

Curriculum Design at Ysgol Sant Elfod



Our Values

Ysgol Sant Elfod is a values-based school because we believe in developing a set of skills and attitudes that prepare our children for the modern day world. These represent 7 values that the whole school community chose to be central to the education of our children: **MAGICAL**

Motivated
Aspirational
Generous
Independent
Confident
Active
Learners



Our Curriculum Journey

A school curriculum is everything a learner experiences in school. The following pages will show you the aspects our school has considered as we have gone about the process of designing our curriculum. Learners have and always will be at the heart of everything we plan and do at Ysgol Sant Elfod.



Our Curriculum Journey

The Curriculum for Wales gives schools the freedom to design their own curriculum content based on: 6 Areas of Learning and Experience and their What Matters Statements, Cross Curricular Skills Development and 5 Cross-Cutting Themes. When designing the new school curriculum for our learners, their needs remain at the front of our minds.



The 6 Areas of Learning and Experience					
The Expressive Arts	Health and Wellbeing	Humanities	Mathematics and Numeracy	Languages, Literacy and Communication	Science and technology
Disciplines developed in this school : Art, Music, Dance Drama Film and Digital Media	Disciplines developed in this school : Physical Health and development, mental health, emotional and social wellbeing	Disciplines developed in this school : Geography, History, Religion , Values and Ethics, Business Studies, Social Studies, Economics, Philosophy	Includes 5 interdisciplinary competences: 1. Conceptual Understanding 2. Communication using symbols 3. Fluency 4. Logical reasoning 5. Strategic competence	Disciplines developed in this school : Welsh, English, International Languages, Literature	Disciplines developed in this school : Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Physics
<i>Click to add text</i>					
Cross Curricular Skills					
We will plan for the development of the following cross-curricular skills within and across the Areas of Learning and Experience using the revised national frameworks					
Literacy		Numeracy		Digital Competence	
Cross-cutting themes					
We shall include and extend the themes below across the curriculum					
Relationships and sexuality education	Human Rights education and the united Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC	Diversity	Careers and work-related experience	<u>Local, National and International Context</u>	

Designing our Curriculum

Each cohort of learners is different, needs change over time. Our curriculum is responsive to the needs of our pupils and their voice. We carefully consider **WHAT** we teach, **HOW** we teach it and **WHY** we teach it.



Designing our Curriculum: Our Unique Factors

There are many unique factors that have contributed to the overall shape and design of our curriculum.



- Abergele is a former market town on the north Wales coast in close proximity to the A55.
- The main employers in the area is the BCUHB, Conwy Council and service industries.
- Local community facilities include a library, leisure centre, parks & football pitches, beach, Coed y Gopa, Castell Gwrych, Ysbyty Abergele, Conwy East.
- Family Centre, Women's Aid Refuge, food bank
- Abergele has a range of clubs and associations e.g. Clwb Rygbi Abergele, Clwb Criced Abergele, Swimming Club, Golf Club, Junior football clubs, Youth Shed, Canolfan Dewi Sant
- Three schools share the school campus and the comprehensive school is a very short distance away.
- Ysgol Sant Elfod is a junior only school but there are plans to merge with our feeder infant school, Ysgol Glan Gele.

Designing our Curriculum: Our Unique Factors

- Ysgol Sant Elfod caters for 300 learners aged 7-11. Most of our pupils live in the areas of Abergele and Pensarn, but we also have pupils from the outlying areas. The locality consists of a mixed catchment with some pockets of deprivation.
- Currently 33% of our learners are entitled to free school meals.
- The number of pupils identified as having Additional Learning Needs is 28%.
- Ysgol Sant Elfod is predominantly English medium, with Welsh being taught as a second language.
- The school has 6% of learners who use English as an additional language.
- The transitional nature of employment opportunities in the immediate area results in a number of learners joining the school outside of the usual transfer period.



Our Curriculum Vision

As part of our Curriculum Vision we will:

- Identify key partnerships and communicate and work effectively with them.
- Ensure effective transition with Ysgol Glan Gele and Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan.
- Use our locality to enrich our curriculum and strengthen partnerships with sporting clubs and associations.
- Have an holistic focus with developmentally appropriate provision
- Be an ASD friendly school with staff aware of how to best support the needs of pupils with ASD.
- Use a trauma informed approach to support children who suffer with trauma or mental health problems.
- Provide comprehensive health and wellbeing provision and support for our learners and promote a strong sense of belonging -cynefin
- Provide a wide range of enriching experiences which promote a wide range of skill development through both curricular and extracurricular learning



What Underpins our Curriculum? Pedagogical Principles

Excellent teaching and inspiring practitioners that understand national requirements and align them to learner's needs is essential for curriculum development. Staff at Ysgol Sant Elfod constantly reflect upon, share and develop teaching practices based upon the 12 pedagogical principles set out in the Curriculum Framework.



