

Frequently asked Questions	
What does Welsh Education do?	<p>Welsh-medium education has a very simple aim - to enable children to become fully fluent in both English and Welsh while teaching all the other subjects across the curriculum. Young children learn languages remarkably easily – it's by making the most of this potential that Welsh-medium education has become so popular.</p>
Why do people choose Welsh education?	<p>Research shows that it's by far the best way we have to get children to be bilingual in both English and Welsh.</p> <p>Being bilingual has many advantages. It's very useful as a skill in the workplace: the ability to speak Welsh is either an essential or a desirable skill for a growing number of jobs. There is more demand today than ever before for bilingual skills in a variety of fields such as health, education, leisure, childcare, retail, and public services.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has also committed to developing a bilingual Wales through its Welsh-language strategy 'Cymraeg 2050' with a vision for reaching a million speakers by 2050.</p> <p>Speaking Welsh can help children build a fuller understanding of their wider community and their place within it.</p> <p>Welsh provides children with access to a culture – including literature, music, digital media, and a host of other things – that might otherwise be unavailable to them.</p> <p>For some people, the choice of Welsh-medium education is based on personal experiences: they know people who are bilingual or have bilingual children, and so want their own children to be able to be a part of the Welsh-speaking community, while also being completely at home in English</p>
Is Welsh-medium education suitable for my child and can my child apply for a place?	<p>Yes, and yes! In a Welsh-medium school, education is delivered in a way that at a very early age, children can speak in Welsh and English from early-years. The way we teach Welsh in a Welsh-medium school is through a method called immersion. Immersion means to surround the child completely with the Welsh language from Nursery and this will continue throughout their education. English is also taught formally from year 3 so that your child's literacy skills in both languages are developed and progressed to an equal standard.</p>
Does the Welsh Language have an	<p>Well, no, this method has been used for many years as a way to transfer languages from one generation to the next.</p>

<p>effect on their English or other home languages?</p>	<p>In Wales, Welsh and English have equal status and more and more jobs are now looking for skills in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>English or the home language is spoken at home and English is also very prominent within the community and is therefore heard and used by the child at the same time as Welsh is being learned in school!</p>
<p>We don't speak Welsh at home – would that make our child stand out?</p>	<p>Not at all. In fact, the vast majority of children in Welsh-medium education in Monmouthshire do not speak Welsh at home and for some of those, a language other than English is the main language of the home.</p> <p>So, coming from a non-Welsh speaking background is absolutely normal and the curriculum is designed with that in mind.</p> <p>Welsh-medium schools do not expect that children speak Welsh when they start but will help those children to become fluent in Welsh before the end of their first year.</p> <p>Every family – and every child – is unique, of course. But all kinds of families take advantage of Welsh-medium education: families who don't speak Welsh and those who do; families from all kinds of ethnic and religious backgrounds; families from Wales and those who've moved here from elsewhere.</p>
<p>How can I help my child with homework if I don't speak Welsh?</p>	<p>As most children don't speak Welsh at home, Welsh-medium schools are very experienced in supporting both pupils and parents.</p> <p>For younger pupils, homework instructions will be given in writing in both English and Welsh. At a later age, children will be able to explain their work to their parents themselves. In fact, research suggests that dealing with their work in two languages can actually help children understand the subject that they are studying.</p>
<p>My child has already started primary school. Can I change to a Welsh-medium school now?</p>	<p>Absolutely! There is a provision for any pupil that wishes to change from English-medium school to Welsh-medium school called an Immersion Centre. Here, the pupil is given intensive language skills in Welsh in a purposely designed environment so that after a short while they will be able to join their own class in their school, in Monmouthshire the immersion centre is based in Ysgol Gymraeg y Ffin for any pupil/child from Year 1 upwards. This happens over a term or more if the support is needed.</p>

<p>Will there be transport provided to the Welsh-medium schools?</p>	<p>The Council has a Home to School Transport policy, it offers free home to school transport for any primary pupils that live more than 1.5 miles away from the school.</p> <p>It should be noted that free Home to School transport is provided for pupils to their nearest or catchment area school and that if you choose to send your child to a Welsh-medium school that is not the nearest / catchment school then it will be classed as parental choice and you may not get free transport.</p>
<p>What about their education after they leave school?</p>	<p>As pupils from Welsh-medium schools are fully bilingual, they can choose to follow college and university courses in either language (or both). Recently, the work of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the national Welsh-medium college) has ensured that more and more university degrees are available (partially or completely) through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>A growing number of Welsh-medium courses are available in Further Education as well. Even so, students from Welsh-medium schools commonly follow English-medium courses at college or university, in Wales and beyond.</p>
<p>Can I learn Welsh alongside my child?</p>	<p>Some parents, after choosing a Welsh-medium school for their child, decide to learn Welsh as well. It's a great opportunity to learn together, to practice your language skills on each other and spend quality time together.</p> <p>Welsh for Adults courses are available throughout Monmouthshire, face to face, online or self-taught, and are suitable for learners at all levels. For further information, please visit the Learn Welsh website.</p>