

Ysgol Aberconwy



Curriculum Policy

POLICY DOCUMENT NO: 44

ISSUE NO: 3

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FULL GOVERNING BODY

Signed: L Sewell

Date: 08/03/2022

Review due date : 01/03/2024

LT Link : LJS

POLICY RELATING TO THE WHOLE CURRICULUM

1. Rationale

The curriculum covers all the planned experiences through which pupils learn. Ysgol Aberconwy believes that every pupil is capable of learning and achieving excellence. The curriculum should provide the foundations of knowledge, skills and understanding that each pupil needs to develop as a caring, capable member of society. It should also provide the stimuli that pupils need to make their first steps on the paths to excellence. This curriculum is inseparable from assessment because it is important not only that pupils are offered opportunities to learn, but also that they receive the support, encouragement and guidance necessary to make the most of them.

As such this policy should be read in conjunction with policies on ALN, Homework, Language Communication & Literacy, Numeracy, Sex Education, Welsh Language, Differentiation Assessment and Gifted & Talented

2. Purposes

- To maintain a broad, balanced, relevant and effectively differentiated curriculum that meets the needs of individual pupils and commands the support of the community.
- To improve the attainment of all pupils.
- To implement the subject-specific and whole school requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To continue the development of curriculum areas beyond the National Curriculum.
- To exploit an extension programme which builds on the taught curriculum and provides opportunities for pupils to experience success in specialist fields of endeavour.
- To extend curriculum progression, particularly across Key Stages 2/3 and 3/4.

3. Guidelines

- (i) The curriculum will include the subjects listed in the prospectus, which include the core and foundation subjects.
- (ii) The following cross-curricular elements will be part of all pupils' entitlement in Key Stages 3 and 4 :
 - personal, social and health education
 - ESDGC /International Awareness
- (iii) The following cross curricular elements and essential skills will be signposted in schemes of work :
 - Digital competency
 - numeracy
 - literacy
 - Curriculum Cymraeg
- (iv) The curriculum framework will be reviewed and planned and agreed annually by the Governing Body in the light of statutory requirements, the review of the school development plan and agreed priorities for change.
- (v) The details of the content and structure of the curriculum is included in schemes of work, which are prepared, reviewed and amended by Heads of Faculty and Heads of Department
- (vi) The Senior Leadership Team and Strategy Group include review and development of the curriculum in their briefs.
- (vii) The School Extension Programme complements the mainstream curriculum by
 - offering opportunities for pupils to study additional subjects
 - offering opportunities for pupils to undertake additional practical work

- providing opportunities for pupils to learn new activities and pastimes which will help increase their confidence and their teamwork skills
 - provide opportunities for pupils to develop their skills in physical education and sport
- We seek to encourage as many pupils as possible to take part in the extension programme. If they experience success and enjoyment in it this can only serve to increase their self-esteem and confidence as they tackle the mainstream curriculum.

4. Curriculum Structure

Year Group	7	8	9	10	11
No. of Students (approx.) September 2022	210 8 forms	210 8 forms	210 7 forms	150 5 forms	140 5 forms
AOLE: Numeracy and Maths	3 lessons	4 lessons	3 lessons	3.5 lessons	3 lessons
AOLE: LLC English Welsh MFL	3 lessons 3 lessons 2 lessons	3 lessons 3 lessons 2 lessons	3 lessons 3 lessons 2 lessons	3.5 lessons 3 lessons	3 lessons 2 lessons
AOLE: Science & Technology Science Technology ICT	6 lessons per week for three 10 week blocks during the school year	3 lessons 2 lessons 1 lesson	3 lessons 2 lessons 1 lesson	5 lessons	5 lessons
AOLE: Health & Wellbeing PE	6 lessons for one 10 week block 2 lessons	2 lessons	1 lesson	1 lesson	1 lesson
AOLE: Expressive Arts	6 lessons for two 10 week blocks	2 lessons	2 lessons		
AOLE: Humanities History Geography RE WBQ	6 lessons for two 10 week blocks	1 lesson 1 lesson 1 lesson	1 lesson 1 lesson 1 lesson 1 lesson	2 lessons	1 lesson
3 option columns				2 lessons each	3 lessons each

Lessons are all one hour long

5. Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

Ysgol Aberconwy has well-established arrangements for identifying and providing for individual pupils' additional learning needs. It is our policy to assess pupils' needs as early as possible.

After careful diagnostic testing, pupils follow individually-tailored programmes. Where pupils have needs which require the co-operation of outside agencies, it is the responsibility of the school ALN co-ordinator to take the necessary contacts.

During all stages in the provision for a pupil's additional learning needs, we seek to work closely with parents, and emphasize the importance of good working relationships between the school and home.

6. Homework

We believe that homework is an essential part of the school programme. We believe that it is important to encourage independent study, and we set out to make homework activities as varied as possible. Each eight week learning plan includes a weekly homework task, as well as two additional assessment points (APs) and one formal assessment (FA). The sixteen week learning plans the homework task is set once per fortnight instead and there are still two APs and one FA. Homework involves written and learning work as well as research. There is an after-school homework club available every night manned by teaching assistants.

7. Religious Education and the Collective Act of Worship

It is our intention to foster high moral and ethical standards and to encourage pupils to reflect on issues and to demonstrate a caring approach to them.

We have a planned programme of collective worship which includes assemblies held in Year groups.

The school has no religious affiliation and religious education is provided in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.

If a parent should object on grounds of conscience to a pupil receiving religious instruction or attending assembly, alternative arrangements can be made.

If a parent should wish to withdraw their child from religious education or assemblies, they should write to the Head teacher.

8. Personal, Social and Health Education

We believe that personal, social and health education (PSHE) is central to the overall development of the 'whole' student. Every student experiences their PSHE learning journey alongside their form tutors during extended registration each week.

All lessons are differentiated and mapped according to Ysgol Aberconwy's PSHE focus on positive character development. Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC) are a key focus and students must demonstrate their understanding and application of these concepts during each school year. LORIC are identified by the National Careers Service and Confederation of British Industry as the desirable qualities for the current and future workplace.

The programme includes careers education, Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE), moral, spiritual, cultural, global/active citizenship, health and well-being education, which are supported by the school nurse, PCSO, Careers Wales and Spectrum community health external providers.

9. Language Policy

Because of the success of the partner primary schools in their presentation of Welsh to their pupils we aim to help pupils to continue their bilingual development. This enables pupils to consolidate their comprehension and grasp of the language for their personal enrichment and for the ultimate enhancement of their employment opportunities. The school is committed to developing the provision for

pupils to study through the medium of Welsh. Year 7 form time and PSHE lessons are bilingual and where possible other subjects are delivered bilingually, such as Design Technology and Physical Education. A first language Welsh group exists in every year group, aiming to complete the First Language GCSE Welsh in year 11. The Welsh language is promoted through the Caban facility at lunchtimes and through involvement in the annual school Eisteddfod and 'Cymraeg Bob Dydd' project.