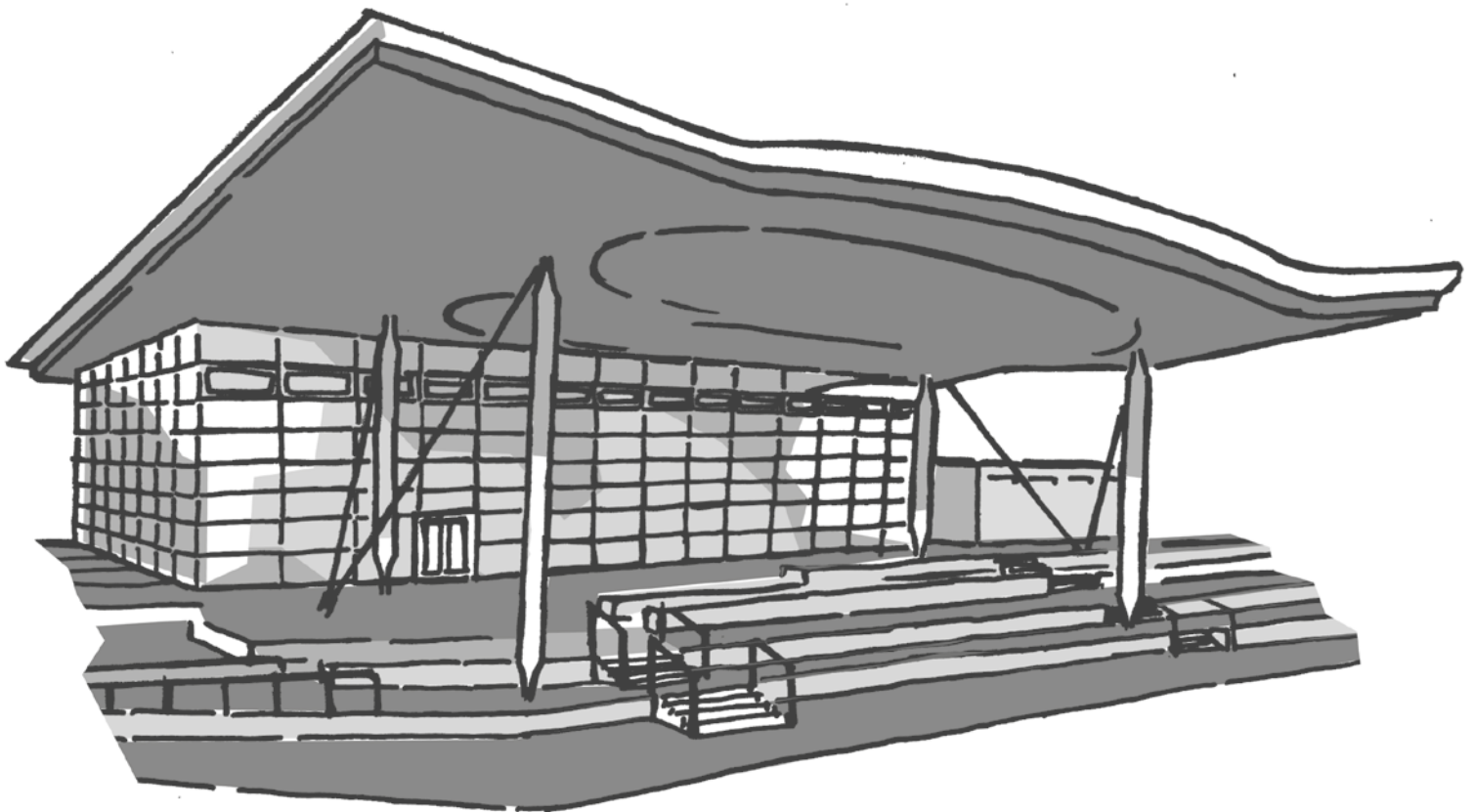




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ESOL Policy for Wales

This is an **Easy Read** document from the
Welsh Government



In this document:

ESOL means English for Speakers of Other Languages.

These classes:

- Help people to learn to speak English,
- Help people to learn to read English, and
- Help people to learn to write English.

Funding is money the Welsh Government gives to run these courses.

Providers are the colleges and county councils that run the courses for us.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Policy for Wales

We think it is very important that people in Wales are able to speak English or Welsh.

This helps people to get work and make friends where they live.

This document tells you all about how you can learn English in Wales.

What is ESOL?

ESOL is English for Speakers of Other Languages.

