An inclusive learning environment enabling all to succeed

School Prospectus

2026-2027

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Ethos and Guiding Principles

Following Extensive discussions across our federation with staff, governors, and parents the following principles have been agreed. Our federation, that is Ysgol y Waun and Gwernymynydd County Primary School, will seek to promote these at all times:

Our Vision

An inclusive learning environment enabling all to succeed

Our Mission

Nurturing all to flourish, broadening knowledge, skills and experiences

Our Values

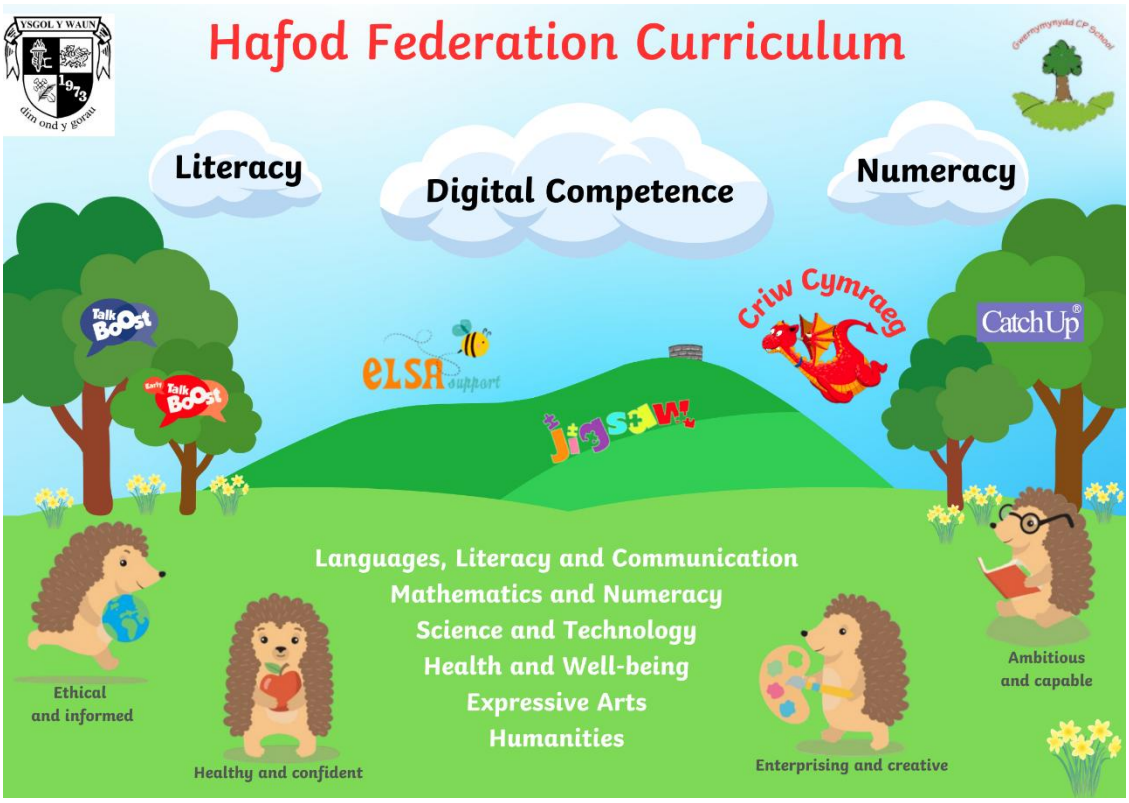
Creativity - Helping our children develop as enterprising, creative contributors

Courage - Encouraging our children to become ambitious and capable learners

Respect - Nurturing our children to become ethical informed citizens

Resilience - Supporting our children to become healthy confident individuals

Our Curriculum



The four purposes

The Curriculum for Wales guidance is a clear statement of what is important in delivering a broad and balanced education. The four purposes are the shared vision and aspiration for every child and young person. In fulfilling these, we set high expectations for all, promote individual and national well-being, tackle ignorance and misinformation, and encourage critical and civic engagement. (WG) Ultimately, the aim of a school's curriculum is to support its learners to become:

· ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
· enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
· ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
· healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Our pupils are confident in recognising the purpose of their learning and can identify which purpose they are working towards. Pupils redesigned the logo for each purpose, and we now have Hafod Hedgehogs.

