



Curriculum Policy

Date reviewed by the Governing Body: 30 March 2017

Signature of Chairperson: _____

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Curriculum Policy

Introduction

The school is committed to providing an extensive and balanced curriculum, which answers the statutory needs, current developments in the field and the specific interests of our learners. We ensure equal access to every learner whilst offering them educational opportunities of regular standard in order for them to develop the skills and the information that's necessary for them to reach their full potential and to become confident lifelong learners.

The curriculum is arranged in order to promote the learner's intellectual, personal, social and physical development. The curriculum also offers experiences for the learners in the following fields:

- Aesthetic and creative
- Human and social
- Language and literature
- Mathematical
- Spiritual and moral
- Scientific and technical

Basic Principals

The school acknowledges the right of individual pupils to the following:

Extensive and balanced curriculum

We regularly aim to provide a curriculum that tries to promote the intellectual and physical development of pupils and one that also prepares them for the responsibilities, the opportunities and the experiences that they will face in their lives as adults.

Flexible and relevant curriculum

By arranging and providing the curriculum the school tries to consider the needs, abilities and interests of individual pupils in order to prepare them to be valuable members of the work force and community.

Co-ordination

When developing the curriculum we aim to ensure coordination within and between subjects, general requirements of the curriculum and the hidden curriculum.

Progression and continuity

The school tries to ensure progression and continuity within the subjects offered throughout Years 7 to 13, in the standards achieved by pupils and in the quality of teaching and learning.

Integrity

Through the curricular provision we try to ensure that pupil standards of achievement and the quality of teaching and learning are continuously maintained and improved. The chosen subjects, specifications and accreditation systems are expected to have their own internal integrity – by ensuring status, stringency and aptness for purpose.

Effectiveness and efficiency

The school, through the curricular provision, aims to ensure that the education offered to pupils is of a constant high standard and does this through the effective and efficient use of resources.

Executing the Curriculum

The curriculum is provided as followed in the Key Stages:

Key Stage 3

KS3 curriculum is planned as followed on the basis of 50 contact hours a fortnight.

Subject	Year 7 Contact Hours	Year 8 Contact Hours	Year 9 Contact Hours
English	6	6	6
Welsh	6	6	6
Maths	6	6	6
Science	5	5	6
History	3	3	3
Geography	3	3	3
Religious Education	3	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Design and Technology	3	3	3
French	4	4	3
Information Technology	1	1	1
Personal and Social Education	1	1	1
Sports	2	2	2
Physical Exercise	1	2	2

In Year 7 the school provides mixed ability lessons in every main stream subject; specific lessons are provided for learners with Additional Learning Needs in Welsh, Maths, English and Science. Literacy and Numeracy groups are also established for Year 7 pupils.

From Year 8 onwards Science, Maths and Welsh stream pupils on the basis of ability in the subject. These arrangements are revised annually under the guidance of the Head of Department or subject Coordinator. In Years 8 and 9 ALN groups are added in the Humanities faculty.

Also, within the subjects, pupils have the opportunities to develop Communication, Numeracy, ICT, Working With Others, Problem Solving and Improving your Own Learning and Performance skills.

Key Stage 4

The school fulfils the Learning Pathways 14-19 requirements by offering 25 courses, which include at least 3 vocational options. Some of the vocational courses are offered in partnership with Coleg Sir Gâr.

The curriculum's aim is to provide a challenge, motivation and inclusion that is suitable for all pupils by considering their different interests and abilities.

Every pupil follows a core course of Welsh, English, Maths and Science to external exam level, as well as the Religious Education GCSE course (short course) and ICT Essential Skills Wales certificate. They also follow non-exam courses in Physical Education and Personal and Social Education.

There are three course options that lead to GCSE, Learning Pathways Certificate or vocational qualification Level 1 or Level 2. The options process is co-ordinated by Head of Year 9 following a discussion with the Assistant Head (Curriculum).

For learners who find it hard to gain access to the full curriculum, work experience is provided for them in order to facilitate their transfer to post 16 education institutions such as Coleg Sir Gâr or the world of work. This is co-ordinated by the Administrative Assistant in discussion with the Careers Coordinator, Head of Year, the SENCO and the Assistant Head (Curriculum). As well as this some pupils are given the opportunities to attend courses such as SMART, according to their educational needs.

