

# Ysgol Borthyn

## Curriculum policy

For our pupils to achieve their "best", the school must provide a Curriculum that adapts to their individual needs and is relevant to both today's society and the demands of the future (for example, half today's children will take jobs in organisations and industries that do not yet exist\*)

\*Chris Yapp. Formerly Director of Public Sector Innovation for Microsoft

On 30 June 2015, the Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis, announced that the Welsh Government would accept, in full, all of the recommendations set out in Successful Futures, Professor Graham Donaldson's independent review of the curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales. There is a real opportunity to create a world class curriculum for Wales which must be aspirational but also realistic.

### Background

Professor Donaldson's report on the curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales sets out 4 purposes of the curriculum in Wales – that all our children and young people develop as:

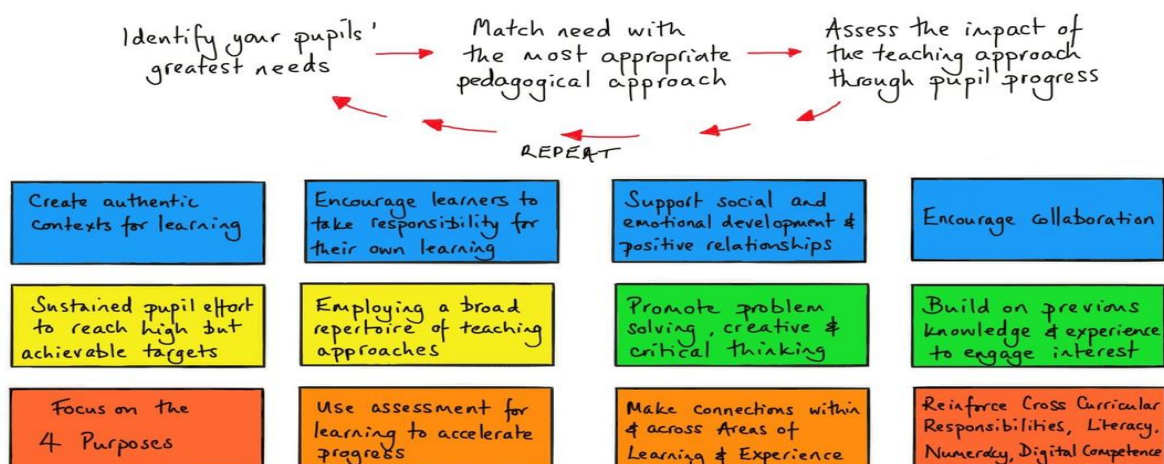
- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

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DONALDSON'S 12 PEDAGOGICAL PRINCIPLES  
& what you should do with them!

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"To be clear, the recommendations of this Review do not imply an emphasis on any particular teaching approaches: decisions about teaching & learning are very context and purpose specific, and are best taken by teachers themselves." Successful Futures



For bespoke support to develop the most appropriate pedagogical approach for your pupils and context - contact enquiries@impact.wales [www.impact.wales](http://www.impact.wales)

To achieve this, Professor Donaldson highlights that we must ensure better teaching and learning in all our schools in Wales, to raise standards and to improve outcomes for all our learners. It includes the recommendations that:

- The school curriculum should be designed to help all children and young people to develop in relation to clear and agreed purposes;
- The purposes should be constructed so that they can directly influence decisions about curriculum, pedagogy and assessment;
- All teaching and learning should be directed to achieving the four curriculum purposes.

The core of the new curriculum is:

#### **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.

#### **Ethical, informed citizens who...**

- Find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views
- Engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values
- 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.