Ambitious, capable learners who: • set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge; • are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts; • are questioning and enjoy solving problems; • can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English; • can explain the ideas and concepts they are learning about; • can use number effectively in different contexts; • understand how to interpret data and apply mathematical concepts; • use digital technologies creatively to communicate, find and analyse information; • undertake research and evaluate critically what they find and are ready to learn throughout their lives. 	Enterprising, creative contributors who: • connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products; • think creatively to reframe and solve problems; • identify and grasp opportunities; • take measured risks; • lead and play different roles in teams effectively and responsibly; • express ideas and emotions through different media; • give of their energy and skills so that other people will benefit and are ready to play a full part in life and work.
Healthy, confident individuals who: • have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs; • are building their mental and emotional well-being by	Ethical, informed citizens who: • find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views; • engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values;

developing confidence, resilience and empathy; • apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives; • know how to find the information and support to keep safe and take part in physical activity; • take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk; • have the confidence to participate in performance; • form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect -face and overcome challenge; • have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can; • and are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society. 	• understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights; • understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting; • are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past; • respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society; • show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Welcome to our School

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

On behalf of myself, staff, and Governors here at Ysgol y Waun, it is with great pleasure we welcome you and your child to our school. I hope you find this information booklet useful as a first step towards our partnership between home and school. We look forward to developing a happy and positive relationship with you and your family and also trust that your child will embark on a successful and enjoyable learning journey throughout their time here.

At Ysgol y Waun, we pride ourselves on the broad, balanced and full education we deliver. We are committed to providing a caring, supportive environment with educational experiences that inspire our pupils, who are always at the heart of what we do. Staff are dedicated to ensuring every child reaches their fullest potential. The individuality of each child is precious and each one is encouraged to be the best he or she can, socially, morally, physically and academically. We value all our children and believe that their time in school should be rewarding and fulfilling. This is achieved by ensuring a true partnership between teachers, parents and children.

In conclusion, please remember that you are always welcome to come into school and talk about any aspect of your child's progress. We look forward to sharing with you the achievements of your child in school. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely,

L K Ankers

Head teacher

School Details / Useful Contacts

Name of School & Address:

Ysgol y Waun, Y Waun, Gwernaffield, Flintshire, CH7 5DP

Telephone:

01352 740362

E-mail:

ywmail@hwbcymru.net

Headteacher:

Mrs. Louise Ankers

Chair of Governing Body:

Miss. Kim Brookes

Type of School:

Primary School (3 to 11 years)

Head of Local Authority:

Claire Homard – Ty Dewi Sant, St. David's Park, Ewloe, Flintshire, CH5 3FF

School Staff

Headteacher	Mrs. L. Ankers (works across the federation)
Deputy Headteacher	Mr. D. Johnson
Secretary	Mrs. L. Russell
Teachers	Mrs. A. Adams, Mrs. C Windsor and Mr D. Johnson. Mrs. M. Newton is on maternity leave until December, Miss A. Owen will be covering.
ALNCo	Mrs. L. Ankers
Teaching Assistants	Mrs. S. Hayes, Miss. A. Gudger, Mrs. J. Edwards and Mrs J. Farmer
PPA Cover	
Mid-day Supervisors	Miss. A. Gudger, Mrs. J. Edwards and Miss. A. Bletcher
Kitchen Staff	Newydd
Caretaker	Mr. D. Setter
Cleaners	Mrs. E. Thomas and Mrs. R. Foulkes-Davies
Breakfast Supervisors	Miss. S. Edwards, Miss. P. Hughes and Miss. A. Bletcher
School Nurse	Mrs. E. Speed
Education Welfare Officer	Mrs. A. Hargreaves

School Governors

The Governing Body represents the Hafod Federation. It comprises of 18 members, made up from representatives of the Gwernymynydd, Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn

Community. All members are working together to achieve the very best for both schools, pupils, staff and the community.

Our Governors are regularly seen in and around the schools gaining first-hand experience of school life. They attend school and PTA functions and are active in school improvements. The achievement of gaining the Governor Quality Mark recognises the commitment and hard work they show towards their role.

The Body is made up of:

4 Parent governors (2 from each school)

4 Local Authority Governors (2 from each school)

2 Teacher governors (1 from each school)

2 Staff governors (1 from each school)

4 Community governors (2 from each school)

1 Minor authority governor

1 Head teacher governor

We also have 1 co-opted governor

The Present Governing Body are:

Chair of Governors	Miss. Kim Brookes
Vice Chair	Mrs. Katie Lynch
Local Authority	Mrs. Adele Davies Cooke (Cllr)
	Mrs. Sally Hughes
	Mr. Trevor Payne
	Mr. Neil. Dyment
Minor Authority	*Vacant*
Community Governors	Mrs. Sian Parry
	Mrs. Hannah Whiteaker
	Miss. Kim Brookes (Chair)
	Mrs. Sue Coles
Parent Governors	Mrs. Katie Lynch (Vice Chair)

	Mrs. Corey Williams
	Mrs. Lauren Dunning
	Mrs. Lucy Dearden-Jones
Co-opted Governor	*Vacant*
Teacher Governors	Mr. Dafydd Johnson
	Miss Emily Hooson
Staff Governors	Miss Jo Albrighton
	Miss Amber Gudger
Headteacher	Mrs. Louise Ankers

Our School

Ysgol y Waun is a designated Community School situated in the village of Gwernaffield, near the market town of Mold.

