Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr Curriculum Policy – 2026 / 2027

The Curriculum Policy mainly reflects Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the child's right to learn and go to school, but also other articles e.g. numbers 3,6,12,13,29,30,33,37,39.

Objectives

Our main aim is to offer a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum to all pupils in this school so that they can develop into ***effective, ambitious and capable learners, healthy and confident individuals, ethical and informed citizens and enterprising and creative contributors:***

• Through research, networking and experimentation to ensure that pupils' learning experiences will respond to the demands of the Curriculum for Wales, so that the legal expectation to present the curriculum effectively and statutorily to Years 7 - 9 can be fully realised

• By fulfilling all the statutory requirements of the Curriculum for Wales in terms of delivering the six Areas of Learning and Experience

• By developing a range of integral skills (creative skills, problem solving, critical thinking, metacognition) based on Curriculum for Wales documentation

• By developing the Cross-curricular Skills (Literacy and Numeracy, and Digital Competence) which are a key component and reflect the (non-statutory) National Skills Frameworks

• By providing additional statutory elements of the Curriculum for Wales e.g. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE); Careers education and experiences related to the world of work; Values and Ethics; Human rights; The Story of Wales (‘cynefin’ - habitat)

- Continue to respond to the requirements of Progression Step 5 of the Curriculum for Wales by ensuring that our learners are provided with experiences of all the requirements of the statutory elements of the Curriculum e.g. experiences from the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience; developing Cross-curricular and Integral Skills, provision based on the other statutory elements e.g. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE); Careers education and experiences related to the world of work; Values and Ethics; Human rights; The Story of Wales (‘cynefin’ - habitat)
- As part of the "Qualified For The Future” project from Qualifications Wales, fulfilling the requirements of WJEC's new National Qualifications – Made for Wales KS4 and KS5 (proposed) and that per the 3 waves of delivery which are 2025-2027; 2026- 2028; 2027-2029

• By fostering positive attitudes and resilience in each individual so that they can adapt flexibly to new ideas and situations

• By promoting the ability to work independently as well as working together in a team to solve problems and decide on appropriate methods of carrying out tasks

• By helping each individual to develop personal standards that show sensitivity towards other people's needs and that help them to develop into caring and responsible adults

• By motivating each individual, whether a MAT child or a child with ALN, to reach their full potential with opportunities to regularly self-evaluate and plan for making further progress in learning

• By promoting equal opportunities and the principle of respect for all individuals within the school community and the wider community

• By ensuring progression and continuity between one Progression Step to the next (Primary / Secondary)

• By securing a wide range of informal learning opportunities through a rich and varied menu of extracurricular opportunities

How are the school's curricular objectives achieved?

Fundamentally, the school's curricular objectives are realised by creating rich learning experiences within and outside lessons, which are suited to each pupil's ability, allowing them to gain a body of relevant knowledge, a series of crucial skills and challenging and rich learning experiences.

PROGRESSION STEP 4

In the current summary of the school's curriculum content (Appendix 1), you will see the AoLE/ Subject Disciplines offered, together with the time allocated to each. In Years 7, 8 and 9, the curriculum responds to the statutory requirements of Curriculum for Wales by operating through Areas of Learning and Experience. When implementing the curriculum, the expertise of the specific discipline is protected in the context of the AoLE by ensuring teaching by staff with specialist qualifications in that discipline, but the links between disciplines are also promoted e.g. by following a common theme, in order to maintain the unity of the AoLE. Education is delivered on the basis of differentiated learning (which should allow each pupil to reach their full potential and set their own personal learning path) to mixed ability classes, apart from some disciplines in the Languages and Mathematics and Numeracy AoLEs in Years 8 and 9, where an element of setting takes place in accordance with each Department's policy. The curriculum is open to all pupils except those with severe learning needs who are legally excluded from certain subjects.

KS4

Welsh Baccalaureate

• Until the introduction of Wave 3 of Made for Wales - Qualifications Wales in 2027, where there is the option to carry out a Personal Project together with Life Skills and Work Skills Units / Qualifications, The National Skills Challenge Certificate (the former Welsh Baccalaureate) will continue to be offered to all pupils in KS4.

• All pupils following the Baccalaureate participate in a programme of experiences that respond to the National Skills Challenge Certificate which is focused on developing essential life skills in the form of:

- Global Citizenship
- The Community
- Enterprise and Employability
- Individual Project

• The certificate is taught through four specific lessons on each pupil's timetable.