It is for people who cannot speak English or Welsh, and who have come to live in the United Kingdom from other countries.

In Wales, most people who need ESOL can go to classes for free.

Some people need to learn Welsh as well as English.

They can do this by going on a Welsh for Adults course.

People who learn English through ESOL classes

People who need to learn English come from many different countries.



Some of them have lots of skills already and need English to be able to find work.

They can find learning English quite easy.

Other people may not have been to school much before, so they might find learning English really difficult.

This means it can take some people a long time to learn to speak English well.

We have classes at different levels.



This helps to make sure that people are in a class that suits them and teaches them the right things at the right time.



People can go to ESOL classes at different times of the day.

And the classes can be short courses, over just a few weeks, or long courses that last all year.

A lot will depend on what people want to learn and why they want to learn.

For a lot of people, they need English classes to help them to find a job or to go to college to learn other things.

Some of the colleges have special classes that teach English at the same time as teaching a specific skill like healthcare or construction.

This helps people to learn the words they need for specific jobs.

Other people are not looking for work.



They want to learn English so that they can help their children at school, or so they can speak to doctors and other services on their own.

Not being able to speak English can mean people can find it hard to make friends and to get the help they need.

We fund classes for all of these people.

The Welsh Government gives money to colleges and other providers to offer ESOL classes for free.



That means people can learn English without having to pay for it themselves.

Almost everyone who needs help can go to our English classes. This includes Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Support for learners

Learning English can be very hard and take a long time.

It is important that people practise.



Lots of organisation offer special clubs for people to meet other learners and practise their English skills.

These clubs are not formal classes, they are known as ‘drop-in’ sessions.

They are run by volunteers and people can turn up to them at any time.



These clubs meet in local community places so they are safe and secure for people to go along to and practise their English.

Refugee Resettlement Schemes

Many people have come to live in Wales as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS).

These schemes are run by the UK Government.

English lessons are an important part of these schemes.

In some places, people also need to learn Welsh. Sometimes, they can do this as part of the scheme.

We try to make sure that people who are in Wales as part of these schemes mix with people.

This helps to make sure everybody has the same chance to learn English.

It also helps people to meet new people and make new friends.

The Welsh Language

It is important when people come to Wales that they see that people speak both English and Welsh.

Our providers teach some Welsh along with English in their classes.

This helps people to understand that there are two different languages spoken in Wales.

It also helps people to learn more about our culture and history.

People can get more help to learn Welsh by going to a Welsh for Adults course.

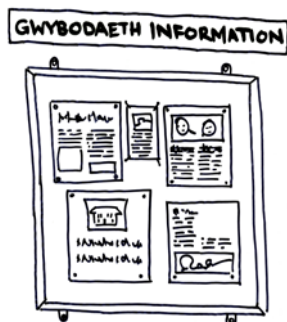
Taking ESOL delivery forward

We promise to do some specific things to make sure our ESOL stays good:

The Welsh Government will:

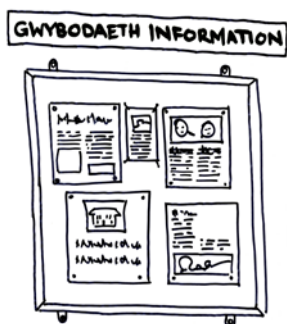


- Make sure we keep funding ESOL so it is free for people to learn English.
- Keep looking for other ways of getting more money to support people to learn English.
- Keep trying new things to see how we can get better at helping people; and when something works, try it in other places too.



- Help people who deliver ESOL to talk to each other so they can keep learning and share information about what works and what doesn't.

- Work to make sure that people who learn English can keep learning if they want to.
- Work to make sure they get better at speaking English.
- Help them to get the right kind of work for them.
- Think about what Brexit might mean for people who want to learn English in Wales.
- Make sure there are more and better ways for ESOL learners to learn Welsh.



- Keep collecting information about the people who need to learn English so that we can make sure that we are offering the right choices for people.

We will expect our providers to:



- Make sure ESOL teachers and assessors have the right qualifications and training.
- Make sure they check how well people speak English already so they can put them in the right classes.
- Support more trained volunteers, to help people to learn English in their classes and in other settings.
- Help people to get into classes at different times of the year.
- Offer classes in different places, especially in the community, and work with companies to have classes in work too.

- Make sure they offer classes at different levels, and at different times of the day to help people to come to classes even if they work or look after other people.



- Help people to get better at speaking English by using on-line resources – including on-line courses and teaching aids.
- Help people to join groups that help them make friends and practise their English.