

Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy Immersion Scheme

Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy offers an opportunity for pupils who attend an English language category primary school to learn Welsh fluently during year 5 and 6. Their journey at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy will begin during the first half term of Year 6 when pupils join us for a day of transition activities and start weekly Welsh lessons (in the primary school) with a tutor from Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy. These introductory lessons will be intensive Welsh lessons in order to develop their skills in the Welsh language.

At the end of year 6 in the last half term they will spend an intensive period of 4 weeks at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy receiving Welsh language education and developing Welsh oral, reading and writing skills.

If the pupils chose to attend Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy they will follow a special accelerated program in year 7 and 8 and by year 9 they will study through the medium of Welsh alongside the other pupils.

During their time at the secondary school, the pupils will receive their education from various subject teachers who have received specialist training in bilingual education and who are sensitive to their needs as learners.

What if my child doesn't speak a word of Welsh?

The Immersion Scheme is specially tailored for non-Welsh speakers. The intensive course at the end of year 6 is an opportunity to stimulate the pupils' basic language skills. We build on these skills from year 7 onwards in every aspect of school life.

What are the benefits of the scheme for my child?

Short term benefits

- Improve fluency in the Welsh language.
- Promote the ability to use the Welsh language in a variety of situations.
- A supportive start to secondary education
- Smaller Welsh classes with special bilingual teachers
- Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities through the medium of Welsh.

Long term benefits

- A wider range of opportunities in the workplace for bilingual young adults.
- Strong cultural awareness

- Opening doors to learn more languages

How will my child cope with the situation?

The school has extensive experience in dippers who receive late entry to the school, we keep a close eye on the pupils' development along with constant monitoring of pupils' performance. The school uses the Class Charts app which enables parents and guardians to monitor pupils' behavior and achievements on a day-to-day basis.

Will my child be able to socialize with mainstream pupils?

Pupils in the Immersion class are warmly welcome to attend all extracurricular activities offered by the school. Our Trochi pupils are members of the rugby, football and netball teams, sing in choirs, perform on the Eisteddfod stage and go to dinner clubs.

When will my child transition to mainstream?

In year 7, the immersion learners are taught within one of the mainstream classes, with some lessons being taught separately in smaller groups. During the last half term in year 7, pupils will be mentored by a tutor throughout years 7 and 8. The Immersion Scheme is a two-year scheme, but the support that learners will need can vary.