The school was built in 1973 and remodelled in 1995. In addition to the classrooms, the accommodation comprises:

- A large practical teaching area for our 3 to 7 year olds
- A large practical teaching area for our 7 to 11 year olds
- A large hall with apparatus for physical education and a staging area. It is used for drama, music, dance, school productions and assemblies
- A well-stocked library
- A 'rainbow room' for small group work
- A small hall which is used for Playgroup, Playgroup +, After school club and group activities
- Outside facilities including separate playground areas for our 3-7 and 7-11 pupils. We also have extensive playing fields and a Forest School Site.
- Toilets for staff, visitors and pupils.

Teaching areas for 3-7 year olds

Teaching areas for 7 – 11 year olds, Library Area and School Hall

Organisation

At present, Ysgol y Waun has children of 3-11 age, along with part-time Nursery provision. We have approximately 70 pupils. Our school admission number is 15 per year group and by teaching in mixed ages classes our teaching groups remain below 30.

Pupils are admitted to the Nursery in the school year in which they attain their fourth birthday. The Nursery provision extends to five mornings per week.

Excluding assemblies and registration, the teaching time for children aged 4-7 years is twenty-one and a half hours per week and for children 7-11 years is twenty-three and a half hours.

Pupils are taught using a variety of teaching styles and groupings. The medium of instruction is English, but all pupils study Welsh and it is a priority of ours to see the Welsh ethos pervade all aspects of school life.

The School Day

	3-7 years	7-11 years
School doors opened – staff on duty	8.40 am	8.40 am
School starts	8.55 am	8.55 am
Morning break	10.30 – 10.45 am	10.30 – 10.45 am
Lunch break	12.00 – 1.00 pm	12.00 – 1.00 pm
End of school	3.00 pm	3.15 pm

Staff will be available on the main gate, 3-7 year old yard gate and on the 7-11 year old yards from 8.40 am. All children who have attended breakfast club will go out onto the school yards at this time, or straight to their classroom where they will be greeted by a member of staff. Pupils are allowed to arrive from this time and socialise with their friends during a daily walk until the bell is rung at 8.50 am. Once they have settled into their classroom's registration time will commence. Nursery pupils are to arrive by 8.50 am and are dismissed at 11.30 am. It is extremely important that all children arrive on time to start school promptly. All lateness is recorded and monitored.

In the interest of safety, no child should arrive in school before 8:40 am, at which time there will be a teacher on duty. When the weather is inclement, children will be brought into school at 8:40am. The exception to this is where pupils are registered at the Breakfast Club.

Parking

As with many schools, the parking situation outside when the school day begins and ends, can be problematic due to the number of cars. Parents are asked to be considerate towards others. The school visitor's car park can be used in the morning for dropping children off for breakfast club, please can we ask that you reverse into the parking bays for safety. As the gates are closed during the day, when collecting children please park showing consideration to our neighbours, do not park over their driveways or blocking the school entrance.

Early Risers Childcare and Welsh Government Breakfast Initiative

Following the Welsh Government changes to breakfast provision we offer 30 minutes free breakfast club from 8.10 – 8.40 am. We offer breakfasts to all pupils in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines where parents are able to send their children to school knowing that they will be safely supervised and given a healthy breakfast.

We operate a childcare service from 7.45 – 8.10 am where children can be cared for prior to the free provision. The cost for this is £1.50 per session. Children are to be signed in at the school hall from 7.45 am, breakfast is served from 8.00 – 8.25 am.

Admittance to either club is from 7.45 – 8.25 am, we do not admit children after 8.25 am as this does not allow children sufficient time to eat their food. The club is run by Miss Paula Hughes and Miss Sophie Edwards.

Snacks and drinks

We are part of Flintshire's Healthy Schools Scheme and therefore ask you to provide your child with a healthy snack for the morning - being fruits or vegetables and a drink of water. For the 3-7 year olds we also provide milk daily if they would like it.

School Meals

Newydd provide excellent meals that encourage healthy eating. A weekly menu is displayed in each classroom and also on the notice board in the main foyer. Vegetarians and specific dietary needs can be catered for, so please let us know if your child is a vegetarian or has a dietary requirement. A school packed lunch, pasta pot or jacket potato are also available on a rotation.

Free School Meals

The Welsh Government now provides universal free school meals to all pupils from Reception to Year 6. Whilst there is no longer a need to apply for free meals, it is still very important to apply if you believe your family may ne eligible for additional grant funding. This funding can help with the cost of school uniforms, contribute towards educational visits and provide extra support directly to the school to benefit your child. For more information or assistance with the application, please contact the school office of visit the Flintshire County Council Website.

Packed Lunches and Drinks

Children may, of course, bring their own packed lunches and drinks. These should be in suitable containers, minimising the risk of leaks. If your child requires a spoon, could you please ensure that one is provided. No glass please.

All children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school which can be filled with cool, filtered water throughout the day.

Out of School Club

Parents are able to book their children into Sunbeams Out of School Club, which is held in the community room, attached to the school. Children are well supervised, given snacks and can access a variety of activities. Supervision can be provided until 5.30 pm. The prices range from £4 for the first 60 minutes and up to £11.00 for a full 2.5 hour session. The club is run daily by Corey Williams. Further details are available from Corey on 07574 168425.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities can vary depending on the expertise of the staff or the nature of outside agencies invited to the school. These activities take place during lunch hours and after school. Parents will be informed via email which activities their child may be invited to participate in.

Extra-curricular activities may include:

- Football
- Rugby
- Netball
- Arts and Crafts
- Rounders
- Cross Country Running
- Athletics
- Dance
- Sign language
- Coding
- Media

Term Dates and Staff Training Days

Autumn Term 2026		
School Opens	Wednesday	2nd September 2026
School Closes (half term)	Thursday	22nd October 2026
School Opens	Monday	2nd November 2026
School Closes	Friday	18th December 2026
Spring Term 2027		
School Opens	Tuesday	5th January 2027
School Closes (half term)	Friday	5th February 2027
School Opens	Monday	15th February 2027
School Closes	Thursday	18th March 2027
Summer Term 2027		
School Opens	Monday	5th April 2027
School Closes (half term)	Friday	28th May 2027
School Opens	Monday	7th June 2027
School Closes	Friday	16th July 2027

Please note: The school is closed to children for six staff training days during the school year. These are 1st September 2026, 23rd October 2026, 4th January 2027, 19th March 2027 and 19th and 20th July 2027.

The school will also be closed on May Day, which falls on Monday 3rd May 2027.

Early Entitlement, Admissions & Transfer to secondary schools

Admission procedures and transfers

Mrs Ankers, Head teacher, welcomes any prospective parents to come and look around the school in the first instance, but the Local Authority procedures are outlined below.

Early Entitlement and wrap around childcare

A part time education place is available for every child the term after their 3rd birthday in Sunbeams Playgroup which meet five times a week in the Community centre attached to the school. Although this is a private group, Mrs Ankers visits the setting regularly and nearly all their children move through to Ysgol y Waun for Nursery. We find the 'onsite' provision an excellent asset as starting school is not seen as a new step, more a sidestep as the children are already familiar with the building and some adults. Sunbeams are registered for the 30 hours free childcare – they offer lunch time and afternoon care. If you require further information regarding Sunbeams, please contact Corey Williams directly or in writing via the school office.

Nursery admission

A child becomes eligible for a place at a nursery class the September following their third birthday. Nursery education is not compulsory, and parents have no right of appeal

regarding nursery admissions under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Nursery schooling in all schools is provided on the basis of 5 x 2.5 hours per week for each child. At Ysgol y Waun we currently offer morning sessions only.

Primary admission

The Authority will admit a child to a maintained primary school at the beginning of the school year if the child has had their fourth birthday on or before August 31st of that calendar year. The authority has guidelines to follow, and these can be obtained from the Flintshire County Council website. (www.flintshire.gov.uk)

Midterm transfers

These can be arranged through the school where the child will be going and forms for completion are available on the website www.flintshire.gov.uk in the 'school admissions' area. The authority needs to be informed of any transfers prior to acceptance by the school.

Transfer to secondary schools

Children from Ysgol y Waun in the past years have transferred to The Alun School, Maes Garmon, Ruthin School and Argoed, Buckley. There are strong and successful transition links between Y Waun and The Alun where pupil's complete various pieces of work during the spring and summer term which moves up with them in the September. Transition arrangements are made where children have the opportunity to visit the school on various occasions throughout Year 6 and meet staff. Some key staff come to Y Waun and deliver lessons in our setting during the summer term too. It is purely the choice of parents and children as to which school they choose, and a place is allocated providing there is space at their choice of school. Other joint activities such as visits, quizzes and sports events aid a smooth passage from primary to secondary school.

Induction Day

To facilitate the easy transfer of pupils from Primary to Secondary school, an Induction Day is held in June / July when pupils spend a day at their 'new' school becoming familiar with their new surroundings. Most of our pupils transfer to Mold Alun where there are also many opportunities for pupils to visit for 'taster lessons' in PE, Geography, Science and Modern Foreign Languages. Staff from the secondary school visit our pupils during the year.

