



The Jersey Language Policy for Education – How will it affect me?

You may wonder why Jersey needs a language policy in schools, and how it will affect you. Schools in Jersey are multilingual, with students speaking a variety of languages, some native to the Island, and some from other countries. Here are some highlights from the new Policy, and how it will affect you as a student.



JERSEY PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

“ All students benefit from opportunities to learn languages spoken in their communities and internationally. ”

Becoming or being bilingual has many benefits: it's good for our brains, it helps us connect with the world, and it's a skill that is valued by employers everywhere.

“ English has been the language of instruction in Jersey schools since 1912 and, in an increasingly globalised world, it is imperative that our students have highly developed English language skills by the time they leave education and enter the workplace. ”

Developing strong skills in English will help us succeed academically and open doors to future education and work. All students should be given support to develop their academic English skills fully.

“ The home language that each child brings to school with them is a critical element of their cognitive, emotional, social, and identity development. ”

If you speak a language other than English at home, this language is valuable too. Our home languages help us connect with our families and communities, but they are also a valuable asset for our education and careers. Schools should support students in continuing to use and develop their diverse home languages.

“ Learning and speaking Jersey's unique, indigenous Jèrriais language can instil a sense of belonging in Islanders from all backgrounds, contributing to enhanced linguistic and cultural appreciation and potentially providing a pathway to other languages, particularly French. ”

Jèrriais is the historical language of Jersey and is an integral part of the Island. Learning about Jèrriais or learning to speak Jèrriais can help us all connect with our place in Jersey, and also help support a critically endangered language.

The Jersey Language Policy for Education is about all languages and for all students – **check out your school's initiatives to see how you can help!**

