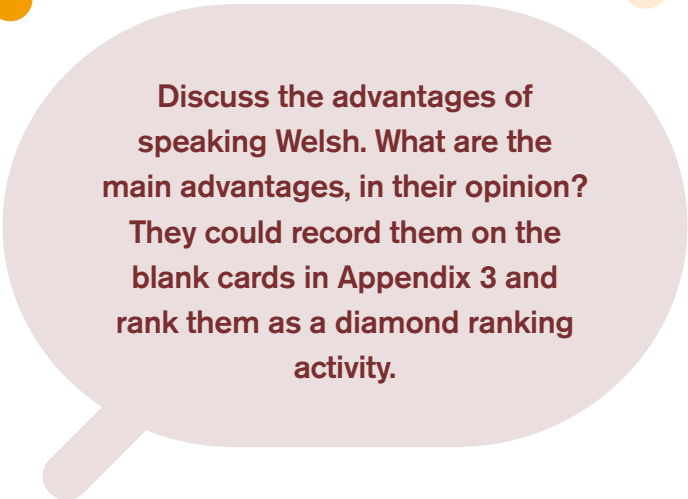
Create a poster or display to convey their pride in being able to speak more than one language, or to promote the advantages of doing so.



Create a digital advert or write a short speech encouraging businesses/ charities to offer more bilingual services, listing the advantages.



Organise an event to promote the use of Welsh in the school or the local area.



Discuss the advantages of speaking Welsh. What are the main advantages, in their opinion? They could record them on the blank cards in Appendix 3 and rank them as a diamond ranking activity.



Research important events (both positive and negative) in the history of the Welsh language (e.g. The Acts of Union 1536 and 1542-43; the history of the Welsh Not; the establishment of Urdd Gobaith Cymru; the Fate of the Language (Tynged yr Iaith) lecture; the history of the Welsh Language Society; the Beasley case; the establishment of S4C, etc.) and create a short oral presentation or 'documentary programme'.



Decide on their dream job and consider why the Welsh language would be beneficial for that job.



Watch this video clip: [Hoff Air Cymraeg/ Favourite Welsh Word](#), before expressing their opinion on their favourite Welsh words. How about creating a list or dictionary of the class' favourite Welsh words?

Design a suitable 'Defnyddia dy Gymraeg' (Use your Welsh) logo to be used in school to encourage other pupils to use their Welsh as much as possible.



Create and present an assembly script to perform to the rest of the school to convey their pride of living in Wales, a bilingual country, and the importance of Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

Invite a local business owner to school to ask them about the importance of using the Welsh language in their business.



5

Create a list of the rights of Welsh speakers to be displayed in class/ school.

Create a list of five things they could do to promote and protect the Welsh language. What about creating 'resolutions' as a class/ year group of things that they would like to do to promote the use of Welsh in school during the term/ year?

Create a simple presentation for younger pupils about the importance of using their Welsh as much as possible in their everyday lives.

Create a presentation for parents, school governors and the wider community on the advantages of bilingualism.




Compose a simple rap/ song to convey their pride of being able to speak Welsh and/ or their Welshness.



Research and present information about other minority languages across the world (research work, data handling, locating on a map, etc.). How about comparing the Welsh language with one of the world's other minority languages?



Discussion/ expressing opinion cards

 Cut out and share the cards with learners in pairs/ small groups to encourage them to discuss and express their opinion on the statements on each card.

Can you give a brief explanation of the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner?

Do you believe that it is important for Welsh speakers to use Welsh as much as possible when using services in Wales? Why? Give reasons to support your views.



Welsh Government states that the Welsh language is “one of the treasures of Wales” which “defines us as people and as a nation”.

Do you agree with this statement? Why? Give reasons to support your view.

Do you agree that it is important that people in Wales have the right and freedom to speak Welsh if they wish? Why? Give reasons to support your view.

Do you believe that it is important for Welsh speakers to use Welsh as much as possible when using services in Wales? Why? Give reasons to support your views.

What is meant by the word ‘right’?

Can you think of other rights that we have in our everyday life?

Why are rights important?

What is the purpose of rules? Why do you think rules are needed? What kind of rules do you have to follow in your everyday life? What is the impact of those rules?

Can you give a brief explanation of the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner?

“It’s important that Welsh speakers in Wales can live their everyday life through the medium of Welsh if they wish to do so.”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? Give reasons to explain your views.