Child Protection

The WALES SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES makes it clear that schools and colleges have an important role to play in the protection of children again abuse. This is confirmed by the Policy of Flintshire County Council and our Federation which sets out the necessary procedures to be followed by all staff.

Ysgol y Waun, therefore, has a duty to refer any concerns about the well-being of pupils to the Social Services Department and School Medical Officer for further advice. The school has a robust safeguarding policy, copies of which can be made available from the school office.

Please see below the Child Protection Officers for Ysgol y Waun:

Mrs. L. Ankers (Headteacher)

Mr D. Johnson (Deputy Headteacher)

If you have any safeguarding or child protection concerns, do not hesitate to contact any of the above at school at any time. In the event that the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher are unavailable, Cllr Adele Davies-Cooke or Flintshire Children's Services.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching have had Child Protection Level 1 training, Group B training and the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher have received Level 3 training. If you require any further information regarding any of the above, please make an appointment to see the Headteacher at your convenience.

Attendance and Absence

Absences

Regular attendance at school is essential if the best efforts of the teachers are to achieve their aims. Parents / carers / guardians are under a legal duty to send their children to school regularly. Frequent absences interrupt progress and can affect the development of social relationships. When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside school hours. If this cannot be arranged, then pupils should attend school before and / or after any appointment.

If for any reason a child needs to leave school during school hours, the class teacher must be informed, and arrangements made to collect the child from school. The registers are taken every morning and afternoon and record lateness, absence and the reason for the absence.

If an explanation for absence has not been received, then a reminder email, will be sent. If a reply to this is not received, then the child will be registered as having an unauthorized absence. Letters or telephone calls to inform the school of absence are very important. Parents / carers / guardians are most earnestly requested to lend their support in informing us of any problems which may affect the regular and punctual attendance of their children.

Authorised absences can only be registered for the following reasons:

- Illness, medical / dental appointments;
- Educational visits, sporting activities or any educational activity approved by the school;
- Support or temporary education on another site;
- Family holiday – up to a maximum of 10 school days in any school year. The school does not encourage holidays during term time. Parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupil for holidays and must apply to school for permission;
- Any other approved circumstance such as a family bereavement.

Attendance Data 2025 - 2026

Our overall attendance figure for September 2025 to June 2026 was 92%.

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Rec	91%	91%	92%
Year 1	88%	92%	82%
Year 2	93%	95%	96%
Year 3	98%	91%	77%
Year 4	96%	95%	95%
Year 5	92%	95%	95%
Year 6	95%	98%	94%

Absences for any other reason will be registered as unauthorised. Mrs. A. Hargreaves is the school's Education Welfare Officer who helps us monitor, not only attendance, but also other problems which can, from time to time, affect our pupils. Parents / carers / guardians should ensure that their children arrive at school on time, properly attired and in a condition to learn.

Parental Involvement

It is important that close links are maintained between school and home if pupils are to derive the greatest benefits from their education. We make every effort to keep parents / carers / guardians informed of developments and events that are happening in school. There are two formal parent's evenings for each year group during the school year, one early in the Autumn term for parents to meet their child's new teacher and one in the Spring term to discuss work and progress.

School reports are issued at the end of the summer term with an allocated time for discussion, being given. Parents / carers / guardians, however, are welcome to visit school anytime during the year to seek advice or information concerning their child's educational progress. There are also plenty of opportunities for parents / carers / guardians to join us in events during the school year i.e., Sports Day, Carol Services, Concerts, Christmas Fayre, Harvest Service at the local church etc., and we welcome help from parents / carers / guardians with various organisations. Parents / carers / guardians can be assured that no decision affecting their child's education or welfare will be made without them being consulted first. Parents / carers / guardians will be informed of school activities through newsletters and Weduc.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA has a tradition of providing money for the school to purchase additional materials / equipment. The school is extremely grateful for the tremendous hard work of the PTA and greatly appreciates the time and effort put into the many fund-raising events held each year. Recent events have included summer fairs, Halloween disco, Cinema Nights, Easter bingos, and quizzes.

Dress Code

All pupils are expected to wear school uniform when attending school.

The wearing of school uniform gives children a sense of identity, makes our pupils easily recognisable when on a school visit.

The school uniform is as follows:

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or dress
- White polo shirt
- Black sensible footwear essential
- Red gingham dress

P.E. Kit

The school kit is a green t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and black zip up jacket.

Jewellery

Pupils will be allowed to wear a watch and studded earrings. NO jewellery can be worn in P.E. sessions.

It would be appreciated if all items of clothing could be marked with your child's name. This will undoubtedly save you money in the long run and help us to return lost property.