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| Create authentic contexts for learning | Encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning | Support social and emotional development & positive relationships | Encourage collaboration |
| Sustained pupil effort to reach high but achievable targets | Employing a broad repertoire of teaching approaches | Promote problem solving, creative & critical thinking | Build on previous knowledge & experience to engage interest |
| Focus on the 4 Purposes | Use assessment for learning to accelerate progress | Make connections within & across Areas of Learning & Experience | Reinforce Cross Curricular Responsibilities, Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Competence |

What Underpins our Curriculum? The 4 Purposes

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.

Our vision for education at Sant Elfod School is based on the 4 purposes of the Curriculum for Wales which we want all of our pupils to develop during their time with us. At Ysgol Sant Elfod we want our pupils to be:



Ambitious, capable learners ... who are ready to learn throughout their lives, and who:	Enterprising, creative contributors ... who willing to play a full part in life and work and who:	Ethical, informed citizens ... who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world, and who:	Healthy, confident individuals ... willing to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society, and who develop:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set high standards for themselves • enjoy challenge and solve problems • develop knowledge and skills and apply them in different contexts • are able to discuss their learning confidently • Are able to communicate effectively in English and Welsh • use mathematics and numeracy and digital technologies effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • think creatively • apply their knowledge and skills to create, adapt and to solve problems • identify and grasp opportunities • Are confident to take risks • lead and work together in teams • express ideas and emotions in different ways • use their energy and skills for the benefit of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make judgments and discuss issues based on their knowledge and values • understand and exercise their responsibilities human rights • understand and consider the impact of their actions • know about their culture and community, • know about society and the world in the present and past • respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society • see that they have a role to play to ensure the planet's sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical and mental health and safety, • relationships based on respect and trust • personal values • skills and independence to deal with everyday life • the ability to face and overcome challenges

What Underpins our Curriculum? The Integral Skills

The 4 Purposes are supported by the following Integral Skills:

Creativity and Innovation



Planning and Organising



Critical Thinking
and Problem Solving



Personal Effectiveness



What Underpins our Curriculum? Growth Mind Set

At Ysgol Sant Elfod, consistency of ethos in every class across the school is of paramount importance for us to ensure a safe and inspiring learning environment so that our learners can take risks, make mistakes confidently and work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of everyone's efforts. We do this through promoting a Growth Mindset, developing positive learning habits and positive self talk.



What Underpins our Curriculum? Formative Assessment

The most important form of assessment at Ysgol Sant Elfod is 'Formative Assessment'. It is a form of ongoing assessment. It is the daily questions, marking, discussions and observations that are taken throughout each day and week, to inform both teacher and pupil how their learning is progressing and where to go next in the learning journey.



Consistency of this ethos across the school is paramount to our curriculum. Staff ensure they;

- Give timely feedback to pupils, based on learning objectives
- Set and / or agree clear success criteria with pupils
- Provide effective questioning to encourage deeper and broader thinking
- Provide opportunities for self - assessment and peer assessment
- Provide learning pit-stops at key points in lessons to allow pupils to reflect upon their progress against objectives and success criteria

What Underpins Our Curriculum? What Matters Statements

The What Matters Statements for each Area will be the **basis of our planning for progression**, depth and breadth of skills and knowledge and for learner progress.



What Matters Statements for the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience					
Expressive Arts	Health and Wellbeing	Humanities	Mathematics and Numeracy	Languages, Literacy & Communication	Science and Technology
Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals	Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits	Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future	The number system is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities	Languages connect us	Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena
Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts	How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being	Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways	Algebra uses symbol systems to express the structure of mathematical relationships	Understanding languages is key to understanding the world around us	Design thinking and engineering offer technical and creative ways to meet society's needs and wants
Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination	Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our own lives and the lives of others	Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions	Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world	Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication	The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival
	How we engage with social influences shapes who we are, and affects our health and well-being	Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs	Statistics represent data, probability models chance, and both support informed inferences and decisions	Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity	Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives
	Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well-being	Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action			Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe
					Computation is the foundation for our digital world

Mandatory Elements of Our Curriculum

The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 sets out the following mandatory elements which, with the exception of English, span the 3 to 16 learning continuum.

