

## DEFINITION

Cynefin" is a Welsh term defined by Curriculum for Wales as 'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable.' Although it can be translated to "habitat" in English, "cynefin" is not just the area in which we live; It is often used to describe the relationship between people and the natural world, and how our connection to our surroundings can shape our sense of identity and well-being. Also, Cynefyn helps our pupils to develop an understanding of others' identities and make connections with people, places and histories elsewhere in Wales and across the wider world. Local, national and global contexts.



## St. Robert's Catholic



Cynefin



## OUR LOCAL AREA

Our school is situated in the village of Aberkenfig, Bridgend. The children regularly visit the area looking at the features of this locality e.g. houses and shops. Pupils often walk to mass in our local Catholic church or visit the library. Previously the children helped to create a mosaic to those lost during the 2 world wars and this surrounds the local memorial. During our remembrance service gweddiwn we say the names of those who have died from the village and pray for them. The children also learn about Parc Slip and the mining disaster that took place there.

## PLACES OF INTEREST

Pupils visit a variety of areas of Wales including: residential (Llangrannog); various historical sites e.g. St Fagans, Big Pit, national Museum of Wales, Llancaich Fawr and Caerleon; various geographical sites including Cardiff Bay, Porthcawl, Parc Slip, Bryngarw Park; visit to Senedd linked to Humanities focus on citizenship.

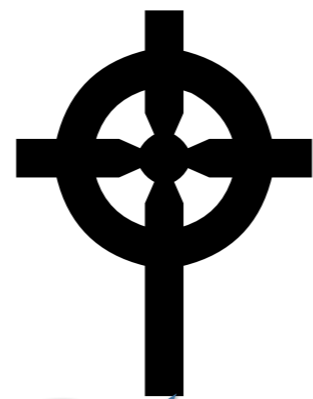
## EXPRESSIVE ARTS

As part of their curriculum children explore Welsh artists such as Kyffin Williams, Ruth Jeane, Martyn Evans, Gayle Rogers and Rhiannon Roberts. Pupils also explore Welsh music including traditional Welsh songs e.g. Calon Lan as well as partake in the Urdd Jamobori.

As part of our St David's Day celebrations, all KS2 classes lead a twmpath where Welsh folk dancing is celebrated and enjoyed.



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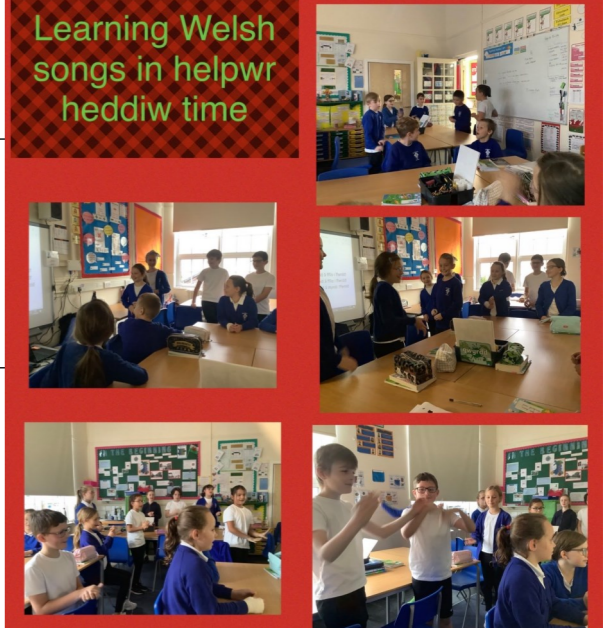
Primary

Cynefin

## WELSH LITERATURE

In KS2, class readers are mapped over a two year period to include Welsh authors and/or a Welsh context. Pupils have had virtual sessions with Welsh author Eloise Williams and Matt Brown and a in person Q and A with Charlie Brampton. Pupils also explore Welsh poetry and this celebrated in the Bard ceremony that year 6 lead in our Eisteddfod celebrations. As part of their curriculum, pupils explore Welsh myths and legends including Gelert and the Mabinogion.

Learning Welsh songs in helpwr heddiw time



## THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN WALES

As a Catholic School in Wales, it is important to celebrate the Welsh element of our faith. This includes looking at the lives of Welsh martyrs; knowing and celebrating the life of St David; learning Welsh prayers and hymns that can be used in our liturgies; use of Welsh language prayers within our whole Gweddiwns and looking at Welsh people linked to the Catholic faith e.g. Mary Jones and William Morgan. We foster links with our local church as well as with our Archdiocese e.g. school masses and Archdiocesan celebrations such as the annual Teachers Mass.

## MODERN WALES

Whilst as a school, we feel it is important to know the history of our country, we feel it is equally important to know about modern, 21st century Wales. This has been designed into our curriculum through the study of renewable energies and visiting our local wind farm; visiting our main local employer Sony to take part in coding and film literacy workshops, visiting the Senedd to understand the devolved powers and governance of Wales; learning about children's rights; working with Welsh Water and charities such as Size of Wales.



## St. Robert's Catholic



## FAMOUS WELSH PEOPLE

Pupils study a diverse range of Welsh people who have impacted not just on Welsh society but also throughout the world. These studies include: Owain Glyndwr and the Age of Welsh Princes; Alfred Russell Wallace; Betsi Cadwalder; Hedd Wyn; John Ystymlyn; Roald Dahl; Jade Jones.

We also engage with a variety of sporting organisations in Wales including Ospreys (rugby) and Cricket Wales).

## WELSH LANGUAGE

Welsh is seen as important part of our curriculum offer. Pupils take part in daily Helpwr heddiw sessions and are encouraged to use their Welsh both inside and outside the classroom. The introduction of our Criw Cymraeg has further prompted this, resulting in us achieving the Siarter Iaith Bronze Award (November 2022). Staff model a positive attitude to the language and use this regularly in their daily interactions. The Welsh language is celebrated through days such as Diwrnod Shwmae, with the highlight of the year being our St David's Day Eisteddfod. Children take part in competitions, recite Welsh poems and songs and crown our Year 6 Bard. Parents are invited to a taster session for this so they can also join in with celebrating our Welsh culture. Pupils wear their traditional costumes and Welsh rugby/football shirts on this day.