

GwE Oracy Project

A successful application was made to Welsh Government early in 2021 for funding to support us to undertake an action research project to raise standards in Welsh oracy.

The aim of the project is to:

- Improve learners' attitudes and their willingness to communicate in Welsh and contribute confidently to their bilingual communities, both in school and beyond the school gates.
- Deliver a programme of 'Ein Llais Ni' strategies, which are a combination of traditional, digital and live elements, and which is of relevance to the Welsh context.
- Support and develop learners towards the Four Purposes, learners who are proud of being Welsh and who are confident, bilingual communicators.

Priorities:

- Map out a programme that includes traditional, digital and real-life strategies in combination with Voice 21/Trysorfa Llais 21 against current research on developing bilingualism in schools, including adaptations to the programme to set it in a local and Welsh context.
- Establish a Steering Board to oversee and contribute to the project.
- Appoint a Project Officer to co-ordinate the work alongside a Research Officer from the Education Department, Bangor University (under the supervision of Professor Enlli Thomas).
- Plan and introduce effective strategies and pedagogy to share with schools.
- Work with a range of schools implement the strategies in action and receive feedback on the effect on learners' progress and enjoyment.
- Make the programme relevant to a Welsh, contemporary and varied context, offering suggestions, practical ideas as well as successful practice based on the principles and original recommendations of Mercer and Mannion.
- Extend the project to other parts of Wales in order to enhance and evaluate it.
- Evaluate the impact of strategies and adaptations and pupils' confidence and attainment.
- Develop and produce a digital report in response to and following on from the report of Mercer and Mannion report - 'Oracy across the Welsh curriculum'.
- Hold a National Conference to launch the research work and supporting resources, and to raise awareness of the findings of the 'Ein Llais Ni' project.

Outcomes:

