Begin the Bilingual Journey. Choose Welsh Medium Education.

Being Bilingual in Rhondda Cynon Taf

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

02 What does being bilingual mean?

05 What are the benefits of being bilingual?

06 Frequently Asked Questions.

08 How is Welsh taught in a Welsh medium school?

10 What do other people say?

12 The Journey.

14 What next?

20 A little help.

Cymraeg

Experts estimate that more than half the world's population can speak more than one language - give your child the opportunity to do so too.

In Rhondda Cynon Taf nearly 30,000 speak Welsh and around 20% of our children already enjoy their education through the medium of Welsh in one of our 19 Welsh medium schools.

Did you know that 95% of pupils in Welsh medium education in Rhondda Cynon Taf come from non-Welsh speaking homes?

You won't be alone in this journey.

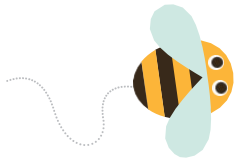
What does being bilingual mean?

It’s the ability to live your everyday life with two languages.

As a parent, deciding on your child’s education will be one of the most important decisions you'll make. More and more parents can testify that choosing Welsh medium education for their child has been a positive and worthwhile experience and an advantage when starting in work.

- We’ve created this booklet to answer your questions or concerns and let you know why it's great to be bilingual.
- This booklet also maps a clear Welsh medium journey for your child - and you - through the pre-school and school years from nursery, to primary, secondary schools, further education and beyond.

Choose a Welsh medium education for your child and they’ll become part of Wales’ million Welsh speakers by 2050.



What are the benefits of being bilingual?

Education

- Bilingual children tend to be more successful in education and perform better in tasks.
- Bilingual people find it easier to learn additional languages.
- Children in Welsh medium education do just as well, if not better, in English as children in English medium education.

Career

- Speaking two languages is an extra skill to put on your application form.
- Bilingual people earn an average of 11% more.
- Employers are always looking for bilingual staff so they can offer the best bilingual service.

Health

- Research shows that being bilingual delays the onset of Dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer.

Life

- Speaking two languages widens your horizons.
- Speaking Welsh gives you access to many aspects of Welsh culture, history and identity.
- Speaking Welsh can provide a key to a rich community life.
- Speaking Welsh gives you a strong sense of identity and belonging.
- Switching between languages gives you self-confidence and pride.
- Speaking more than one language can make you more understanding of other cultures.

EVIDENCE:

- A report on 'The Advantages of Bilingualism in Welsh and English' by Professor Colin Baker
- Estyn Report - English in key stages 2 and 3
- Children with two languages excel at school – The Times Article
- Welsh speakers 'more likely to get top qualifications and jobs' – Wales Online Article
- A Report on 'Delaying the onset of Alzheimer disease' by Fergus I.M Craik, PHD, Ellen Bialystock, PHD and Morris Freedman, MD.
- Bilingual people twice as likely to recover from a stroke – The Telegraph Article

Frequently Asked Questions.

But we don't speak Welsh!

We're here to help! You'll find well-established support systems in both English and Welsh in most schools, so parents and carers can support children's learning in the home.

What about their English language skills?

Don't worry! Children are fluent in both Welsh and English when they leave Welsh medium primary school.

Why Welsh medium education?

The quality of education is excellent. It's easy to learn a language from an early age, and children enjoy their lives in Welsh and English!

Do they have to go to a Cylch Meithrin?

No. Children can begin in Welsh medium primary schools without having attended a Clych Meithrin. They will be immersed in the language as soon as they arrive and pick it up very quickly.

What can my child do outside of school?

Have a look at the useful list of Welsh and bilingual organisations and societies at the back of this booklet - and get in touch!

How can my child get to our local school?

We're here to help. RCT Council provide free school transport for pupils with a home address 1.5 miles or more from the nearest Welsh medium primary school, and 2 miles or more from the nearest Welsh medium secondary school. All our learners are transported on safe and comfortable buses which are driven by individuals who have safeguarding clearance to drive for the Council.

Find out more about our Learner Travel Policy and Arrangements here, ***www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport***

Will I be able to help with my child's Welsh homework?