• During the lessons, the following skills are fostered: Literacy; Numeracy; Digital Literacy; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation; Planning and Organising, and Personal Effectiveness.

• Each pupil is expected to carry out three specific challenges and a project by producing portfolios which contain evidence of attainment and which are first assessed and standardised internally before being accredited externally.

• Our ALN learners are given the opportunity to follow the SWEET course instead of the Baccalaureate at either Level 1 or Level 2. This is a course that promotes life and work skills.

Core and Optional Subjects

• In addition to the Skills Challenge Certificate, all pupils (apart from those who are legally exempt), follow a core curriculum of Welsh, English, Mathematics, Science and an optional curriculum of up to three subjects (Appendix 1). Personal and Social Education is an integral part of our statutory provision

• Pupils are carefully advised by the Class Tutor (and the Senior Leadership Team and the school's Careers Officer in some cases) at the end of Year 9 regarding their choice in order to ensure a suitable and balanced curriculum in accordance with their ability and their personal and career interests as individuals.

• In the core subjects, the pupils are organised in classes according to their ability, based on assessments at the end of Year 9. However, it is possible to move a pupil from one class to

another, based on their progress, during KS4. The overwhelming majority of pupils will sit a GCSE exam at the end of KS4 in the core subjects.

• In the optional subjects, the pupils are arranged in mixed ability classes where the principle of differentiated learning is implemented, which should support the ALN pupil as well as extend the MAT pupil. In order to ease the load for an individual who experiences serious difficulties in a subject, and where those difficulties have an impact on the pupil's performance in other subjects, it could be arranged that the pupil, with parental consent, drops the subject during KS4. The pupil can use the time gained to focus on his work in other subjects. The majority of optional subjects will be examined through the GCSE examination method.

• Emphasis is also placed on vocational courses through collaboration with Gower College. There are opportunities to choose options in beauty and hairdressing, construction, landscaping, all depending on numbers. In rare cases individuals are encouraged to follow the Academi'r Ifanc (Junior Academy) course delivered by Gower College.

16+ Curriculum

Higher Welsh Baccalaureate

• The Higher Welsh Baccalaureate qualification and its learning component, the Skills Challenge Certificate, were revised in 2023. All learners in Year 12 now follow the new Higher Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (Level 3) as part of the school's 16+ curriculum.

• Building on their achievements in the Level 2 Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC), the qualification helps learners to develop complex skills, attributes and behaviours and offers experiences that enable them to better prepare for their future destination, whether in higher education, apprenticeships, training or employment. The qualification focuses specifically on developing skills to support future progression paths.

• All students following the Higher Welsh Baccalaureate participate in a programme of experiences that develop their Planning and Organisational skills; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation; and Personal Effectiveness (the 'Integral Skills') through a series of projects, namely:

- Global Community Project
- Future Destinations Project
- Individual Project

• The certificate is taught through six specific lessons in Year 12 and six specific lessons in Year 13 on each student's timetable.

• Each pupil is expected to carry out two specific projects and an individual research project by producing portfolios which contain evidence of attainment and which are assessed and standardised internally first before being accredited externally.

• Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills grades are recorded on an A* to E scale and are equivalent to grades in other A Level/Level 3 subjects, carrying the same number of UCAS points.

Optional Subjects

• In addition to the Baccalaureate, students (after receiving advice from a member of the Senior Leadership Team and/or Head or Deputy Head of the Sixth Form, based on KS4 results and career interests) will choose courses that suit them (usually three Level 3 courses) from the Gŵyr-Bryn Tawe Sixth-Form Partnership programme (Appendix 1). This programme is based on the five learning areas of the 14-19 Learning Pathways and therefore includes vocational opportunities. The students are informed at the beginning of Year 12 about the daily operation of the Partnership e.g. travel arrangements.

*** As part of the "Qualified For The Future, Made For Wales" project, Qualifications Wales, through collaboration with WJEC is working on reforming the new A level courses to be taught from 2027 onwards

• At the end of Year 12, the student's Learning Pathway is reviewed from the point of view of their Options. This is done by the student in discussion with the school (SLT, Head or Deputy Head of the Sixth-Form) and parents/guardians based on subject achievement up to that point. It is possible for a student, after consultation with those previously mentioned, to drop a course and, possibly, take up a new course, if that is appropriate for their educational path and career plans.