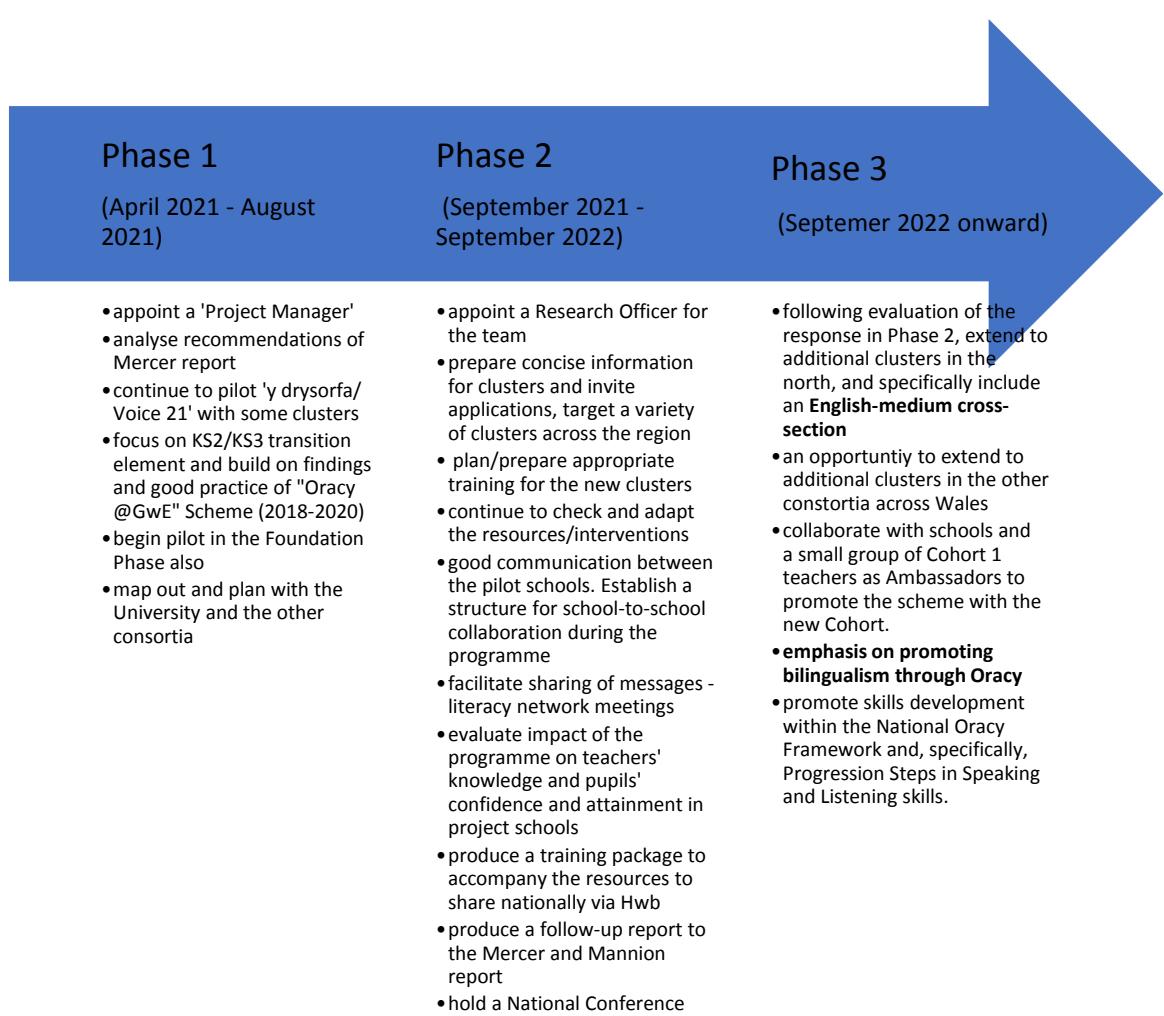
- A clear strategy for teaching oracy, which is dedicated to the Curriculum for Wales, well designed and supported by a support package for professional learning for schools.
- Teachers will have a secure understanding of how to use and adapt language effectively in various situations and for different audiences, and of the advantages of bilingualism.
- Teachers will have a secure understanding of the various ways of using a range of apps and digital programmes to enhance the teaching of oracy, and plan stimulating and interesting experiences relevant to real life and that ignite learners' enthusiasm to communicate.
- A positive impact on pupils' oracy skills and their willingness and enthusiasm to use the language in school and in their community.
- An increase in the number of pupils who are confident to use the language to express themselves and communicate their thoughts and ideas in school and in their community.
- Less variation within and between schools in terms of teaching oracy.
- It will contribute effectively to improving learners' well-being as they express themselves and access every part of the curriculum and school life.
- Create centres of expertise and develop networks to share strategies for teaching and learning oracy, which will be central for dissemination work in the future.
- An accessible platform for resources and supporting resources - create a training package to accompany the resources to be shared on the GwE Support website/Hwb nationally.

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Impact and benefit of the project for stakeholders:

- **Learners** - their confidence and speaking, listening and communication skills will develop and strengthen; their skills will transfer successfully to other areas and subjects across the curriculum, equipping them to communicate confidently in Welsh beyond the school walls.
- **Teachers and Teaching Assistants** - they will develop a learning climate which puts the development of oral skills to the forefront at every opportunity in order to foster natural communicators in Welsh; they will have a clear understanding of the various elements underpinning teaching oracy effectively, and plan purposefully to that effect.
- **School leaders** - the Welsh language will be a part of the school's vision, implementing a Welsh ethos and environment by integrating the Language Charter Framework and the Four Purposes of the new curriculum. There will be an awareness of the bigger picture and the importance of developing the Welsh language to create bilingual citizens who are confident to use Welsh in all aspects of everyday life (WG Cymraeg 2050 Strategy), and of the strategic responsibility of LAs through the WESP.
- **Parents** - they will have a deeper understanding of the benefits of being bilingual and support approaches to teaching Welsh; they will show an interest in their children's oral skills in Welsh and strive to develop their own Welsh language skills.
- **Local Authorities** - they will be key partners in the process of supporting schools via the WESP, and see benefits from the collaboration in order to support targets. They will see the project as an opportunity to embed and extend the language to other areas of the curriculum, and to develop new and current approaches to planning for the Curriculum for Wales.
- **Education Consortia** - they will be aware and clear about the project and the approach, receive regular updates regarding developments, contribute to developing and promoting it and communicate nationally and locally via Hwb.

Timetable:



'Ein Llais Ni' GwE Oracy Project

Appendix 1

Governance:

