Ysgol Aberconwy

Differentiation

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THIS POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FULL GOVERNING BODY

Signed:

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SCHOOL POLICY ON DIFFERENTIATION

Rationale

Differentiation is central to teaching and learning. It is the task of ensuring that teaching and learning is :

- to target precisely according to the needs of the pupils
- planned in such a way that pupils take responsibility for their own learning.

Without differentiation pupils will learn less effectively and attainment will suffer.

Guidelines

In pursuit of differentiation Heads of Department will manage the implementation of schemes of work so that :

- pupils are clear about the learning objectives and assessment programme of each unit of work
- when possible and appropriate pupils of differing abilities are set different tasks
- tasks for the most able in a particular subject should, where possible, extend over two or three lessons and homework, and demand of pupils considerable responsibility for investigation
- tasks for those with specific or general learning difficulties should be 'accessible' (they should be able to read or understand the material)
- tasks for less able should be challenging and demanding
- where the material on which a lesson is based is not differentiated, every effort should be made to differentiate by adjusting tasks, questions and group work to the needs of individuals in pursuit of differentiation.

This will mean that :

- teachers will use assessment (particularly NNT and NRT test) to inform their planning
- interim reports and teacher assessment will be used by Year Heads and Heads of Department to keep the progress of individuals under review and to adjust marketing of sets when necessary.

Resources

1. Regular training will be provided to staff on effective methods of differentiation

2. Differentiation will feature highly among the needs taken into account in determining the development budget.