

Caersws C P School
Curriculum Policy 21-22



Aims of Caersws Primary School

At Caersws Primary School we strive to promote an inclusive system. We are committed:

- To providing a safe, caring, happy ‘family’ atmosphere which supports both physical and emotional wellbeing.
- To ensuring pupils feel listened to and have their voice.
- To encouraging respect, understanding and empathy for each other.
- To encouraging independence, initiative and problem-solving skills.
- To creating a culture of co-operation and collaboration.
- To providing a learning environment where each individual pupil can achieve their highest potential in every aspect of development and develop a life-long love for learning.
- To providing a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities which place emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills and provide the knowledge needed for life in our ever-changing world.
- To choosing themes from pupil’s environments and local culture that will link areas of the curriculum in an integrated approach.
- To creating a sense of belonging in the community, encouraging parental and community involvement whenever possible to the benefit of our pupils.
- To making all pupils aware of the cultural traditions and identities represented in Wales, the UK, Europe and the wider world.

The Ethos and Values of the School

Our ethos includes:

- A high expectation of all learners whatever their ability,
- A recognition of the value of what children can bring with them from their home environments,
- Recognising the entitlement of all learners to equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum,
- An understanding of learning as an active and life-long process,
- Developing personal and moral values, respect for religious values and an understanding of other races, religions and ways of life,
- Understanding the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations,
- Appreciating achievements and aspirations,
- Understanding the major cultural and historic factors which have shaped Wales,

- A desire to create an atmosphere of mutual respect within the school,
- A belief that parental involvement is an essential tool of child development,
- A desire to forge links between the family, the school and the wider community, including the religious community and industry,
- An understanding of the importance of sustainable development and global citizenship.

The School's Curriculum Policy

At Caersws Primary School the curriculum is planned to engage the following principles.

The school's curriculum:

- Achieves high standards in personal and social development and in academic progress, fostering spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development,
- Matches suitable experiences and opportunities to the development of each child,
- Supports the less able and extends and challenges the more able,
- Ensures that pupils with additional learning needs have full access to all aspects of the curriculum which is delivered in an appropriate, interesting and stimulating way,
- Gives breadth, depth and progression in each subject,
- Widens horizons, develops an appetite for learning and prepares pupils for full, responsible and happy lives,
- Gives pupils a wide range of ICT skills to enable them to take full advantage of modern technology,
- Provides a stable, supportive and rich learning environment,
- Provides equal opportunities for all pupils irrespective of gender, race, ethnic origin, disabilities, social class or religion, to reach their full potential recognising different skills and abilities of individuals and groups,
- Provides pupils with key skills in numeracy and literacy, to enable them to become independent learners,
- Encourages and enables pupils to carry out self-evaluation and target setting in respect of their own work,
- Provides pupils with the skills and aptitude to use Welsh to the best of their ability,
- Provides teachers and parents with accurate information regarding attainment and progress and assesses what the next stage of learning will be,
- Fosters links between family, school and the wider community, including industrial links.

The pupils:

- Develop lively, enquiring minds with the ability to question and reason rationally,
- Set targets for improvement and evaluate their own progress,
- Apply themselves to tasks and physical skills,
- Develop their thinking skills, literacy, number and ICT to maximise their learning potential,
- Work hard, taking pride and delight in their achievements,
- Develop skills, knowledge and flexibility which will enable them to adapt successfully to the demands of a rapidly changing society,
- Are both secure and positive in their attitude towards school and therefore attend regularly and punctually,
- Are sensitive to the needs of others,

- Are encouraged to participate in many extra-curricular activities which will enhance their whole personality,
- Value people for who they are and what they can do,
- Have a caring attitude towards their environment and strive to make a positive contribution to sustainability and global citizenship,
- Have a secure sense of the place of the Welsh language and culture in Wales, in Britain and in Europe,
- Understand the nature of the multicultural society,
- Take up positions of responsibility in the school such as being a member of School Council/Eco Committee/Healthy Schools Committee or Criw Cymraeg, enabling them to make a positive contribution to school life.

Curriculum Planning

At Caersws Primary we plan our curriculum to meet the statutory requirements set out in the Foundation Phase Framework for Children’s Learning and the National Curriculum. We plan as far as possible using the thematic approach to provide opportunities for pupils to learn and then apply new skills in a practical context, and we involve the children in the planning. However, some subjects are taught discretely e.g., maths, phonics.

The long- and medium-term plans:

- Meet statutory requirements,
- Determine coverage and progression of skills,
- Provide support and resources for members of staff.

Weekly plans:

- Highlight the learning objectives, outline of lesson, differentiation and incorporate literacy, numeracy and ICT opportunities.

Time Allocation

At Caersws Primary we:

- Ensure adequate time is provided for each subject,
- Identify opportunities for developing key skills across the curriculum,
- Include activities which will enhance learning,
- Ensure an inclusive curriculum,
- Allow sufficient time for pupils to develop skills and knowledge in areas which are not linked to specific subjects e.g., Eisteddfod,
- Recognise the importance of PSE in the curriculum.