Yes! Many schools provide the work in Welsh and English. Why not encourage your child to explain the work to you first? As they explain, they will go through the problem step by step. This helps them to get to grips with what they need to do. And remember, it's your child's homework - not yours. The most important thing is to be positive and to give praise and encouragement!

Can I learn Welsh at the same time as my child?

Yes! There's loads of courses available. Visit ***learnwelsh.cymru*** and search for courses in your area which run along side the same term dates as our schools.

How is Welsh taught in a Welsh medium school?

When children begin learning Welsh, they will be immersed in the language from the start. Staff are flexible and can use English if necessary to help the children.

- Welsh is the language of education from Nursery until Year 2 and then children will have lessons in English and use English in their lessons across the curriculum.
- This method of learning is recognised internationally and used in countries such as Canada and the Basque Country.

Latecomers

You can choose Welsh medium education at any point during the journey. We offer pupils additional support to transfer to Welsh medium schools and this is usually very successful. And remember they do not have to attend a Cylch Meithrin to start in a Welsh medium primary school.

Interested? Get in touch with your local Welsh medium school (details can be found on page 14 onwards) or Rhondda Cynon Taf Council for more information: ***schooladmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk***

What do other people say?

I was initially concerned that I'd be the only parent that didn't speak Welsh and that my son's pace of learning would be behind his English speaking peers.

This has not been the case and at the age of 6 he reads well in both languages.

Lynfa, Parent

As a non-Welsh speaker, I'd worried that I couldn't support my children in their education.

I can now say that I'm involved with every aspect of their education and feel thankful to the school for this. I love listening to my children speaking Welsh and have picked up a few words myself.

Tommy, Parent

Choosing Welsh medium education for me was one of my parents' best decisions. It's brilliant being able to say I'm bilingual!