If you can speak some Welsh, how much opportunity do you have to use your Welsh every day? Do you have plenty of opportunity/ too little opportunity?

If you can speak some Welsh, what can you do to make full use of Welsh in your everyday life?

If you can speak some Welsh, do you make as much use as you can of Welsh in your everyday life?

Do you think it’s important that everyone in Wales shows respect towards the Welsh language, whether they speak Welsh or not? Give reasons to support your views.

“Protecting the Welsh language is not the role of one individual or organisation – all of us have a responsibility to help and play our part if we wish to ensure the future of the language.”


Do you agree with this statement?

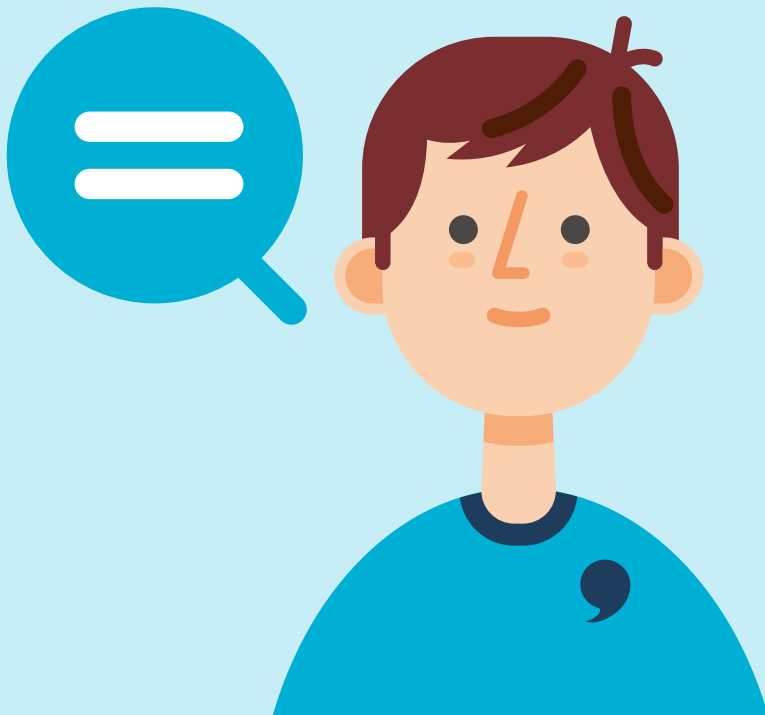
“The Welsh language belongs to everyone in Wales, whether we speak it or not.”

Do you agree with this statement?

If you can't speak any/much Welsh, do you wish that you could? Why? What would be the benefits of speaking Welsh, in your opinion?

Ranking Cards – Advantages of Bilingualism

-  Cut out the cards. Ask learners in small groups to decide on one additional advantage to write on the blank card, before discussing all nine statements and prioritising them in the form of a diamond ranking diagram.



Speaking two languages gives us more opportunities to make friends.

Bilingual people are often better at learning new languages.

Bilingual people are often more sensitive and creative.

Bilingual people are often better at learning new languages.

Speaking two languages helps us learn about more than one culture and history.

Speaking two languages gives us more opportunities to make friends.

Speaking two languages improves our concentration and memory.

Bilingual people often show more interest and respect towards other cultures.

Bilingual people often find it easier to concentrate on more than one task at the same time.

Speaking two languages gives us an opportunity to enjoy more hobbies and interest.

Appendix 3

Appendix 3

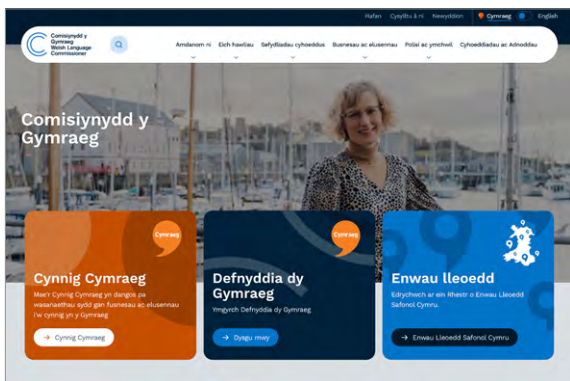
Appendix 3

Additional resources and links



- A short video based on the content of this pack:

[Welsh Language Commissioner - The Facts](#)



- The Welsh Language Commissioner website:
[Welsh Language Commissioner](#)



- IALC website (International Association of Language Commissioners):
[International Association of Language Commissioners - Home](#)