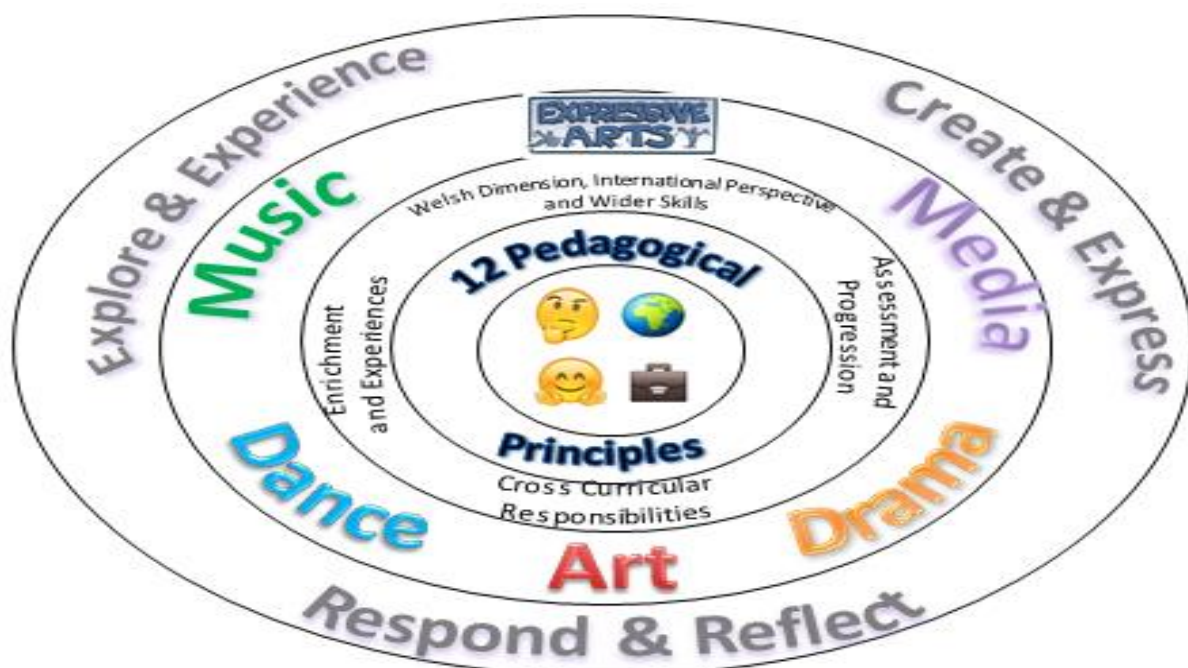
## Healthy, confident individuals who...

- Have secure values and are establishing their Christian, spiritual and ethical beliefs
- Are building their mental and emotional well-being by 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 well and safe
- 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

## To achieve the above, Ysgol Borthyn is committed to:

- developing a warm, stimulating and happy environment with shared values for Self-belief, aspiration, effort, success and well-being contributing to a caring, Christian inclusive community;
- promoting an inclusive approach where all members of the school community are engaged in learning;
- developing lively, enquiring minds in each child so that they ask questions, discuss rationally and apply themselves with energy to all tasks and activities;
- ensuring every child's needs are met in their learning;
- securing the full co-operation and understanding of parents, governors and others concerned with our pupils;
- striving for continuous improvement and encouraging all within the school to do their best.

## Meeting the needs of the learner



The "Onion" diagram above provides an overview of how we are shaping the new curriculum at Ysgol Borthyn. At the center of the "Onion" are the four core principles:

- creating 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
- healthy, confident individuals

We plan to achieve this by employing a range of pedagogical (teaching) principles – Professor Donaldson identifies 12 which teachers employ in their day-to-day lessons. Running through all of our lessons are the cross-curricular responsibilities of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence.

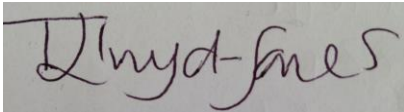
There are six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) and each, where appropriate, should include a Welsh dimension as well as a UK and international perspective. We have been invited to focus on the Expressive Arts AoLE, meaning that our thematic work will be influenced by the National Curriculum subjects of Art, Music, Dance, Drama as well as Media.

We hope that our pupils will develop skills where they will explore and experience, create and express, respond and reflect through a new, engaging and exciting curriculum. We are determined to maintain our current high standards in Literacy and Numeracy whilst achieving this.

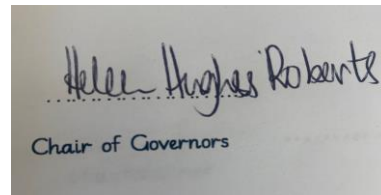
**Date Autumn 2020**

**Review date Autumn 2023**

Approved by



Headteacher



Chair of Governors