Also, within the subjects and the PSE lessons, pupils have the opportunity to develop skills in Working With Others and Improving your Own Learning and Performance. Every pupil will also have the opportunity to prepare a portfolio for Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication, Numeracy, ICT and Problem Solving.

The KS4 curriculum is planned as follows on the basis of 50 contact hours a fortnight.

	Subject	Contact Hours	Provider
Compulsory Subjects	English	6	School
	Welsh	6	School
	Maths	6	School
	Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	12	School
	Personal and Social Education	1	School
	Religious Education (GCSE Short Course)	1	School

KS4 Option Subjects		Information Technology (Skills)	1	School
		Physical Exercise	2	School
	GCSE Courses (WJEC)	Physical Education	5	School
		Business	5	School
		Art and Design	5	School
		Music	5	School
		Geography	5	School
		Drama	5	School
		Design and Technology	5	School
		French	5	School
		History	5	School
		Spanish	5	School
	Vocational Courses	Building(Level 1/Level 2)	5	School
		Agriculture	5	CSG
		Catering	5	School
		Wood Furniture (Level 1)	5	School
		Fashion (Level 2)	5	CSG
		Health and Social	5	School
		Information Technology	5	School
		Hairdressing (Level 1/2)	5	CSG

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

The school fulfil the requirements of Learning Pathways 14-19 by offering 30 courses, which include at least 5 vocational options across 3 zones.

The options structure allows students to study three, four or five AS level subjects in Year 12. Pupils are advised on the number of subjects to study based on their GCSE profile. At the beginning of Year 13, depending on their AS results, the students continue with three or four subjects for Advanced Level Course.

Option subjects are set in blocks on the basis of a detailed survey of students' free choices. The process is coordinated by the Assistant Head (Curriculum).

The school has established the Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg in order to offer courses joint with Ysgol y Strade and Maes y Gwendraeth.

Option Subjects	AS and A2 Subjects	Subjects	Provider
		Physical Education	School
		Religious Education	School
		Biology	School
		Art and Design	School
		Chemistry	School
		Music	School
		Sociology	School

		Welsh	School
		Geography	School
		Drama	School
		Design and Technology	School
		Design and Technology (Food)	School
		Physics	School
		French *	PAG
		Politics *	School
		History	School
		Maths	School
		Additional Maths (AS) *	PAG
		English (Literature)	School
		Spanish *	PAG
		Psychology *	PAG
		Music Technology *	PAG
		Information Technology	School
		The Welsh Baccalaureate	School
		Law *	PAG
	Vocational Option Subjects (AS, A2, BTEC, CACHE)	Building (Level 2)	School
		Business	School
		Electronics *	PAG
		Fashion (Level 3) *	CSG (PAG)
		Child Care (Level 2/Level 3)	CACHE (PAG)
		Public Services *	PAG
		Applied Science	School
		Health and Social	School

As well as these, students receive lessons in Personal and Social Education, Essential and Extended Skills, Religious Education and Physical Exercise.

As a part of the learning programme students also have an experience of Voluntary Work, Work Experience, Industry and Careers Education, Preparing for Higher Education (Gold Scheme).

Opportunities to re-sit Welsh, English and Maths GCSE are also offered on the pupil's application.

Monitoring the Curriculum

The curriculum is revised annually by the Curriculum and Staffing Sub-Committee before being approved by the Full Board of Governors. The curriculum is developed following consultation between staff, governors, pupils, parents and the local community.

The quality of the curriculum can be measured by seeing the impact that its contents, its processes and organization will have on the pupils' personal and social development of the pupil.

The curriculum is measured against the following criteria and is expected to:

- provide opportunities for pupils to achieve high standards. As a result, pupil's work standards and responses will take priority when making decisions about curricular developments;
- comply with the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and also reflects the aims of the school;
- be broad in the experiences it offers to its pupils. In addition extensiveness in learning plans for individual subjects and whole school plans for covering elements of the general requirements is expected;
- ensure a content that is suitable for pupils' abilities and interests;
- be effective in terms of its arrangement requirements of individual departments, the whole school or group of pupils either within classes, or setting, streaming or banding. It should also ensure arrangements for providing support to pupils who have additional learning needs;
- prepare pupils for the world of work and life as adults;
- be reinforced by extra-curricular activities organized by individual departments, staff or whole school in addition to the formal program;
- ensure that all pupils have a fair and equal opportunity to access the full range of experiences offered by the school;
- take into account other relevant policies of the Assembly, the LEA and the school e.g. Language, Assessment, Equal Opportunities, ALN and so on.

