

# Aberdare Community School Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr



## Curriculum Policy

Date Adopted	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2022
Signature of Headteacher	<i>Quell Morgan</i>
Signature of Chair of Governors	<i>St Brindley</i>
Date to be reviewed	September 2023



# YSGOL GYMUNEDOL ABERDÂR ABERDARE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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## Contents

1.	Introduction .....	4
2.	Aim .....	4
3.	Underpinning Principles .....	4
4.	General Arrangements (Formal Curriculum).....	4
5.	The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 .....	5
6.	Disapplication.....	6
7.	Individual Support .....	6
8.	Skills Development .....	6
9.	Cross Curricular Themes .....	6
10.	Personal & Social Education (PSE) and Wellbeing .....	6
11.	Careers and the World of Work (CWW) .....	7

## **1. Introduction**

Aberdare Community School provides a curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, intellectual, personal, social and physical development of all students and prepares them for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. As well as lessons and extracurricular activities, the curriculum includes approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, the quality of relationships within school, and the values embodied in the way the school operates.

## **2. Aim**

Our aim is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum accessible to all students that develops the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes which are necessary for each student's self-fulfilment and development as active and responsible citizens. The curriculum prepares students for further study, employment and adult life. The curriculum aims to enable all students to become

- successful students who enjoy learning and make progress;
- confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives; and
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

## **3. Underpinning Principles**

3.1. The School's curriculum will ensure that

- the education of all students has equal value;
- all students are challenged to reach the highest standards of which they are capable;
- the provision is concerned with developing personal and social values as well as knowledge and skills; and
- while breadth is maintained, an element of individual choice exists to provide students with flexible learning pathways

3.2. The school curriculum

- focuses on the student;
- raises aspirations and sets appropriate challenges;
- ensures that appropriate skills development is embedded throughout the curriculum;
- offers some reduced subject content with an increased focus on skills;
- focuses on continuity and progression;
- is flexible, balanced, relevant and differentiated;
- focuses suitably on Welsh Government priorities; and
- continues to deliver a distinctive curriculum that is appropriate for Wales

3.3. The school will take every opportunity to ensure all students, whatever their ability, make the best progress possible and achieve the highest possible standards in subjects and qualifications. The school will strive to narrow the gaps in achievement and enable those not achieving age-related expectations to catch up with their peers. The school will challenge more able and talented students (MAT) so that they achieve their full potential, and their progress is sustained and enhanced making certain all young people develop the skills and abilities needed for success in life and can apply them in a wide range of contexts.

## **4. General Arrangements (Formal Curriculum)**

4.1. The school will deliver the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4 and fulfil the requirements of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009. The curriculum will be organised in the way that best suits the needs of our students whilst ensuring the delivery of a broad and balanced provision.

4.2. At Key Stage 3 (KS3) the school curriculum consists of

- Core subjects – English, Welsh, mathematics, science and religious studies;
- Non-core subjects – art, modern foreign languages, design and technology, ICT, history, geography, music, physical education, performing arts; and
- PSE (including sex education).

## **5. The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009**

5.1. Students at post-16 access a local area curriculum consisting of courses of study from each of the learning domains (a: mathematics, science and technology; b: business, administration and law; c: services for people; d: arts, media, culture and languages and e: humanities, social sciences and preparation for life and work), including a minimum proportion of vocational courses of study. This is achieved through collaboration with St John the Baptist High School and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School.

5.2. At KS4 the school curriculum consists of

- Compulsory subjects – English, Welsh second language, mathematics, science and religious studies, Skills Challenge Certificate and Physical Education;
- PSE (including sex education); and
- a broad range of academic and vocational courses leading to external qualifications.

5.3. The school provides sex education in the curriculum for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognize the value of family life.

- A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents. It has regard for the government's guidance in Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 019/2010).
- In accordance with the law parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE provided at school, other than sex education contained within the national curriculum. Parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

5.4. A small number of KS4 students undertake an alternative curriculum provision offered both onsite (CYFLE provision) and at a satellite site (Dare Valley provision). This provision is offered to students who require a learning pathway which is different from or additional to the differentiated curriculum available to all students.

5.5. All pupils are expected to take part in an act of daily collective worship. The school has a programme of collective worship involving year and form assemblies.

5.6. At Key Stage 5 (KS5) the school curriculum consists of

- Through collaboration, a broad range of courses leading to external qualifications; and
- All students follow the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate (WBQ).

5.7. In line with the increased flexibility, introduced by Learning Pathways, students are given a 'free' option choice although considerable impartial advice and guidance is provided to help students choose a broad and balanced curriculum but also one which is relevant and appropriate to their chosen pathway and career aspirations.

## **6. Disapplication**

6.1 All pupils will follow a full curriculum but and after consultation with parents and other relevant stakeholders, the school may disapply a specific pupil from an element of the curriculum where deemed appropriate.

## **7. Individual Support**

The ALNCo works closely with all departments, in order to support students so that they all have access to the curriculum.

## **8. Skills Development**

8.1. The curriculum allows for the development of transferable generic skills for students. All learning in any subject provides opportunities to develop

- Thinking;
- Communication;
- Digital Competency; and
- Number

8.2. Opportunities are mapped across the curriculum to ensure a coherent, progressive and varied approach to learning and the application of skills; these are indicated in Departmental Learning Plans.

## **9. Cross Curricular Themes**

9.1. In planning the curriculum, the school provides a distinctive Welsh dimension and Cwricwlwm Cymreig underpins the whole curriculum for all students, helping students to understand the distinctive quality of living and learning in Wales enabling them to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales.

9.2. Opportunities are provided within the curriculum across the range of subjects to promote:

- Cwricwlwm Cymreig;
- Wales, Europe and the World;
- Equal Opportunities, Equality and Diversity;
- Food and Fitness;
- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship; and
- The World of Work and Entrepreneurship

## **10. Personal & Social Education (PSE) and Wellbeing**

All students follow a programme of PSE that meets the requirements of the 2008 Personal and Social Education Framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales. The programme prepares students to

be personally and socially effective by providing learning experiences in which they can develop and apply skills, explore personal attitudes and values, and acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding. Refer to the PSE Policy for full details.

## **11. Careers and the World of Work (CWW)**

11.1. All students follow a programme that meets the requirements of the 2008 Careers and the World of Work: a framework for 11 to 19-year-olds in Wales. CWW is concerned with the relationships between young people, their learning and the world of work. Aberdare Community School is a Gatsby Pilot School within RCT

11.2. Careers education is well developed in all year groups. A Careers Wales advisor and the RCT Education, Employment, Training Team provides specialist advice as follows

- group sessions in Year 7 and Year 9;
- individual and Group sessions in Year 8 in order to help students make informed decisions about their choices and the pathways available post 14;
- individual sessions in Year 10, as necessary, to help students focus on the choices available post 16;
- individual interviews in Year 11 designed to make sure that all students progress along the most relevant pathway Post 16; and
- individual interviews in Year 12 and Year 13 focusing on Higher / Further Education, Further Training, Apprenticeships and Employment opportunities as part of their entitlement towards a post-18 learning pathway.

11.3. All students are given the opportunity to take part in work experience towards the end of Year 10 and in Year 12, during February half-term, as an option if their post-18 plans warrant it.

**Date for Review:** Spring 2021