

Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr Curriculum Policy

*This Curriculum Policy primarily reflects Article 28 in the United National Convention on the Rights of the Child - the **child's right to education and to attend school** and also other articles e.g. numbers 3,6,12,13,29,30,33,37,39*

Objectives

Our main aim is to provide a wide, balanced and relevant curriculum for all pupils at this school so that they can develop to be **ambitious and able learners, healthy and confident individuals, principled and intelligent citizens and bold and creative contributors**:

- By achieving all of the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and the requirements of the Skills, Literacy and Numeracy and Digital Competency Frameworks
- By developing a range of skills based on the Skills, Literacy and Numeracy and Digital Competency Frameworks, and Learning Pathways 14-19, which includes the Welsh Baccalaureate.
- By nurturing positive attitudes in all individuals so that they can adapt in a flexible way to new ideas and situations.
- By promoting the ability to work independently as well as working as a team to solve problems and decide on appropriate methods for undertaking tasks
- By helping all individuals to develop personal standards that demonstrate sensitivity towards the needs of others and support them to develop into caring and responsible adults
- By encouraging all individuals, whether they are MAT or ALN pupils, to achieve their full potential with regular opportunities for self-evaluation and planning for further progress
- By promoting equal opportunities and the principle of respecting all individuals within the school community and the wider community
- By promoting Welshness and the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, widening pupils' awareness of the nation's heritage and culture as well as their understanding of and respect towards other cultures
- By promoting global awareness of environmental and sustainability issues
- By promoting individual creativity in whatever areas interest them
- By promoting awareness of a healthy lifestyle and healthy eating

- By developing an understanding of employment requirements and providing pupils with opportunities for workplace experiences and to study vocational courses
- By ensuring continuity and progression between the Key Stages, with specific attention to KS2/3
- By ensuring a wide range of informal learning opportunities and offering the opportunity for accreditation
- By researching, networking and experimenting in order to ensure that every pupil's learning experiences begin to respond to the contents of "Curriculum for Wales 2022" and that they are fully addressed by 2022

How will the school's curricular objectives be delivered?

Fundamentally, the school's curricular objectives will be delivered by creating learning experiences in lessons, an outside the classroom, that are appropriate to the abilities of all pupils, allowing them to earn a body of relevant knowledge, as well as an essential skillset.

KS3

The current summary of the school's curriculum content (Appendix 1), lists the subjects offered, as well as the time allocated. The curriculum responds to the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and the requirements of the Literacy and Numeracy and Digital Competency Frameworks, and the time allocated to the subjects is appropriate to their function as core and non-core subjects. In addition, the curriculum is beginning to respond to the principles outlined in "Curriculum for Wales 2022*" by operating through Areas of Learning and Experience in the Humanities and Arts in Year 7, and Health and Wellbeing in Years 7-9. The teaching is differentiated (allowing all pupils to reach their full potential) and delivered to classes of mixed ability, apart from the core subjects in Years 8 and 9 (and French in Year 9) and Numeracy lessons in Years 7-9, where there is an element of setting, in line with Departmental policy. The curriculum is open to all pupils, apart from pupils legally excluded from some subjects due to severe learning needs.

KS4

Welsh Baccalaureate

- A common experience for all KS4 pupils is the National Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. The qualification reflects the requirements outlined in the Welsh Government Learning Pathways 14-19, and therefore the National Curriculum.
- All pupils studying the Welsh Baccalaureate participate in a programme of experiences that respond to the National Skills Challenge Certificate and the focus is on:
 - Global Citizenship
 - Community

- Enterprise and Employability
- Individual Project

- The certificate is taught during four specific lessons in the timetable of each pupil.
- During lessons, the skills fostered include Literacy; Numeracy; Digital Literacy; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation; Planning and Organising, and Personal Efficiency.
- Each pupil is expected to complete three specific challenges and a project by producing portfolios containing evidence of achievement, assessed and moderated internally to begin with before external accreditation.
- In order to succeed in the National Baccalaureate, all pupils are expected to earn at least a C grade in GSCE Welsh or English Language and Maths or Numeracy.