Arranging the Curriculum

Tasks that need to be done at the end of July from the curriculum/timetable perspective:

Date	What	Responsibility
September	Monitor the timetable and adapt i there are problems.	ZRW/ET
	Heads of Department to transfer information on Year 12 and 13 teaching groups to the Data Officer.	PA/MMc
	Heads of Department to transfer information about changes to KS3 and KS4 teaching groups to the Data Officer.	PA/MMc
	Confirm pupil numbers for courses with the Welsh Education Partnership and Coleg Sir Gâr.	ZRW/RR
	Confirm travelling arrangements and pupil numbers for courses that are not taught on site with the Bursar.	ZRW/RR
	Distribute Travelling Arrangements Permission letters to parents for pupils who leave the site for lessons.	ZRW/CJ (Assistant Bursar)
October	Present the Curriculum for 2009-10 to the Governing Body's Curriculum and Staffing Sub-Committee.	ZRW
	Present the Staffing/Curriculum Analysis to the LEA.	ZRW
	Update the details of the Local Curriculum 14-19 on Careers Wales website.	ZRW/MMc
	Complete Survey 1 for PLASC and statistics sheets.	ZRW/EMac/MMc
	Complete applications for grants to the LEA.	LLJ
November	Draft plan of the next academic year's staffing grid by discussing curriculum developments with the Head.	ZRW

	Year 9 and Sixth Form Heads of Year start preparing option booklets for Year 9 and Year 11 by receiving subject descriptions from the Heads of Department.	TH/RR
December	Revise the curriculum draft by considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial situation Curricular developments Choices School Development Plan Self-appraisal reports Proposed cuts Consult with staff and governors	LLJ/Senior Leadership Team
January – April	Begin with open option choice surveys for Year 9 and Year 11 under the care of the Assistant Head (Curriculum) and the help of the Head of Year. Four surveys are held during the Spring Term. An analysis of the results.	ZRW/ET
	Year 11 Survey 1 – create a list of the leavers’ destinations with the help of the Data Officer.	ZRW/MM
	Discuss pupil choices and the implications of this with the head and the Senior Leadership Team.	ZRW
February	Year 11 Choices Evening arranged in order to market courses	PA/Subject Coordinators
April	Transfer curriculum information to the Timetabler before Easter	ZRW
	Distribute Timetable Requirements forms to the Heads of Department and receive them back	ZRW/RR
	Discuss the requirements with the Head and Heads of Department	ZRW
	Head of Year 9 to arrange a choices day with the help of John Selby, Careers Officer	PH/JS
May	Begin with the work of creating the school timetable	ZRW/RR
	Discuss with the head, Heads of Department and members of staff regarding any adjustments	LIJ/ZRW/PA
June	Discuss and work on the different partnership slots in the timetable for KS4/5	ZRW/JC
		ZRW/RR
	Transfer pupil estimated numbers to the Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg	ZRW
July	Distribute draft timetables to the Heads of Department	ZRW/RR
	Heads of Department to appraise fairness in the distribution of teaching rooms for the members of department. Changes to be presented to the Timetabler	PA/RR
	Heads of Department to present the teaching set lists for KS3 to the Data Officer (MMc) to record them on the NovaT system	PA/MMc
	Present a list of supply teachers (if needed) and the hours to the Bursar for the LEA’s information	ZRW/EM
	Timetabler to present part time staff timetable information to the Deputy	RR

August	Distribute the final choices columns sheet to pupils on the GCSE results day for information and to be returned on the first day of term.	ZRW
	Interview pupils who are unsure of their choices	ZRW/TH
	Distribute final copies of the individual timetables to teachers	ZRW/RR
	Distribute copies of year timetables to the Heads of Year in order to prepare a homework timetable	ZRW/RR
	Distribute copies of year timetables to the ALENCO for the TAs	ZRW/RR