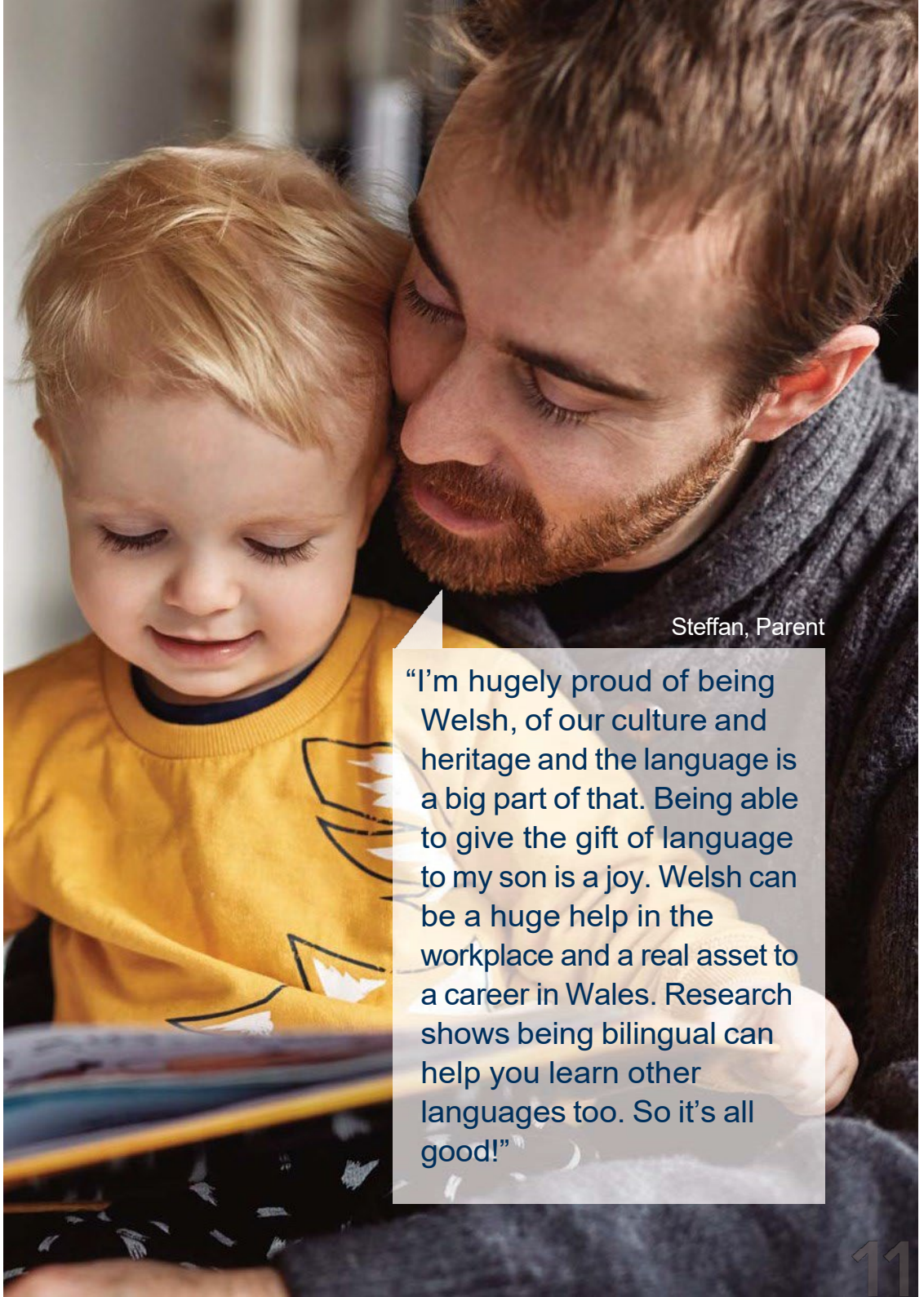
Seren, Former RCT Pupil

I'm grateful my parents sent me to a Welsh medium school as I've had lots of jobs because of my Welsh language skills.

Tom, Former RCT Pupil

I'm so proud to be Welsh and being able to speak the language is awesome.

Mollie, Current RCT Pupil



Steffan, Parent

"I'm hugely proud of being Welsh, of our culture and heritage and the language is a big part of that. Being able to give the gift of language to my son is a joy. Welsh can be a huge help in the workplace and a real asset to a career in Wales. Research shows being bilingual can help you learn other languages too. So it's all good!"

The Journey.

0-2 YEARS OLD

Cymraeg for Kids

Cymraeg for Kids run weekly baby massage and yoga sessions, Welsh Rhymetime, Cuppa & Chat Cymraeg and a Me & My Baby course which shares relevant and local information for your bilingual journey. These courses are free.

Cylch Ti a Fi

You can take your baby to a 'Ti a Fi' parent and toddler group where children play together, listen to Welsh stories and sing Welsh songs. There are more than 500 groups in communities across Wales and non-Welsh-speaking parents and carers are warmly welcomed.

2-4 YEARS OLD

Cylch Meithrin

Mudiad Meithrin organises Cylch Meithrin nursery groups across Wales for children from two years old until they go to primary school.

It's an important age when it comes to learning a language and children get the chance to learn through play in Welsh.

3-4 YEARS OLD

Nursery Unit

Some primary schools have Welsh medium or bilingual nursery units for three-year-olds.

4-11 YEARS OLD

Primary School

Welsh medium education is offered in every county in Wales. Welsh is the main language of the classroom and the schoolyard in Welsh medium primary schools. Your child will study and socialise in Welsh.

11-18 YEARS OLD

Secondary School

Our Welsh medium and bilingual secondary schools perform well, with some amongst the best in the country. Your child will study most subjects through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.

16+ YEARS OLD

Further Education

Many colleges in Wales also offer courses in Welsh. Contact directly for more information.

Higher Education

Welsh Universities provide Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses through the medium of Welsh. Scholarships are also available for pupils who undertake their studies in Welsh.

What next?

- Use our directory to find your nearest provision.
- Contact them and let them know you're interested in registering your child.
- Begin your bilingual journey by choosing a Welsh medium future for you and your family.