• Optional courses are taught on the basis of differentiated learning and the aim is to keep the size of the learning groups to a reasonable number, bearing in mind considerations such as Health and Safety, financial viability and teacher - student ratio. Sometimes a course is taught at both the Gŵyr and Bryn Tawe sites and, at other times, it is taught either at Gŵyr or Bryn Tawe. This position is reviewed annually, based on the curricular needs of the students.

Religion, Values and Ethics

Through the Religion, Values and Ethics Curriculum Framework for Wales and the Religious Education Skills Framework 14-19, all pupils aged 14-19 have access to the statutory Religion,

Values and Ethics / Religious Education curriculum. This is done by ensuring that the requirements of the Frameworks are realised through formal lessons and the pastoral and extracurricular experiences of the curriculum, and this has been carefully mapped.

Learning to Live / Personal and Social Education

The Learning to Live programme (Years 7 and 9 - trial period) / PSE (Years 8, 10 - 13) has a very important role to play in the school curriculum in each Key Stage in the work of creating the 'complete' pupil, an individual who not only has a strong sense of themselves as a learner but who is also a principled, caring and responsible person with a solid understanding of key issues such as active citizenship (including global citizenship), health and emotional well-being and sustainable development, and the skills to deal with these issues. At Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr the lessons / Learning to Live / PSE periods are there to support and develop the teaching and learning that takes place within the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience.

*** In Years 7 and 9 2025/2026 a new LEARNING TO LIVE programme will be presented to the learners. All classes have a timetabled fortnightly lesson on Learning Effectiveness along with PSE periods like the rest of the school. Over time the intention is to offer lessons on Learning Effectiveness and PSE periods to every year in the school under the new title LEARNING TO LIVE. The content of the LEARNING TO LIVE programme will reflect the statutory requirements and expectations of Curriculum for Wales e.g. Learning Effectiveness; Relationship and Sexuality Education; Careers education and experiences related to the world of work; and any other aspects of the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience that are felt to require more intensive attention when preparing as learners for life.

These opportunities to gain a better understanding of the issues mentioned above and to develop relevant skills are arise regularly in the syllabuses of some subjects eg. Science, Geography and Religious Education, but PSE is also taught specifically through five mornings a year, when each pupil's normal timetable is replaced by a series of purpose-built activities based on the 4 purposes of the Curriculum for Wales and the Welsh Government's Personal and Social Education Framework (2008), as well as a fortnightly Health and Wellbeing lesson for Years 7-9. Pupils are usually taught by registration classes, in mixed ability situations, through a differentiated learning method.

A curriculum is carefully planned based on the 'Range' and 'Skills' of the Framework and topics are chosen that are suitable for the age and interests of pupils e.g. Anti-bullying in Year 7 and

Illegal Substances in Year 9. In addition, the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience requirements are considered when planning. Throughout this planned curriculum, opportunities are offered for pupils to develop a range of relevant skills e.g. Integral Skills; Cross-curricular Skills

Extra-Curricular (Informal Learning) Opportunities

The school has a rich extracurricular curriculum that appeals to pupils' diverse interests and allows them to develop a range of key personal skills. This also contributes to creating the 'complete' individual. Here are examples of the activities available:

- Rugby
- Cricket
- Netball
- Football
- Hockey
- Gymnastics
- Eco Club
- Public Speaking
- Choirs
- Orchestra
- Art / Textile Club
- ICT / Computer Science Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award/Club
- Llangrannog and Glan-llyn Residential Courses
- Visits to foreign countries eg. Skiing trip to Austria; Residential Courses in France / Spain
- Drama Club / Musical Shows
- Christian Union
- Welsh Club

The extracurricular curriculum is open to all the school's pupils and they are encouraged, through assemblies and morning pastoral periods, to participate in that curriculum. At times, it is possible to gain accreditation for some extracurricular activities. Pupils' participation in extra-curricular activities is recognised through the Class Tutor's and SLT's comments in their annual school reports. Many of the activities take place during the school lunch hour (12.40 - 13.30) while others are organised for the end of the school day (15.15 - 17.00) and sometimes during holiday periods.

