KEY FOCI

1. complexities of bilingual education in broad brushstrokes
2. cognitive benefits of bilingualism
COMPLEXITY

management

learning materials

professional development

stakeholder relations

testing and research

teaching and learning
Driving Forces

Mechanisms

Counterweights

Counterweights
Mechanisms

criteria for learning materials development

agreement on pedagogy

needs assessment

user-friendly plans

public reports

stakeholder learning and discussions

management centre

jointly developed training plan (for all)
driving forces + mechanisms + counterweights
Criteria A

Functioning systems for:
- programme management
- teacher PD
- manager PD
- learning materials development
- PR
- research
- management body
- parent satisfaction
- student achievement in long-term...
Criteria B
short-term student achievement
Counterweights

good pedagogy
emergent issues
teamwork

high-stakes exams
following plans
leadership
The Cognitive Benefits of Bilingualism
A Literature Review

Multilingualism and Creativity: Towards an Evidence-base

2009

David Marsh
Hugo Baetens Beardsmore
Keis de Bot
Peeter Mehisto
Dieter Wolff
The Brain:

- part of central nervous system
- primary receiver, organiser and distributor of information for the body.
A Neuron!
Learning is a process by which the brain makes neuronal connections that:

a) act as information processing circuits and
b) provide information storage.

Neurons that fire together wire together.
(Hebb, 1949)

Neurons that fire apart wire apart.
Neurons out of sync fail to link.
How thinking is formed & restricted!
The Problem-solving Mind
Enhanced Executive Function

Multilinguals:
• have enhanced control over their thought processes
• can better ignore distracting and irrelevant stimuli.
The Flexible Mind
The **Flexible** Mind

- like a muscle
- seeing the world from different perspectives
- more avenues for thought
- $1 + 1 = more \text{\ more \ than \ 2}$
  (multi-competence)
The Interpersonal Mind
The Interpersonal Mind

- contextual sensitivity
- highly developed interactional competence in communication
- helps to nurture interpersonal communication awareness and skills
- potential for greater creativity through social communication
The Metalinguistic Mind
The Metalinguistic Mind

- awareness of language as a tool for thinking and communication
- greater understanding of how language is used to achieve specific goals
The Learning Mind
The Learning Mind

- improved episodic (what, when, where) memory
- improved semantic (how) memory
- memory central to learning process
The Ageing Mind

- 3.9 years of additional mental acuity
- improved executive function and memory may slow down rate of decline