- the cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence
- the names of the areas of learning and experience (Areas)
- relationships and sexuality education (RSE)
- religion, values and ethics (RVE)
- Welsh



Mandatory Elements of Our Curriculum

Relationships & Sexuality Education:

RSE will be developed in line with the broad and interlinked learning strands as identified in the RSE mandatory code:

- relationships and identity
- sexual health and well-being
- empowerment, safety and respect

We will follow the Conwy County Council approach to provide RSE which will be developmentally appropriate, taking into account factors including the learner's age; knowledge and maturity; any additional learning needs and their physiological and emotional development.



Mandatory Elements of Our Curriculum

Welsh:

Ysgol Sant Elfod is predominantly English Medium, with Welsh being taught as a second language. We nurture our learners to embrace and enjoy learning and speaking Welsh so they can contribute confidently to the life of their local community.

We take pride in the progress our learners make in developing their skills to use the Welsh language and other languages in their learning and daily lives.

Through a well planned series of whole school events, projects and assemblies, our learners at Ysgol Sant Elfod are increasingly aware of their local history and the history of Wales, appreciating many aspects of Welsh culture, to equip them as citizens of Wales and the world.



Mandatory Elements of Our Curriculum

Religion, Values & Ethics:

Religion, Values and Ethics is a mandatory part of our Humanities curriculum and is built upon a series of concepts and big ideas, with deep dives into several traditional world religions.

Our curriculum provides a range of disciplinary approaches to support learners to engage critically with a broad range of religious and non-religious philosophical convictions. Religion, Values and Ethics in our school has been designed having regards to the Agreed Syllabus.



Mandatory Elements of Our Curriculum

The school has also considered the following statutory elements within the Curriculum for Wales Framework when designing our curriculum;

- Careers & work related experiences
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018



Teaching the Curriculum

The delivery of the curriculum can be done through a range of approaches.

Disciplinary - Skills taught through direct teaching to provide for depth, before learners transfer these skills to topic/theme work. There will be some disciplinary teaching in the following areas:

- Mathematics and numeracy
- PE
- Languages & Literacy e.g. guided reading, international languages
- Humanities - Religion Values and Ethics
- Health & Wellbeing
- RSE

Interdisciplinary - Learning as part of a topic/theme which enable pupils to connect the learning, which supports the development of transferable skills:

Humanities

Expressive Arts, including art, music, drama, digital & film, design

Cross curricular - numeracy, literacy, digital competency

Hybrid - A combination of the above.



Assessment at Ysgol Sant Elfod

Our curriculum will incorporate various assessment strategies for learner progression. There will be a strong, natural 'marriage' between the design of our curriculum, the planning and assessment.



The Summative Assessments we use in school will be fit for purpose, designed to identify learners' progress as well as to plan for the next steps in the educational journey.

Formative assessment is central to our teaching in Ysgol Sant Elfod. By implementing its principles and strategies fully and consistently throughout the school, we will achieve many aspects of the 4 purposes, the integral skills and the 12 pedagogical principles.

The following page outlines how the different formative assessment strategies/principles contribute to their realization.

Progression and Assessment at Ysgol Sant Elfod

Formative assessment strategy / principle	4 purposes	Integral skills	12 pedagogical principles.
Class climate and culture, Growth Mind set, Learning powers, Learning zones celebrating mistakes, embracing challenge	Ambitious, capable learners Healthy, confident individuals Enterprising, creative contributors	Creativity and innovation Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization Critical thinking and problem solving	1,2,3 7, 10,11, 12
Involvement of learners in the planning	Ambitious, capable learners Healthy, confident individuals Enterprising, creative contributors	Creativity and innovation Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization Critical thinking and problem solving	1,2,3 7, 10,11, 12
Talk partners	Ambitious, capable learners Healthy, confident individuals Enterprising, creative contributors	Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization Critical thinking and problem solving	1,2,3,4 7, 10,11, 12
Learning outcomes and Success Criteria	Ambitious, capable learners	Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization	2,3,4,5,7, 10, 11,12
Feedback - Verbal, Peer and Written	Ambitious, capable learners Healthy, confident individuals Enterprising, creative contributors	Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization Critical thinking and problem solving	1,2,3,4, 7, 10,11, 12
Prior / current knowledge questioning	Ambitious, capable learners Healthy, confident individuals Enterprising, creative contributors	Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization Critical thinking and problem solving	1,2,3,4,5,7,10 11, 12
Differentiated challenges /eliminating ability grouping	Ambitious, capable learners Healthy, confident individuals	Personal Effectiveness Planning and organization Critical thinking and problem solving	1,2,3,5,7,10 11, 12



