

Why develop a Standard Teaching Alphabet for Cornish?

by Pol Hodge

This paper discusses the recent history of using an alphabet for the teaching of the Cornish language, as compared to MFL teaching, and shows that the current proposals have been based on the vagaries of English phonology. This paper goes on to compare the situation with Breton and Welsh and proposes the adoption of a Standard Teaching Alphabet for the Cornish language that could be implemented in Early Years as well as Primary, Secondary and Further education sectors rather than Adult Education which has often played host orthographical disputes. Proposals are made to resolve the issues of vowel length, Late Cornish phonemes, geminates and diphthongs. Finally a number of suggested formats for resources are given that can be offered for Beginners that are age appropriate.