



ગુજરાતી શિક્ષણ સંઘ

Consortium of Gujarati Schools

<https://www.gujaratischools.org>

## Gujarati : a Snapshot

Jayant Tanna (Chair of the Consortium of Gujarati Schools)

### Gujarati language and culture



Gujarati is one of the major languages of India that descended from Sanskrit. Gujarati is the official language of the state of Gujarat, India, which has a population of nearly 65 million. It is also spoken in many other states in India and in countries with larger Gujarati populations like the UK, USA, Canada, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and in the middle east. It is the 26<sup>th</sup> most widely spoken language in the world by number of native speakers of the language.

The Gujarati alphabet has 47 letters and the script is written from left to right. It is a phonetic script and therefore easier to read than English. There are some sounds in Gujarati which have no equivalent in English. There are no capital letters in Gujarati and no definite or indefinite articles. Every Gujarati noun has a gender.

Can you guess what English word is derived from the Gujarati word 'બંગલો'? (bangalo)



### Gujaratis in the UK

There are approximately 600,000 Gujaratis living in the UK with significant communities in Manchester, Blackburn, Preston, Leicester, Coventry, Bolton and London (Harrow, Hillingdon, Brent, Barnet and Ealing).

### Gujarati education

Whilst there are a few mainstream schools where Gujarati is taught, most teaching of the language takes place in the voluntary sector. An important organisation is the Consortium of Gujarati Schools (CGS) <https://www.gujaratischools.org> which seeks to support the teaching and learning of Gujarati across the UK. It includes details of all the training and support for Gujarati teachers and has a range of ideas and online resources that parents and adults can use to learn or teach the language. The CGS website provides a list of about 30 Gujarati schools in the UK: <https://www.gujaratischools.org/information-about-gujarati-schools>



### Examinations

Pearson Edexcel offers both GCSE and Advanced Level Gujarati.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/gujarati-2018.html>

### Supporting Gujarati speakers in your school

When children continue to develop their abilities in two or more languages they gain a deeper understanding of language. They explore the similarities and differences between languages. However, unless parents and teachers actively encourage maintenance of the mother tongue (heritage language), the child is in danger of losing it and with that loss, all the benefits of bilingualism.



For advice on Gujarati contact the Consortium of Gujarati Schools:

<https://www.gujaratischools.org>

[With sincere thanks to Mandhata Youth and Community Association for providing photos]