Charging Policy

As part of the Education Act (School Hours and Policies) 1988, Governors of the school have to produce and publish a Charging Policy for the School.

- The school does not charge for any school activity.
- Voluntary contributions are requested from parents/guardians for special events during school time. Children will not be excluded if no contribution is made.
- Pupils in receipt of the school essentials grant can apply for up to 25% of the cost for residential visits.

(A full copy is available from the school office)

Curriculum Statement / Teaching Methods and Organisation

The new curriculum in Wales has been fully implemented since September 2022. The Welsh school curriculum is now based on the Four Purposes.

The Four Purposes of the curriculum in Wales should be that children and young people develop as:

• ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
• enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
• ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the World
• healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The new curriculum in Wales will have six Areas of Learning and Experience:

• Expressive arts
• Health and well-being
• Humanities
• Languages, literacy and communication
• Mathematics and numeracy
• Science and technology.

Within these 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLE) are listed key aspects of learning 'what matters'. It is these 'what matters' that staff use to plan lessons. The areas of learning aim to promote and underpin continuity and progression. Weaving across the six Areas of Learning and Experience will be the three Cross Curriculum Responsibilities:

• Literacy • Numeracy • Digital Competence.

In Ysgol y Waun we organise our curriculum into exciting themes and topics which include 'Animals in Danger, The Pursuit of Happiness, Life on Mars, for example.

Languages, Literacy and Communication

The overall aim of language in the school is to provide the children with the means by which they will become literate beings and confident enough to use the language proficiently. Our aims are based upon the children being actively involved in reading, writing and speaking and listening at all levels across the curriculum. They learn that through speaking and listening, relationships can be better explored.

Speaking and Listening

We aim to:

- Enable children to understand the spoken word and to express themselves effectively in a variety of speaking and listening activities
- Use speaking and listening as an active aid to learning

- Offer a variety of speaking and listening experiences
- Develop an awareness of the need and purpose of speaking and listening in all areas of the curriculum
- Promote an awareness of the need and purpose of speaking and listening in all areas of the curriculum
- Promote an awareness of audience and purpose
- Develop positive attitudes to speaking and listening and to develop an appreciation that speaking and listening activities are highly regarded.

Reading

Children are led to discover the pleasure of reading, as well as its necessity. Reading is first taught through a shared 'reading together' approach, which later leads children on to be more independent. All children are encouraged to take their reading books home on a regular basis. We welcome parent comments within the reading record book, this is a useful communication tool between ourselves.

Each department has a variety of suitable reading materials, such as story, poetry and factual books, for the children to choose from. As well as each department having its own books, the school has a well-stocked library.

We aim to:

- Promote the enjoyment of reading
- Promote a love of books
- Use reading as an active aid to learning
- Help children to develop as competent and confident readers, both for the present and the future
- Promote an awareness that reading is a skill which can be developed and improved
- Offer all children a range of reading experiences
- Develop an awareness of the importance of reading in all areas of the curriculum
- Enrich and extend the language experience

Writing, Spelling and Handwriting

From the beginning, the children are made aware of written language within the environment. Each child's writing skills are allowed to develop naturally and are refined as the child progresses through the school. Initially, content is considered of prime importance. In time, more emphasis is placed upon correct spelling, grammatical accuracy and precise punctuation.

We aim to:

- Enable children to convey their thoughts on paper in order to communicate eg through poetry, prose, reports, instructions, stories, songs, letters, invitations, recipes, etc
- Promote writing as an enjoyable and worthwhile pursuit
- Develop writing as a cross-curricular activity
- Develop a sense of pride in the completed piece of work
- Encourage all children to see themselves as writers.

Welsh

The teaching of Welsh as a second language is a statutory requirement and has dedicated time in the school timetable. It is taught as set lessons and through 'everyday Welsh' and 'Crw Cymraeg'. The use of Welsh as an incidental language in class through various activities helps the children to become more aware and develop their understanding of the language and build confidence in their use of it. We celebrate our Welsh culture with an annual St David's Day celebration, in which all children participate and by taking part in a number of activities that cement this bilingual ethos. Year 1 and Year 2 pupils attend the annual Jambori with other Flintshire Schools to sing songs and enjoy the presentations in Welsh.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Mathematics begins with a variety of situations in which the children are provided with practical experiences that encompass many counting, weighing and measuring concepts. During such play, they will learn and extend their mathematical language.

All pupils are regularly given a variety of experiences which include practical activities, mental mathematics, work with calculators and on computers. This extends across the curriculum. We follow a scheme called White Rose Maths from Year 1. This is a highly recommended strategy which as a focus on practical maths.