Core and Optional Subjects

- In addition to the Baccalaureate, all pupils (apart from those legally excluded), follow a core curriculum of Welsh, English, Maths, Science and other subjects, and an optional curriculum of up to three subjects (Appendix 1).
- Pupils are carefully advised by the Form Tutor (and the Senior Management Team and school Careers Officer in some cases) at the end of KS3 as to their choices, in order to ensure an appropriate and balanced curriculum in line with their individual abilities and personal and career interests.
- In core subjects, pupils are organised into classes according to their ability, based on end of KS3 assessments. However, it is possible to move some pupils from one class to another, based on progress, during KS4. The majority of pupils will sit GSCE examinations at the end of KS4 in the core subjects.
- In optional subjects, pupils are organised into mixed ability classes where the teaching is differentiated to support ALN pupils and extend MAT pupils. In order to reduce the burden on individuals who encounter serious difficulties in certain subjects, where those difficulties impact on the performance of the pupil in other subjects, it can be arranged for the pupil to drop that subject in KS4 with the parents' permission. The pupil can use the time freed to focus on his/her work in other subjects. Most optional subjects will be assessed through GCSE examination.

16+ Curriculum

Welsh Baccalaureate

- As in KS4, a common experience in the 16+ curriculum of all students is the Welsh Baccalaureate Diploma Qualification, but on the higher level. Again, the requirements outlined in Welsh Government Learning Pathways 14-19 are reflected in the curriculum of all students. We aim to ensure appropriate progression in the experiences of students in this qualification, as they progress from KS4 to the Sixth Form, by careful curriculum planning.
- All pupils studying the Welsh Baccalaureate participate in a programme of experiences that respond to the Skills Challenge Higher Certificate and the focus is on:
 - Global Citizenship
 - Community
 - Enterprise and Employability
 - Individual Project
- The certificate is taught during seven specific lessons in Year 12 and six specific lessons in Year 13 on the timetable of each student.
- During lessons, the skills fostered include Literacy; Numeracy; Digital Literacy; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation; Planning and Organising, and Personal Efficiency.
- Each pupil is expected to complete three specific challenges and a project by producing portfolios containing evidence of achievement, assessed and moderated internally to begin with before external accreditation.
- In order to succeed in the National Baccalaureate, all pupils are expected to earn at least a C grade in GSCE Welsh or English Language and Maths or Numeracy.

Optional Subjects

- In addition to the Baccalaureate, students (having been advised by a member of the Senior Management Team and/or Head or Deputy Head of Sixth Form based on KS4 results and career interests) will choose appropriate courses (normally three Level 3 courses) from the Gŵyr / Bryntawe Sixth Form Partnership programme (Appendix 1). This programme is based on the five areas of learning in Learning Pathways 14-19 and therefore include vocational opportunities. At the beginning of Year 12, students receive induction on the practical arrangements of the Partnership e.g. Travelling arrangements.
- At the end of Year 12, the student's Learning Pathway is reviewed from the perspective of their Optional Studies. This is done by the student in discussion with the school (SMT, Head or Deputy Head of Sixth Form) and parents, based on progress in their subjects to date. It is possible for the

student, following consultation with the persons identified above, to drop a course and, possibly, to follow a new course, if that is appropriate to his/her academic career and career plans.

- Optional courses are taught on the basis of differentiated teaching and we aim to ensure a fair number of students in each teaching group, bearing in mind considerations such as Health and Safety, financial viability and teacher-student ratios. A course is sometimes delivered on both Gŵyr and Bryntawe campuses, and at other times it is delivered in either Gŵyr or Bryntawe campus. This situation is reviewed annually, based on the students' curricular requirements.

Religious Education

All pupils aged 14-19 years old access the statutory Religious Education curriculum set out in the "Religious Education Skills Framework 14-19". This is done by ensuring that the Framework's requirements are delivered during the curriculum's formal lessons and pastoral and extracurricular experiences and this is carefully mapped.

Personal and Social Education

PSE plays an essential part in the school curriculum in all Key Stages in creating the "whole" pupil, which is a pupil who has a strong sense of self as a learner but is also an ethical, caring and responsible person with a firm understanding of key issues such as active citizenship (including global citizenship), emotional health and well-being and sustainable development, and the skills to deal with these issues.

