

P-04-449 Kick Start the Welsh Language Curriculum –
Correspondence from Petitioner to Chair, 22.01.2014

Miss Eva Bowers

82 James Street

Llanelli

Carmarthenshire

SA15 1EA

22/01/2014

Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

In response to reference:

P-04-499

Dear Mr W Powell AC/AM:

I am writing to hopefully try and change the way Welsh is taught in English Medium schools, so that the younger generation can use conversational Welsh in and out of school. I appreciate the time you gave to write a response and to gather a detailed response from the minister regarding my petition. In my opinion there are lots of reasons both for and against my petition after reading some of the report.

In my personal experience I feel I have benefited from my teachers going slightly off the curriculum and looking into more conversational Welsh, but in not as much detail as I would like, I am sure this cannot be said for all schools.

I feel that less people in this generation are as keen to speak Welsh compared to our Grandparents which is a shame as I would like to speak more Welsh to my Great Gran and also my Scottish family to show them how proud I am to be Welsh and then maybe they could learn a thing or two.

Some of my ideas include changing the topics taught in welsh lessons to include more questions like; what they did at the weekend? Their ambitions and how people are in general, the kind of 'chit-chat' we use every day in English.

Also more consistency between Primary and Secondary as I have found there is repetition from Primary to year 7 in particular, so a year is technically wasted where we could have learnt a new topic.

I think that in general Teachers are under too much pressure to meet targets and grades and therefore stick to the exam syllabus or curriculum not having the time to spend really using the Welsh Language. If there was less pressure for teachers to meet targets rather than being restricted to specific content and time frames then there would be more time to help individual or small groups of pupils really learn the art of conversing in Welsh. To do this there could be fewer topics on the curriculum but we could learn about each one more in-depth really getting to grips with and committing the knowledge to our long term memory.

The use of drama as a subject in the curriculum where some performances had to be delivered in Welsh throughout the year would benefit everyone, as the most effective way to learn something is to use it. People would grow in confidence not only in using the language but they would literally be practising to use it in everyday situations.

Hopefully my ideas will help you realise the time and efforts I have taken thinking about this issue. Whilst I realise, being in year 10, it is probably too late for any changes to affect me, I have a younger brother and cousins and it is important to me that they learn to speak Welsh and with more confidence than myself. It should be important to all of us that the Welsh Language thrives and becomes a part of all our lives and stays that way.

I hope you take the time to consider my thoughts and opinions in your next committee meeting,
Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Eva Bowers