We aim to:

- Develop a positive attitude to mathematics and present it as an interesting subject which is a necessary life skill
- Provide an equal opportunity for all children in all aspects of the subjects
- Develop an understanding of the language of mathematics and an ability to communicate their knowledge
- Develop an ability to think clearly and logically with confidence, independence and flexibility of mind
- Encourage children to work to the best of their ability within this subject
- Develop an appreciation of numbers, space, pattern, sequence and shape, leading to an awareness of the creative and aesthetic qualities of mathematics

- Develop an awareness of mathematics in the world beyond the classroom
- Develop an understanding of mathematics through the process of investigation
- Develop mathematical skills and knowledge, accompanied by the quick recall of basic facts
- Develop persistence through sustained work.

Science and Technology

The importance of science and technology in our modern world cannot be overstated. Developments in these areas have always been drivers of change in society, underpinning innovation and impacting on everyone's lives economically, culturally and environmentally. As such, the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience (Area) will be increasingly relevant in the opportunities young people encounter and the life choices that they make. (WG)

We hope to develop within each child an enquiring scientific mind, with a knowledge of self and the wider world, through opportunities for exploration, observation and investigation.

We aim to:

- Develop a positive attitude towards science as an interesting, exciting subject
- Provide an equal opportunity for all children in all aspects of the subject
- Develop an understanding of the language of science and an ability to communicate knowledge
- Develop an ability to think clearly and logically with confidence, independence and flexibility of mind
- Encourage children to work to the best of their ability in this subject
- Develop the necessary knowledge, skills, techniques and attitudes necessary for successful scientific work
- Develop an appreciation of the value of science and its effect upon our everyday lives and the world as a whole
- Develop an understanding of science through the processes of investigation and the study of life and living processes, materials and their properties and physical processes.

School visits to Explore and local farms bring science to life. We have also had visiting workshops for all pupils.

Expressive Arts

The dynamic nature of the expressive arts can engage, motivate and encourage learners to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills to the full.

The Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience (Area) spans five disciplines: art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music. Although each discipline has its own discrete body of knowledge and body of skills, it is recognised that together they share the creative process. (WG)

Humanities

The Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (Area) seeks to awaken a sense of wonder, fire the imagination and inspire learners to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. This Area encourages learners to engage with the most important issues facing humanity, including sustainability and social change, and help to develop the skills necessary to interpret and articulate the past and the present.

The Area encompasses geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies and social studies. These disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills, while having their own discrete body of knowledge and skills. Learners may also be introduced to other complementary disciplines, such as classics, economics, law, philosophy, politics, psychology and sociology, if and where appropriate. (WG)

Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience (Area) provides a holistic structure for understanding health and well-being. It is concerned with developing the capacity of learners to navigate life's opportunities and challenges. The fundamental components of this Area are physical health and development, mental health, and emotional and social well-being. It will support learners to understand and appreciate how the different components of health and well-being are interconnected, and it recognises that good health and well-being are important to enable successful learning. (WG)

Physical Development

Physical Development is always one of the more popular areas in the curriculum for the children and we hope to channel this enthusiasm in a positive way. Sport can be seen as a vital part in a child's development through the teaching and fostering of skills, confidence, self-esteem, team spirit and physical health. It is the aim of Ysgol y Waun to recognise the biological need for activity, which exists in all children and to understand that the child uses movement as a powerful and natural means of discovery and expression. We offer our older pupils the opportunity to participate in outdoor pursuits at a residential centre. We feel strongly that children should be given the opportunity to participate in all types of sporting events and to aspire to represent the school. Children gain great enjoyment from this competitive aspect and the links fostered between other schools and pupils. During the academic years 3-6, children are transported to Mold Alun swimming pool to participate in swimming lessons. They also have the opportunity to take part in cycling skills sessions where they are taught road safety and receive their cycling proficiency awards.

The school participates in netball, football, tennis, cross-country running, rugby, swimming and athletics competitions.

Additional Needs and Provision

Additional Needs

We will ensure that all children with additional needs, whether physical, intellectual, social, or emotional, will receive the appropriate educational support and that such provision will enable them to develop their potential to its maximum.

The Welsh Code of Practice for children and young people with additional learning needs removes the requirement, specified in the previous Code, for all schools to have an Additional Learning Needs Policy. It is intended instead, that each school should adopt the procedures laid down in the new Code for mainstream schools, such that the Code in effect became the policy. This will ensure that all schools across Wales followed the same policy.

However, while all schools are able to follow the Code's procedures in full, they will inevitably vary greatly in terms of their social, geographic and language contexts and especially in terms of the proportion of their children who have ALN (Additional Learning Needs), the extent and complexity of those ALN and the methods determined to assess, meet and monitor those needs. The Code does not specify the exact instruments or criteria which should be used to identify ALN, nor does it specify specific the actual provision which should be made to meet those needs. Doing so would undermine one of the core principles of the new Welsh curriculum, which greatly extends the freedom schools have to design their own curriculum. Furthermore, the Code does not lay down the instruments or criteria by which progress should be measured, while that provision is being made. Finally, it does not stipulate when it can be considered that a pupil's ALN have been fully met.

