

YSGOL BORTHYN

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CURRICULUM POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the children's experience. It also includes 'the hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their true potential.

Values

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values we hold dear at Ysgol Borthyn. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

We aim to provide the pupils with a broadly based and balanced curriculum set within a framework that expects and seeks to attain high achievement from all pupils - through the values which we endeavour to uphold and live by:

- The promotion of their full academic, personal, social and physical development.
- Helping pupils to make decisions within an accepted moral code.
- Showing tolerance and respect for others.
- The ability to work well with others, showing social skills of co-operation and leadership.
- Motivation and the ability to build on experience and to learn from mistakes.
- The ability to remember facts accurately and use them in written form.
- The encouragement of independence in work and judgement.
- The ability to identify and solve problems independently.

Aims

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- To enable all children to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability.
- To develop in pupils a high level of competence in the core subjects of English, Science and Mathematics in order to provide a secure foundation for lifelong learning.

- We acknowledge that every child is unique, each with their own talents and interests. By providing a broad curriculum we hope to ensure that every child is engaged and stimulated so they enjoy the school experience and have the opportunity to succeed, thereby developing their self-esteem.
- To actively promote our Welsh culture, language and heritage across the curriculum.
- To develop ICT as a tool to enhance learning, and in an increasingly technological world, to provide children with the skills they will need for future success.
- To develop key skills across the curriculum in order to enhance educational success and in promoting life skills.
- To use the extra-curricular experiences to enhance and enrich each child's development.
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- To enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking.
- To teach children about the developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- To appreciate and value the contribution made by all ethnic groups in our multi-cultural society.
- To enable children to be positive citizens.
- To fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- To teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to distinguish right from wrong.
- To help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- To enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work co-operatively with others.

The Early Years Curriculum

Aims

- To provide a happy, safe, secure and stimulating environment with opportunities for children to enjoy learning, develop confidence and self-esteem and build good relationships with others.
- To support, foster and develop children's personal, social and emotional well-being.
- To build on what children already know, understand and can achieve.

- To enable pupils to express preferences, communicate needs and make choices and decisions.
- To develop positive attitudes and dispositions for learning.
- To address the individual needs of all children by enabling them to participate in a broad, balanced, relevant and age appropriate curriculum, with due regard to equal opportunities.
- To promote the moral, spiritual and cultural development of all children and to celebrate the distinctive cultures, language and tradition of Wales.
- To value parents/carers as important partners in their children's learning.

The Structure of the Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years Curriculum is being developed in accordance with the following documentation:

ACCAC Desirable Outcomes for Children's Learning before Compulsory School Age and the Draft Framework for Children's Learning in the Foundation Phase. The Foundation Phase is expected to be introduced in September 2008. The curriculum for the new Foundation Phase will build on the current Desirable Outcomes and will be developed under seven areas of learning:

- Personal and social development and well-being.
- Language, literacy and communication skills.
- Mathematical development.
- Bilingualism and multi-cultural understanding.
- Knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Physical development.
- Creative development.

The Foundation Phase

By September 2008 the Foundation Phase will gradually take precedence over the National Curriculum Guidelines, as it is extended into Year 1 and Year 2.

The Foundation Phase places great emphasis on developing children's:

- Skills and understanding.
- Personal, social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being so as to develop the whole child.
- Positive attitudes to learning so that children enjoy learning and will want to continue with their education for longer.

- Self-esteem and self-confidence to experiment, investigate, learn new things and form new relationships.
- Creative and expressive skills and observation to encourage their development as individuals with different ways of responding to experiences.
- Activities in the outdoors where children can have first-hand experience of solving real problems in aspects such as mathematics and science and learn about conservation and sustainability.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

The curriculum at Ysgol Borthyn follows the National Curriculum for all state schools in Wales. There are three core subjects: English, Science and Mathematics, and eight foundation subjects: Welsh, ICT, Geography, History, Design and Technology, Physical Education, Music and Art. The children also study Religious Education.

For each curriculum subject there is a co-ordinator whose role is to monitor the planning and the delivery of that subject in the curriculum. The development of the role of the curriculum co-ordinator is currently under development.

Organisation and Planning

We plan our curriculum in three phases - long, medium and short term.

Long-term planning

This seeks to set up a broad framework of provision for each year of each key stage. In effect, through whole-school schemes of work this provides us with a map of the experiences children will encounter in all areas of the curriculum across their entire primary life.

Medium-term planning

This is related to termly or half-termly provision and aims to translate the broad subject maps into more detailed units of work and learning for each year.

Short-term planning

This is about teachers weekly and daily planning, designed to achieve day to day learning for the pupils, of necessity, it will be succinct, will indicate the work the children are daily engaged in, how that links to the National Curriculum, the resources required, the role played by the teacher in

specific lessons, how teaching support is utilised, the provision for differentiation and special needs and what assessment might take place.

The Curriculum and Inclusion

The curriculum at Ysgol Borthyn is designed to be accessed by all children who attend our school. If we think it necessary to modify some children's access to the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do this only after their parents have been consulted.

If children have special educational needs, we do all we can to meet the individual needs of the child and we comply with the requirements set out in the SEN Code of Practice and school SEN policy document.

Some children in our school have disabilities. We are committed to meeting the needs of these children, as we are to meeting the needs of all groups of children within our school.

Monitoring and Review

Our Governing Body's curriculum committee meets regularly and is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. The curriculum committee provides a written report for every meeting of the full Governing Body.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the day to day organisation of the curriculum.

This policy is monitored by the governing body on an annual basis.

N C Roberts
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