Summary of the School's 2026 / 2027 Curriculum Content

- fortnightly timetable cycle – (60 lessons)

PROGRESSION STEP 4 – KS3
Year 7
AoLE Languages, Literacy and Communication (Welsh 7 English 7 French / Spanish 5) **AoLE Maths and Numeracy** 7 **AoLE Science and Technology** (Science 7 Technology 4 Computer Science 2) **AoLE Expressive Arts** (Art 2 Music 2 Drama 2) **AoLE Humanities** (Religious Studies 3 History 3 Geography 2) **AoLE Health and Wellbeing** (Physical Wellbeing 4+ Holistic Wellbeing 1+ Nutrition Wellbeing 1+) **Learning to Live** 1
Year 8
AoLE Languages, Literacy and Communication (Welsh 7 English 7 French / Spanish 5) **AoLE Maths and Numeracy** 8 **AoLE Science and Technology** (Science 7 Technology 4 Computer Science 2) **AoLE Expressive Arts** (Art 2 Music 2 Drama 2) **AoLE Humanities** (Religious Studies 3 History 3 Geography 2) **AoLE Health and Wellbeing** (Physical Wellbeing 4+ Holistic Wellbeing 1+ Nutrition Wellbeing 1+)
Year 9
AoLE Languages, Literacy and Communication (Welsh 7 English 7 French / Spanish 5) **AoLE Maths and Numeracy** 7 **AoLE Science and Technology** (Science 7 Technology 4 Computer Science 2) **AoLE Expressive Arts** (Art 2 Music 2 Drama 2) **AoLE Humanities** (Religious Studies 3 History 3 Geography 2) **AoLE Health and Wellbeing** (Physical Wellbeing 4+ Holistic Wellbeing 1+ Nutrition Wellbeing 1+) **Learning to Live** 1

PROGRESSION STEP 5 - KS4
Years 10/11
Year 10 – Made for Wales - Qualified For The Future, Qualifications Wales (Wave 1 (2025-2027); Wave 2 (2026 – 2028); Wave 3 (2027-2029) Core: **Welsh Language and Literature 9 English Language and Literature** 9 **Maths and Numeracy** 9 **Science Double Award** 12 Physical Exercise 2 The National Skills Challenge Certificate 4 Non-core: Choice of 3 subjects (see below) Personal and Social Education Religious Education Education in the World of Work **Year 11** - Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (National / Foundation) Core: Welsh Language, Welsh Literature 9 English Language, English Literature 9 Mathematics, Numeracy 9 Science Double Award 12 Physical Exercise 2 The Welsh Bac 4 Personal and Social Education Religious Education Education in the World of Work *** *An Entry Level Certificate is offered to ALN learners in the Core Subjects**** ** Subjects where New Specifications have been developed (Made for Wales – Qualifications Wales)
Year 10/11 Year 10/11 (3 options / 5 lessons each)

Design and Technology Art: Textiles Business Art: Photography Electronics 3D Art	Health and Social Care Geography History French Physical Education Computer Science	Art and Design Media Studies Drama Music Public Services	Religious Education Spanish Catering Outdoor Activities SWEET

*** As part of the introduction of Wave 2 / 3 of Qualifications Wales's 'Made for Wales - Qualified For The Future', new GCSE specifications are developed, namely HEI; Work and Life Skills; New Foundation Qualification

16+ Curriculum: Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (Secondary) 6 lessons					
1. PSE World of Work Religious Education **in addition** 2. **Optional courses** within the Gŵyr-Bryn Tawe Sixth-Form Partnership: Level 3 Courses: AS Level / A Level / Applied and Vocational - 10 lessons in each subject					
Examinations Level 3 / AS / A Level / Applied and Vocational	Physical Education Religious Education Business Studies Media Studies	Biology Art Chemistry Music Welsh Geography Drama	Design and Tech Electronics Physics French Public Services Politics	History Health and Social Care Mathematics Photography English Lit	Psychology Computer Science Sports Engineering Childcare Criminology
3. Optional: Level 2 Courses:					
Level 1/2 Exams / GCSE	GCSE: Welsh Re-Sit		GCSE: Mathematics re-sit GCSE: English re-sit		

*** As part of the Made for Wales - Qualified For The Future, Qualifications Wales there will be a national consultation on new specifications to be introduced by September 2027***

(Revised: June 2026 - GW)