

Designing

A school's curriculum is everything a learner experiences in pursuit of the four core purposes. It is not simply what we teach but how we teach and crucially why we teach it.

Curriculum for Wales 2022

Our cluster vision is fulfilled by having the highest ambition and expectations for our learners' achievement and wellbeing. We are committed to providing outstanding learning and teaching in a caring, safe and supportive environment.

Four Core Purposes

Our school's curricula celebrates all learners and will enable them to realise the four purposes. These lie at the heart of all we do as individual schools and as a cluster. They are the starting point for all decisions on the content and experiences developed as part of the curriculum to support our children and young people to become:

Ambitious capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives

Enterprising creative contributors ready to play a full part in life and work

Ethical informed citizens of Wales and the world

Healthy confident individuals ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

Curriculum

Our schools' curricula are broad and balanced and include learning opportunities within and across all the Areas of Learning Experiences (AoLEs). They encompass the entirety of the statements of What Matters for these areas:

Languages, Literacy and Communication

Humanities

Mathematical Development

Science and Technology

Expressive Arts

Health and Well Being

In designing our curricula staff have had opportunities to reflect on the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child and on the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We embrace the mandatory cross curricular themes, including the development of Welsh language skills and the promotion of Welsh culture; Relationships and Sexuality Education (taught age appropriately using the Relationships and Sexuality Code); Religion Values and Ethics; and the cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence.

Pedagogy and Professional Learning

Our curricula are designed to ensure that high quality teaching is at the heart of our planning and practice. The 12 pedagogical principles underpin the learning experiences we provide: raising aspiration and achievement of our pupils – of pupils becoming “ambitious, capable learners” - can only happen if pupils are provided with appropriately challenging tasks and materials. We continually endeavour to provide opportunities for all of staff to engage in high quality enquiries and training events that are integral to our curriculum design.

Assessment and Progression

The principles of progression inform our assessment arrangements. Assessments for Learning is ongoing with teachers using a variety of methods to check on learning and to ensure that the planning of lessons reflects learners' changing needs. Assessment as Learning takes place during learning experiences with co-constructed success criteria promoting autonomy. Assessment of Learning is the judgement the teacher makes on the learning: how well the learner has achieved in order to inform next steps.

Implementation

Our school visions were created collaboratively and are an evolving conversation. Each school has taken local and national contexts into account and are informed by our shared values.

For several years prior to September 2022 the cluster worked together on projects developing a common understanding of the Curriculum for Wales and its implications for our learners. This strong partnership work continues.

Review

Our curricula are not static: they are subject to continuous revision and reflects the ever-changing nature of modern life. Robust self-evaluation including scrutiny from governors, parents/carers and learners will be used to refine and improve the school's curriculum on an ongoing basis.

Our curricula will evolve to meet the needs of our pupils and to ensure that the cluster vision is maintained and the four core purposes achieved. Refinements to our curricula will take place as a result of new developments and research in education and will be informed by work within cluster, in the Central South Consortium and the local authority. This review process will ensure a high-quality 3-16 continuum of learning for all.

Six schools Four purposes One aim

Curriculum for Wales in
The Porth Cluster.



FROM
SEPTEMBER **2022**