



Curriculum, Planning and Assessment Policy

DOCUMENT DETAILS	
DOCUMENT NUMBER	011
VERSION NUMBER	2
RESPONSIBLE LEAD	GAVIN CASS, HEAD OF EDUCATION
DOCUMENT AUTHOR	GAVIN CASS, HEAD OF EDUCATION
APPROVED BY	NATALIE FLETCHER – REGISTERED PERSON
APPROVAL DATE	15 TH OCTOBER 2024
REVIEW INTERVAL	YEARLY
REVIEW DATE	OCTOBER 2025
RELATED DOCUMENTS	ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) POLICY BEHAVIOUR AND WELL-BEING POLICY SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

VERSION NUMBER	DOCUMENT AUTHOR/ REVIEWER	AMENDMENTS HISTORY	DATE REVIEWED
2	GAVIN CASS, HEAD OF EDUCATION	POLICY CREATION	15/10/24

'A Life Worth Living' Through Our Curriculum

Introduction

Ysgol Tan y Gaer is a unique setting dedicated to fostering growth and empowerment among children and young people living in care. We believe that every individual, regardless of their circumstances, deserves an extraordinary education.

Our core mission is to equip young minds with the necessary skills to embrace learning and a life filled with purpose. At Ysgol Tan y Gaer, we offer our children and young people the opportunity to start afresh and embark on a new journey. Our curriculum reflects a wealth of enriching subjects designed to engage, inspire, and ignite new passions, opening pathways for careers and lifelong success.

Curriculum Aims

Our curriculum is built on the principles of the **Curriculum for Wales**, focusing on:

- Developing ambitious, capable learners.
- Nurturing healthy, confident individuals.
- Cultivating ethical, informed citizens.
- Fostering enterprising, creative contributors.

We aim to provide:

1. A safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every learner can thrive.
2. A holistic education that prioritises well-being alongside academic success.
3. Opportunities for learners to develop independence and confidence.
4. A flexible and personalised curriculum tailored to individual needs.
5. Skills and knowledge that enable learners to engage with real-life contexts and prepare for future education, employment, and independent living.

Pathways for Learning

At Ysgol Tan y Gaer, we adopt a flexible and nurturing approach to learning pathways, designed to meet the unique needs of every learner. Engagement is our starting point, and we embrace a playful, curiosity-driven approach to build trust and foster connections. Once learners feel safe, supported, and ready, we work closely with them to identify the most suitable pathway. Access to pathways is fluid, allowing learners to benefit from a combination of elements tailored to their needs through regular assessment and collaboration with the wider team.

1. Subject-Based Pathway

- Focus: Academic progress and preparation for further education or employment.
- Goals: Develop high levels of independence, apply skills and knowledge confidently, and progress towards qualifications such as Entry Level Certificates and GCSEs.

2. Enrichment-Based Pathway

- Focus: Building relationships, fostering engagement, and developing interests in a nurturing environment.
- Goals: Boost confidence, discover personal talents, and promote emotional and social well-being through meaningful experiences.

3. Vocational-Based Pathway

- Focus: Hands-on learning experiences and workforce readiness.
- Goals: Build self-esteem, develop practical skills, and explore career pathways that align with individual strengths and interests.

Our approach ensures that learners can access elements from all pathways, creating a personalized journey that evolves with their needs, interests, and aspirations.

Guiding Principles

Our curriculum is shaped by six core principles:

1. **Empathy and Kindness:** A nurturing and inclusive environment where every individual feels valued.

2. **Curiosity:** Encouraging learners to ask questions, explore, and engage in academic risk-taking.
3. **Resilience:** Empowering learners to overcome challenges and learn from experiences.
4. **Growth Mindset:** Inspiring learners to aim high, embrace setbacks, and persevere.
5. **Safety:** Providing a secure environment where learners feel confident to explore and grow.
6. **Courage:** Fostering bravery, self-expression, and the confidence to effect positive change.

Curriculum Structure

Health and Well-being/RSE

Health and well-being is the foundation of our curriculum. We:

- Provide holistic frameworks for physical, mental, and social well-being.
- Teach skills for healthy, safe, and productive lives.
- Deliver RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) in line with Welsh Government guidance, promoting safe, respectful relationships and an understanding of emotional, social, and physical development.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Our mathematics curriculum:

- Identifies and bridges gaps in knowledge.
- Applies mathematical skills to real-life contexts and careers.
- Prepares learners for Entry Level Certificates and GCSEs.

Language, Literacy, and Communication

English and communication skills are embedded across the curriculum:

- Group lessons and 1:1 support focus on filling gaps and building confidence.
- Cross-curricular links ensure relevance to real-world contexts.
- Learners are prepared for KS4 qualifications.

Reading

- Guided reading sessions and interventions develop skills and foster a love for reading.
- Cross-curricular reading opportunities reinforce the importance of literacy.

Science and Technology

- Practical, hands-on lessons build critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Outdoor learning and real-life experiments connect science to everyday life.
- Entry Level and GCSE qualifications are offered.

Humanities

- Subjects include geography, history, religion, values, and ethics.
- Learners explore heritage, cynefin, and global citizenship, fostering ethical and informed perspectives.

Welsh Dimension

- Welsh language and culture are embedded across subjects and activities, promoting a strong sense of national identity.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Music, trips, sport, art, and play are integrated to promote engagement and well-being.
- Activities are planned termly and co-created with learners.

Vocational Learning

- **Horticulture:** Developing allotment areas to teach sustainable food production.
- **Food and Cookery:** Equipping learners with essential life skills and an understanding of nutrition.
- **Outdoor Learning:** Forest school and Duke of Edinburgh Award promote independence, resilience, and teamwork.

Planning and Personalization

Planning is tailored to meet individual needs, incorporating:

- Learning objectives (the what).
- Purpose and desired outcomes (the why).
- Alignment with the Curriculum for Wales and personal goals.

Assessment and Progress

We monitor progression in line with the Curriculum for Wales:

1. **Individual Development Plans (IDPs):** Personalised goals
2. **Formative Assessments:** Daily and weekly feedback guides learning.
3. **Evidence for Learning:** Captures progress through photos, videos, and written work.
4. **TAC Meetings:** Collaborative reviews ensure a holistic understanding of progress.
5. **Key Transition Reviews:** Smooth transitions between pathways and stages.
6. **Therapeutic Support:** Emotional well-being is integrated into monitoring and assessment.

Well-being and Future Generations

Our curriculum aligns with the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** by:

- Preparing learners for sustainable futures.
- Embedding environmental education and community engagement.
- Promoting inclusivity, equality, and respect for diversity.

Kindness Currency

Learners earn rewards through our 'Kindness Currency' system, reinforcing empathy, respect, and positive contributions. Reflections encourage personal growth and responsibility.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure:

- Alignment with Welsh Government standards.
- Continued effectiveness in meeting learner needs.