Once a concern has been highlighted, there will be a discussion with all parties involved, with the child and, where necessary, observation and / or assessment will take place. Parents will be kept fully informed and involved. The child may then be given an Individual Plan and either continue with support from the class teacher or be given additional support. In some circumstances, it may be considered necessary to involve outside agencies.

Some agencies that may be involved with children who have special needs are:

Learning Support Teacher	School Nurse
School Doctor	Educational Psychologist
Speech Therapist	Behaviour Support

The school has an Additional Learning Needs Policy, which also includes steps taken to prevent pupils with disabilities from being treated less favourably than other pupils. A full copy of the policy may be requested from the office.

For some pupils, a 'short term' intervention is often required. Class teachers and support staff daily monitor pupil progress and through observing work, talking to children, or hearing them read it is possible to identify a need which can be addressed through an intervention programme. At Ysgol y Waun, we pride ourselves in the expertise our assistants have in supporting individuals or small groups. Following an observed misconception, we are able to assess specific needs for reading, spelling and maths.

While we support pupils with additional needs, we also provide enhanced learning opportunities for those pupils identified as being more able and talented. We enrich and extend their activities and opportunities by offering inter school competitions, extra-curricular activities, and extended work in class.

Pupils with Disabilities

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 defines a disabled person as one who has "a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities" and that this would require the school to make a different provision for him / her. This would include, for example sensory impairments affecting sight and hearing, learning disabilities, severe disfigurements, and progressive conditions where impairments are likely to become substantial.

Equal Opportunities

The Equal Opportunities policy outlines that we do not discriminate against anyone, be they staff or pupil, on the grounds of their sex, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins. This is in line with the 1976 Race Relations Act and covers both direct and indirect discrimination. It is the duty of the Governing Body and Head teacher to promote equal opportunities and good relationships.

Target Setting & Assessments

Target Setting

The school has a set number of targets for the coming year. These are part of the continuous development plan to ensure standards are constantly being monitored and progress throughout the school.

Assesment

In addition to the continuous daily assessing and monitoring carried out by class teachers and Teaching Assisstants we also have formal assessments during the Autumn and Spring terms. From these assessments targets are put in place and shared with both the children and parents at Parents' Evening. If we feel that a child would benefit from a little extra help, intervention will also be put in place and monitored.

All pupils from Years 2 – 6 will complete online Welsh National Tests in Reading, Mathematical Procedural and Mathematical Reasoning twice a year. The data is analysed by staff and teaching may be adjusted if there is a need. These results are shared with parents in February and July.

Parent Feedback

I am very happy with all aspects of my child's education. My child is very happy at school. She always has something to tell me about her day. The teachers are always willing and available if I need to talk to them about my child.

My child has really enjoyed her time in Reception and has learnt a lot in all aspects of her work. Every time I have contacted the school, I have been dealt with politely and all my queries have been answered.

It is nice to have such a nice friendly school.

Very pleased with the school and teaching staff.

Very good response to bumps etc. Very pleased with progress – children are responding to teaching. Please keep raising the bar on expectations. Plenty going on and fun learning. We are so lucky to have such a fine school on our doorstep!

Thank you for helping my son settle into full time school. I am really pleased and proud of how well he is doing and hope it continues through to next year.

I am very happy with my son's report. He has been very happy at this school, and I know he will miss it. Thank you for all your support.

Again, we are very pleased with our daughter's progress and are very proud of her achievements. Thank you for all your hard work in helping her to achieve what she has.

I am thrilled at my daughter's report. I am so very proud of her, and she continues to amaze me. Keep up the good work!

We are all thrilled with my son's school report and his test results. He has enjoyed his time at Ysgol y Waun, and we have seen a huge boost in his confidence over the last 12 months.

We are both very pleased to learn of our son's great progress after reading his detailed report, two very happy parents! Thank you all for your time and efforts and we all look forward to the next school year.

Very pleased with our son's report, he will be getting treated at the weekend! Thank you for bringing on his confidence in every aspect of his work.

Our daughter really enjoys her mornings at school and is super excited to start full time. I am pleased with how far she has come this year.

Was lovely to hear our son' s kind personality recognised and am so grateful for the support and care he gets at school.

My husband and I are very pleased with how our son has matured in the past several months. We would like to thank all the teachers who have helped him. His numeracy has come on leaps and bounds! We take your comments on board regarding targets for next year and will encourage our son to achieve these. Many thanks