

## Polish: a Snapshot

[Maksi Anna Kozińska](#) (Polish Communication Centre in London / St. Jadwiga The Queen Polish Saturday School)

### Polish language and culture

Polish is the second most widely spoken Slavic language after Russian. There are over 40 million speakers worldwide. Most live in Poland, but there are also Polish minorities in the Czech Republic, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Hungary and Slovakia and large Polish communities in Germany, Canada and the USA. Polish is written in a modified Roman alphabet with q, v and x usually absent from Polish words.

### To learn more about Poland see:

<https://instytutpolski.pl/london/get-to-know-poland/>

[The Polish Heritage Days](#) is an annual festival in the UK organised and run under the patronage of the Polish Embassy in London. The idea is to promote and celebrate Polish culture, and the Polish contribution to the cultural, economic, and social life of the UK. The Polish Heritage Days runs throughout the month of May across the United Kingdom.



The Polish Language and Culture Education Pack provides a useful introduction:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/polish-language-and-culture-education-pack>

### Polish in the UK

The 2011 census states that Polish was the most common language used after English in England and Welsh in Wales, with **over half of a million** people reporting it as their primary language.



### Polish education

The school census in January 2020, including pupils at state-funded nurseries, primary and secondary schools identified that **145 753 students are exposed to Polish at home**. There are around 130 schools (**with almost 2 000 teachers and 22 000 students**) affiliated with the Polish Educational Society. The Centre for the Development of Public Education Abroad website provides a list of **208 schools** that deliver Polish language education in the UK.

You can study Polish language, culture and politics at British universities:

<https://instytutpolski.pl/london/polish-language/polish-studies/>

The bilingual Polish-English 'Guide for Parents of Bilingual Children' is a valuable resource 'designed to convince parents that helping their children to become bilingual, although not easy, is worthwhile and extremely rewarding':

[https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10042945/1/2016.Po\\_polsku\\_na\\_Wyspach.2ed.K.Zechenter.pdf](https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10042945/1/2016.Po_polsku_na_Wyspach.2ed.K.Zechenter.pdf)

### Examinations

AQA offers both GCSE and Advanced Level examinations in Polish:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/polish-8688>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/polish-7687>

### Supporting Polish speakers in your school

Advice on

– Polish Saturday schools: <https://polskamacierz.org/contact/>

– Polish language teachers: <http://www.znpz.co.uk/kontakt/>

– training for Polish language teachers: <https://klubnauczyciela.com/kontakt/>