RHONDDA

Nursery / Cylch Meithrin:

1.	**Cylch Meithrin Bronllwyn** cylchmeithrinbronllwyn@yahoo.co.uk	Gelli, CF41 7NW 01443 434474
2.	**Cylch Meithrin Bysedd Bach*** bopa.andrea@yahoo.co.uk	Porth, CF39 9TL 07811 072296
3.	**Cylch Meithrin Glynrhedyn** jadejones69_1@hotmail.com	Ferndale, CF43 4LG 01443 731561
4.	**Cylch Meithrin Nant Dyrys *** nantdyrys@hotmail.co.uk	Ynyswen, CF42 6ED 01443 777706
5.	**Cylch Meithrin Tynewydd *** meithrin@hotmail.com	Treherbert, CF42 5PN 01443 244699
6.	**Cylch Meithrin Ynyshir & Wattstown** wattsmeithrin@hotmail.co.uk	Wattstown, CF39 0RA 01443 732414

** Ti a Fi provision (0-2 years old) is available at this Meithrin.*

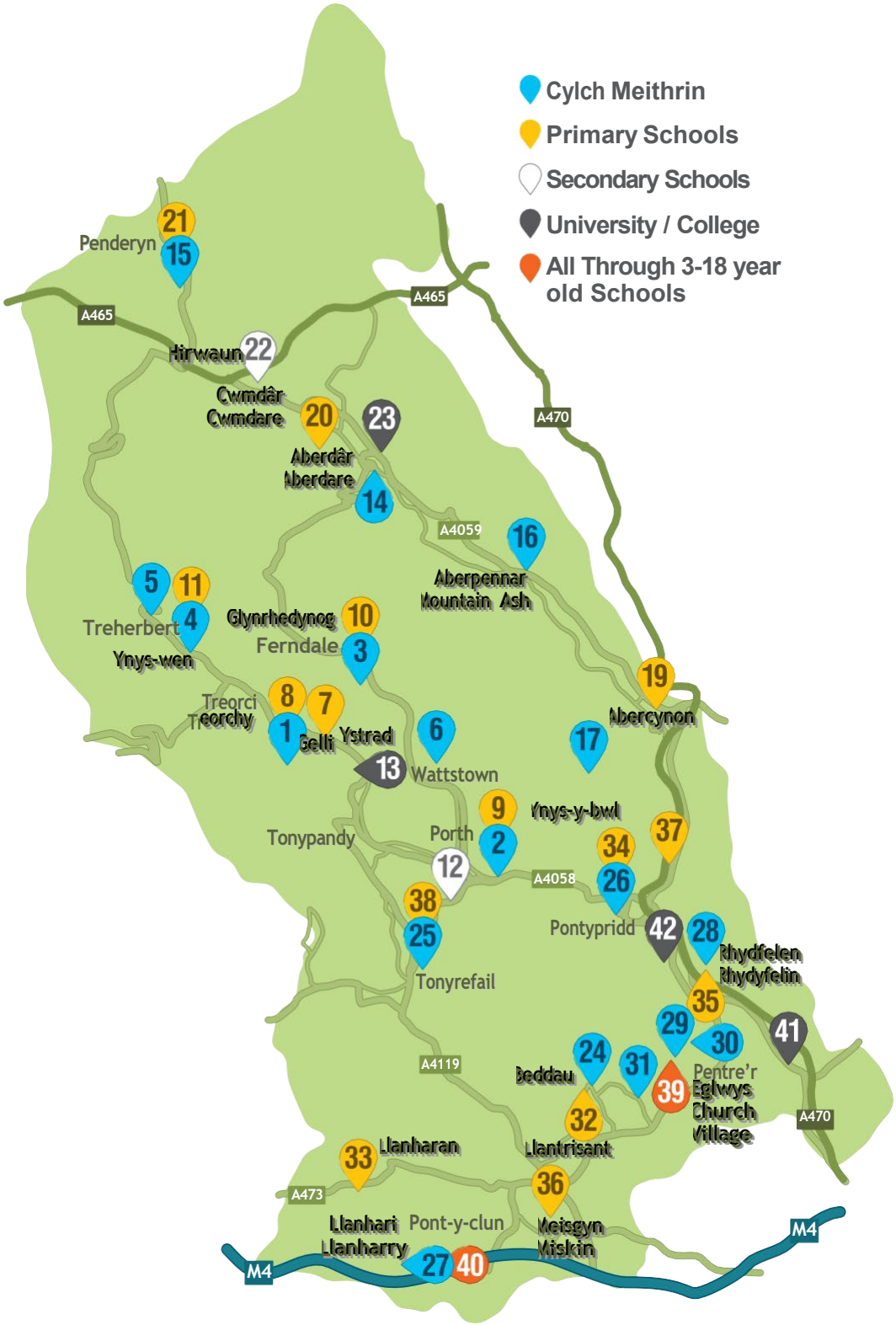
Ti a Fi provision is also available at the following locations:

- **Ti a Fi Enfys Bach:** Tonpentre, CF41 7DX.....Monday
- **Ti a Fi Treorci:** Treorchy, CF42 6UD.....Monday
- **Ti a Fi Hope Church:** Tonypandy, CF40 1AN ..... Thursday
- **Ti a Fi Porth:** Porth, CF39 9PG ..... Friday

For more information on these settings:

emma.williams@meithrin.cymru

07758 292711



RHONDDA

Primary Schools:

7. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bodringallt — Ystrad, CF41 7RT
admin.yggbodringallt@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 434096

8. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bronllwyn — Gelli, CF41 7NW
admin.yggbronllwyn@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 435294

9. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn — Porth, CF39 9TL
admin.ygglwyncelyn@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 562220

10. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-forwyn — Ferndale, CF43 4LG
admin.yggllynyforwyn@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 730278

11. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen — Ynys-wen, CF42 6ED
admin.yggynyswen@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 772432

Secondary Schools:

12. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda — Porth, CF39 9HA
admin.ygcwmrhondda@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 680800

University / College:

13. Coleg Y Cymoedd — Rhondda, CF40 2TQ
enquiries@cymoedd.ac.uk — 01443 663202

CYNON

Nursery / Cylch Meithrin:

14. Cylch Meithrin Aberdâr * — Aberdare, CF44 7ES
cylchmeithrinaberdar@outlook.com — 07751 523729

15. Cylch Meithrin Penderyn * — Penderyn, CF44 9UX
emmajones2008@hotmail.co.uk — 07879644310

16. Cylch Meithrin Seren Fach * — Mountain Ash, CF45 4DA
cylchmeithrinserenfach@outlook.com — 07751 523729

17. Cylch Meithrin Ynysybwl — Ynys-y-bwl, CF37 3DS
ynysybwl@camaucyntaf.co.uk — 01443 791111

** Ti a Fi provision (0-2 years old) is available at this Meithrin.*

Primary Schools:

19. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon — Abercynon, CF45 4TH
admin.yggabercynon@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01443 740239

20. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdâr — Cwmdare, CF44 8RT
admin.yggaberdar@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01685 872939

21 Ysgol Gynradd Penderyn — Penderyn, CF44 9JW
admin.penderynprimary@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01685 811259

Secondary Schools:

22. Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun — Pen-y-waun, CF44 9ES
admin.ygrhydywaun@rctcbc.gov.uk — 01685 813500

University / College:

23. Coleg Y Cymoedd — Aberdare, CF44 8EN
enquiries@cymoedd.ac.uk — 01685 887500

TAFF

Nursery / Cylch Meithrin:

24. Cylch Meithrin Beddau *
cylchmeithrinbeddau@outlook.com
Beddau, CF38 2AU
07773 163162

25. Cylch Meithrin Cwm Elai
cmcwmelai@outlook.com
Tonyrefail, CF39 8NT
07555 277211

26. Cylch Meithrin Evan James
cylchevanjames@outlook.com
Pontypridd, CF39 0DR
07791 751185

27. Cylch Meithrin Llanhari
llanhari@camaucyntaf.co.uk
Llanharry, CF72 9XE
07852 952002

28. Cylch Meithrin Rhydyfelin
rhydyfelin@camaucyntaf.co.uk
Rhydyfelin, CF37 5DB
07983 142010

29. Meithrinfa Gartholwg
post@meithrinfagartholwg.co.uk
Church Village, CF38 1RQ
01443 209120

30. Pengwiniaid Pentre *
pentre@camaucyntaf.co.uk
Church Village, CF38 1RJ
07983 362003

31. Ysgol Feithrin Llanilltud Faerdref *
pamlloyd2000@tiscali.co.uk
Llantwit Fardre, CF38 2NA
01443 204942

** Ti a Fi provision (0-2 years old) is available at this Meithrin.*

Primary Schools:

32. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castellau
admin.yggcastellau@rctcbc.gov.uk
Beddau, CF38 2AA
01443 562206

33. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Dolau
admin.dolauprimary@rctcbc.gov.uk
Llanharan, CF72 9RP
01443 237830

34. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Evan James
admin.yggevanjames@rctcbc.gov.uk
Pontypridd, CF37 1HQ
01443 486813

35. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Heol y Celyn
admin.heolycelynprimary@rctcbc.gov.uk
Rhydyfelin, CF37 5DB
01443 790750

36. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llantrisant
admin.ygggllantrisant@rctcbc.gov.uk
Miskin, CF72 8TL
01443 237837

37. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Siôn Norton
admin.yggpontsionnorton@rctcbc.gov.uk
Pontypridd, CF37 4ND
01443 486838

38. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail
admin.yggtonyrefail@rctcbc.gov.uk
Tonyrefail, CF39 8NT
01443 670319

All Through 3-18 year old Schools:

39. Ysgol Garth Olwg
admin.ygggartholwg@rctcbc.gov.uk
Church Village, CF38 1DX
01443 570070

40. Ysgol Llanhari
admin.YsgolLlanhari@rctcbc.gov.uk
Llanharry, CF72 9XE
01443 237824

University / College:

41. Coleg Y Cymoedd
enquiries@cymoedd.ac.uk
Nantgarw, CF15 7QY
01443 662800

42 University of South Wales
www.southwales.ac.uk
Pontypridd, CF37 1DL
03455 76 01 01

A little help.

Cymraeg for Kids

Cymraeg for kids offer support, advice and information to prospective and new parents on how to bring Welsh into the home from birth.

www.meithrin.cymru/cymraeg-for-kids

Cymraeg i Blant Rhondda Cynon Taf
cymraegiblant@meithrin.cymru
@Cymraegforkids
01970 639639

Mudiad Meithrin

Organises 'Ti a Fi' parent and toddlers groups. It offers Meithrin (nursery) groups for children from two years old until primary school age.

www.meithrin.cymru

Mudiad Meithrin
post@meithrin.co.uk
@MudiadMeithrin
01970 639639

Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre

Your one stop shop if you want to learn or improve your Welsh. The Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre provide courses at all levels across the area, and with a wide choice of days and times.

If you have children under 7, look for the Welsh for the Family courses.

www.learnwelsh.cymru

Welsh for Adults - Glamorgan
learnwelsh@southwales.ac.uk
@learncymraegMG
01443 483600

Welsh4Parents

This site is a directory containing links to a wide range of Welsh language resources available on a variety of digital platforms.

www.Welsh4Parents.cymru

Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg
help@parents4welsh.cymru
@RhAG1

The Urdd

Youth organisation which offers opportunities and events to all the young people of Wales (up to the age of 25). It is a lively organisation which is a part of the life of children who attend Welsh medium education, through sports, music, the Eisteddfod, residential centres and youth groups.

www.urdd.cymru

Urdd Gobaith Cymru
helo@urdd.org
@Urdd

Menter Iaith RCT

Provide, promote and co-ordinate Welsh arts, educational and cultural activities and services in the County such as Carco Clubs, Youth TIMau and Parti Ponty.

www.menteriaith.cymru

Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf
01443 407570
@MenterIaithRhCT

Family Information Service (FIS)

For information on childcare, education, activities and services for families contact Rhondda Cynon Taf Family Information Service.

www.fis.wales

RCT Family Information Services
fis@rctcbc.gov.uk
01443 425006

Cymraeg