The Curriculum at Ysgol Sant Elfod

We will ensure the following:

To encompass all learners, whatever their age, background, needs or ability, we will consider progress from a holistic perspective by applying the principles of child development when planning, designing and implementing the curriculum.

Our curriculum will encompass all four purposes, with the learning experiences empowering our learners to develop the skills and knowledge they need to learn successfully and achieve the four purposes.

We will develop the skills and concepts contained within the 27 Statements of What Matters in the AOLEs over our pupils' time at school. When we revisit we will extend and deepen these skills and concepts to ensure progression in learning appropriate to our learners' developmental stages.

We will work together to ensure a continuum of learning between phases / sectors to ensure appropriate continuity of learning and teaching.

We will ensure that the curriculum draws on the voice of our learners and responds to their needs, experiences and input into their learning.



The Curriculum at Ysgol Sant Elfod

We will ensure the following:

Our teachers plan authentic learning experiences that challenge and motivate the individual needs and contexts of all our pupils.

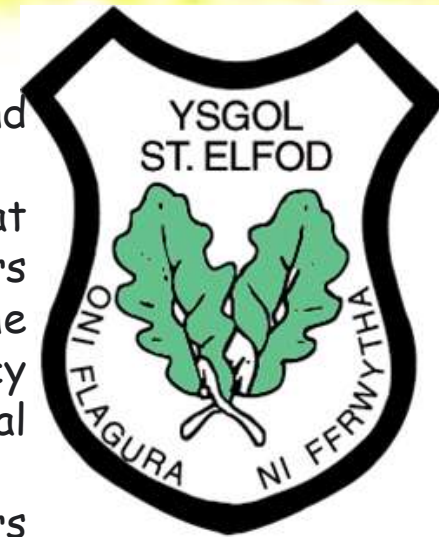
Our teachers will plan learning experiences across the AOLES that incorporate the cross-curricular and integral skills enabling learners to develop, practice and apply the skills fully. We will ensure that the level of challenge is appropriate i.e. that the literacy and numeracy skills match the level of our learners' language and mathematical skills.

A range of pedagogical styles will be used, with our practitioners choosing these approaches thoughtfully in the context of curriculum purposes and the needs and developmental stage of learners across the 3-16 continuum.

Our curriculum will reflect our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions.

English will be the day to day language of our school and Cymraeg will be taught to all classes following the Local Authority's language policy. Incidental Cymraeg will be used throughout the day to support the teaching of Cymraeg.

Our curriculum will incorporate various assessment strategies for learner progression and will include all the mandatory elements of the curriculum.



Curriculum Non Negotiables at Ysgol Sant Elfod

Outdoor Learning

At Ysgol Sant Elfod we have a wonderful Forest School area, a productive fruit and vegetable garden and lots of wonderful, wide open space that our children can use to learn and play. We pride ourselves on utilizing outdoor learning to teach all aspects of the curriculum. Our goal is to connect children to the environment, and through that connection, develop an understanding of how they can care for their immediate environment and the wider world.

Cross Curricular Skills

We place a strong emphasis upon developing learners' skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competency.

These are the essential building blocks for accessing broader and lifelong learning.

Pupil Voice

At Ysgol Sant Elfod we believe in giving learners a voice from contributing to curriculum design to how the bathrooms should be decorated. We have an active school Council, Eco Committee and Criw Cymraeg. We aim to make sure a broad section of our learners are represented.

Enrichment

We strive to make learning meaningful and rewarding. We want our learners to have expansive, rich and fun learning experiences.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing are prioritized at Ysgol Sant Elfod. With structured weekly lessons and a TIS approach underpinning our overall school approach. We want our learners to develop strong social, emotional, mental and physical skills in a calm and healthy learning environment.



Should you have any questions or require any further information about our curriculum at Ysgol Sant Elfod, please feel free to contact the head teacher, Mr. Gwynne Vaughan.