The school meets the minimum teaching and learning time requirements for FP and KS2.

The Curriculum

The National Literacy and Numeracy Framework

This is a tool that supports all teachers to embed literacy and numeracy in their teaching of the curriculum. The development of literacy and numeracy skills should be progressive and should consider the different literacy and numerical abilities of individual pupils.

Definition of Numeracy- “Numeracy is not the same as mathematics. Numeracy is proficiency with number that is acquired through being taught mathematics well. Although pupils usually learn their numeracy skills during mathematics lessons, to be fully numerate they must be able to apply these skills in other subject areas and real-life contexts.”

Definition of Literacy- Literacy is the use of language skills in daily activities at school, at home, at work, and in the community. It involves both using literacy skills and knowing how to use English and Welsh.”

Digital Competence Framework

The framework encapsulates the skills that will help learners thrive in an increasingly digital world. Digital competence is one of the three cross-curricular responsibilities alongside literacy and numeracy. It focuses on developing the digital skills which can be applied to a wide range of subjects and services. The framework has four strands of equal importance:

- Citizenship,
- Interaction and collaboration,
- Production,
- Data and computational thinking.

Foundation Phase

The youngest children experience a range of stimulating activities provided to promote children’s development across the following areas of learning:

- Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity
- Language, literacy and communication
- Mathematical development and numeracy
- Welsh language development
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development
- Religious education

Key Stage 2

Our older pupils follow a broadly topic-based approach, allowing links to be made between subject areas that provide a context for learning. The following subjects are planned for:

- English
- Mathematics

- Science
- Information technology
- History
- Geography
- Art and design
- Design and technology
- Music
- Physical education
- Religious education

E-safety

In accordance with Welsh Government guidelines, all pupils will be informed about e-safety in accordance with their age and level of understanding. E-safety is the knowledge of how to maximise the user's personal safety and minimise security risks to private information and property associated with using the internet, and from protection from computer crime in general.

Bilingualism

Pupils are encouraged to use the Welsh language throughout the curriculum areas. They respond to instructions in Welsh and reply to the teachers in age-appropriate manner. Pupils are also encouraged to use Welsh with their peer groups to reinforce learning and to make Welsh a natural part of the day.

Common Requirements

We aim to provide opportunities to enable pupils to develop and apply common requirements (Key Skills) through their study of all National Curriculum subjects. Teachers determine the number and range of such opportunities and link them to planning.

The common requirements are:

Cwricwlwm Cymreig

Pupils are given opportunities to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales.

Developing ICT

Pupils are given opportunities to develop and apply their ICT skills to obtain, prepare, process and present information and to communicate ideas with increasing independence.

Developing Thinking

Pupils are given opportunities to develop and apply their skills of asking appropriate questions, making predictions and coming to informed decisions.

Creativity

Pupils are given opportunities to develop and apply their creative skills, in particular the development and expression of ideas and imagination.

Personal And Social Education

Pupils are given opportunities to develop and apply attitudes, values, skills and knowledge and understanding relating to PSE.

The future

The school has identified the introduction of the new curriculum for Wales as a school priority 21-22, 'To fully develop the planning and implementation of the new curriculum for Wales'. The school aims to create new policies for each AoLE as discussed and analysed through staff discussions;

- LLC
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Humanities
- Science and Technology
- Expressive Arts

**All our
children
and young
people
will be...**

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.

healthy, confident individuals who:

- › have secure values and are establishing their 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 safe and well
- › 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.

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.

Homework

It is not statutory for schools to provide homework. However, Caersws School has chosen to do so and this increases as a child moves up through the year groups.

Parents And The Curriculum

Parents have an important role to play in their child's education. Parents are asked to support learning by:

- Listening to their child read books sent home by the school,
- Being involved in home/school projects,
- Attending parent evenings to receive an update on their child's progress,
- Informing the school of any issues which could affect their child's progress,
- Attending any curriculum, induction meetings, assemblies, open days,

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for pupils to consolidate skills they have learned in formal lessons and to have experience of a wider range of activities which develop new skills, confidence and self-esteem. Pupils can learn musical instruments; peripatetic tutors can provide lessons for pupils who are learning brass instruments, guitar, violin and piano (these have transferred to virtual lessons during the pandemic). Sporting opportunities include gymnastics, netball, football, rugby, tennis, swimming, adventure activities and cross country. We operate an Equal Opportunity Policy in respect to our extra-curricular activities.

Celebrating Success

Pupil success in all areas (not just academic) is celebrated in a number of ways including a weekly Celebration assembly.

Conclusion

At Caersws Primary School we aim to make the curriculum stimulating, creative, relevant and suitable for a wide range of abilities. The curriculum equips pupils with the skills necessary to be active, lifelong learners. It also encourages pupils to respect cultural and racial differences enabling them to live and work harmoniously in a culturally diverse Wales. Our school recognises the importance of parents, governors, pupils, teachers and the community working together. Parents and governors support the school in developing an appropriate curriculum. By working together, we can provide the best possible start for every child.