These opportunities for gaining a better understanding of the issues outlined above and for developing relevant skills, arise regularly as part of the syllabus of some subjects e.g. Science, Geography and Religious Education, however PSE is taught specifically in three mornings a year, when the timetable of every pupil is replaced by a series of appropriate activities based on the learning outcomes for the Welsh Government Personal and Social Education Framework for KS3, KS4 and Post-16, and additionally in a fortnightly Yrs 7-9 Health lesson . Pupils are normally taught in their registration classes, in mixed ability situations, by differentiated learning.

The PSE curriculum for each Key Stage is carefully planned based on the "range" and "Skills' in the Framework, and interest and age-appropriate topics are chosen for pupils e.g. Anti-bullying in Year 7 and Illegal Substances in Year 9. In addition, the requirements of the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience are also taken into account when planning. Throughout this planned curriculum, pupils are provided with opportunities to develop a range of relevant skills e.g. Thinking Skills.

The Extra-Curricular Curriculum (Informal Learning Opportunities)

The school has a rich and varied extra-curricular curriculum that appeals to pupils' various interests and allows them to develop a range of key personal skills. This also contributes to developing the 'whole' individual. The activities available include:

- Rugby
- Cricket
- Netball
- Hockey
- Gymnastics
- Eco Club
- Public Speaking
- Choirs
- Orchestra
- Art Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Visits to foreign countries e.g. France

The extra-curricular curriculum is open to all pupils at the school and they are encouraged, in morning assemblies and pastoral sessions, to participate in this curriculum. At times, accreditation can be earned for some extra-curricular activities. Pupils' participation in the extra-curricular curriculum is recognised in their annual reports by the Class Tutor and the SMT. Many of the activities are delivered during the lunch hour (12.40 - 13.30) whilst others are organised at the end of the school day (15.15 - 17.00) and sometimes during school holidays.

Summary of the 2020/2021 School Curriculum Content

- fortnightly timetable - (60 lessons)

KS3			
Years 7 / 8			
Welsh ⁷ English ⁷ Mathematics ⁷ Science ⁷ French ^{5/4} Art ² Music ² Drama ² (or the Arts in Year 7) Religious Education ³ History ^{2/3} Geography ^{3/2} (or Humanities in Year 7) Design and Technology ^{4/5} Information Technology ² Health and Wellbeing (Physical Education/Sports ⁵ Health ¹) Numeracy ¹ Personal and Social Education			
Year 9			
Welsh ⁷ English ⁷ Maths ⁷ Science ⁷ French ³ German ² Art ² Music ² Drama ² History ³ Geog ³ Religious Education ² Design and Technology ⁵ Health and Wellbeing (Physical Education / Sports ⁴ Health ¹) Information Technology ² Numeracy ¹ Personal and Social Education			
KS4: Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (National / Foundation)			
Year 10/11			
Core: Welsh ⁹ English ⁹ Mathematics ⁹ Science ¹² Physical Education ²			
Welsh Bac ⁴ Personal and Social Education Religious Education Employment Education			
Year 10/11 (3 options / 5 lessons each)			
Design and Technology Art: Textiles Applied Business Photography Electronics	Health and Care Geography History French Physical Education Computers	Art and Design Media Studies Drama Music Public Services	Religious Studies Spanish Catering SWEET

16+ Curriculum+: Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (Higher)					
<p>1. Skills Challenge Certificate (6 lessons) PSE Employment Education Religious Education</p> <p>2. Optional in the Gŵyr/Bryn Tawe Sixth Form Partnership: Level 3 Courses: AS Level / A Level / Applied and Vocational - 10 lessons for each subject:</p>					
Examinations Level 3 / AS / A / Applied and Vocational	Physical Education Religious Studies Business Studies Media Studies	Biology Art Chemistry Music Welsh Geography Drama	Design and Technology Electronics Physics French Public Services Politics	History Health and Care Mathematics Photography English Literature	Psychology Computers Sports Engineering Childcare
3. Optional: Level 2 Courses:					
Level 1/2 / CGSE / Examinations	GCSE: Welsh re-sit		GCSE: Mathematics re-sit GCSE: English re-sit		

Reviewed: 2020