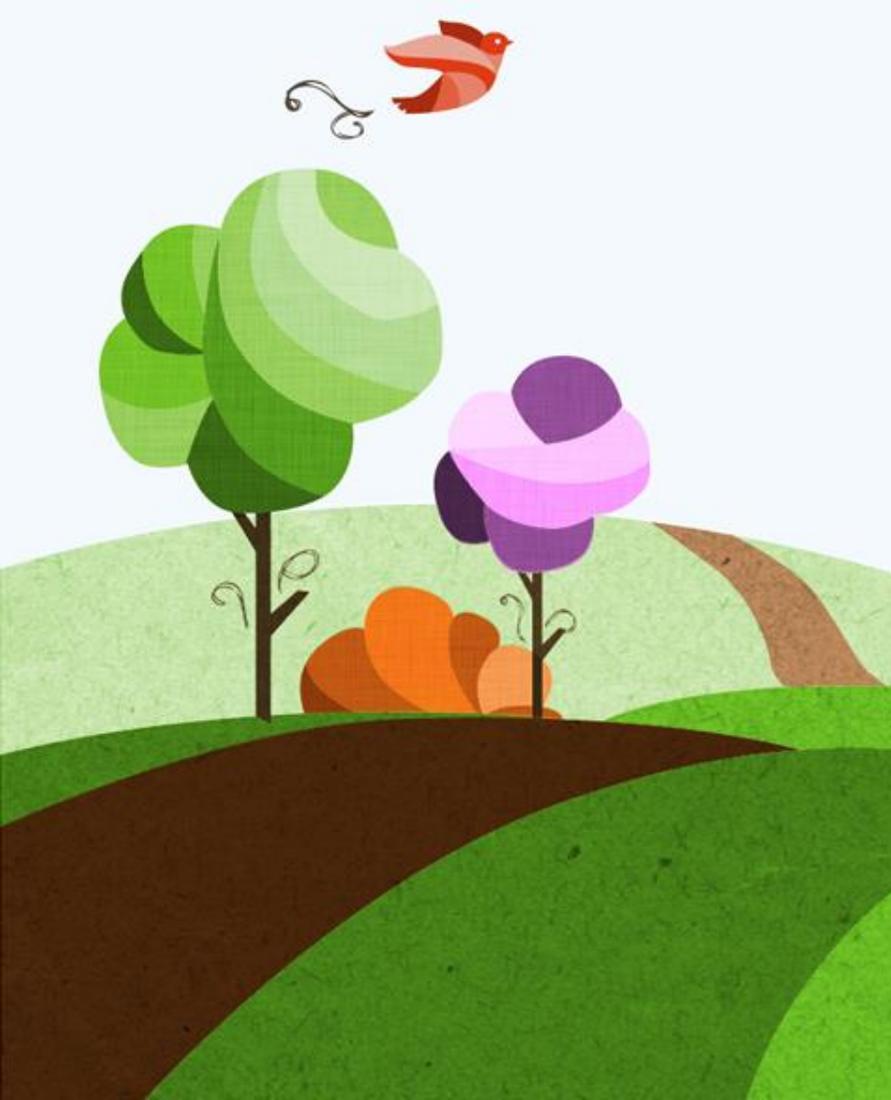




# Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl VC Church in Wales

Curriculum for Wales Rationale



# Our Vision and Aims

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

- We listened to learners, parents, staff and governors. These twelve words and phrases occurred most frequently when discussing our vision:
- **Teachers, Friendship, Learning, Small school, Fun, Happiness, Confidence, Respect, Curiosity, Inclusive, Community, Family atmosphere**

From these we were able to construct a new motto/Mission Statement and establish our aims for the Curriculum for Wales.

## Motto/Mission Statement

*'We learn, we smile, we live, we dream together'*

## Aim

*At Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl we aim to provide an outstanding learning environment that is happy, supportive and where children's confidence and curiosity as life-long learners is nurtured to reach their full potential in an inclusive Christian ethos.*





# Our Values

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

- **Our Christian Values are:**

- Generosity
- Compassion
- Courage
- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- Respect
- Thankfulness
- Trust
- Perseverance
- Justice
- Service
- Truthfulness
- Creativity
- Peace
- Hope
- Humility
- Wisdom
- Responsibility

Our three main Christian Values chosen by the pupils are: **Wisdom, Friendship and Respect**

The core Christian values of respect, wisdom and friendship positively affect on teaching and learning so that pupils' engagement in learning is high. This results in pupils having very positive approaches to their learning.

Dyffryn Iâl is a caring school community where Christian values are deeply embedded in each aspect of school life and underpin the life and work of the school.

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. Regularly pupil led, it provides excellent opportunities for personal and spiritual reflection.



# Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl - Context

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl is a voluntary controlled church school situated in the village of Llandegla. The school serves the rural villages of Llandegla and Bryneglwys but also draws upon other local villages. Llandegla is approximately eight miles from the town of Ruthin. We provide education for approximately fifty learners from three to eleven years old. We offer nursery provision during the afternoon sessions. There is a breakfast club and a private after school club available for all our learners.

Currently 8% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. We have identified 18% of pupils as having additional learning needs.

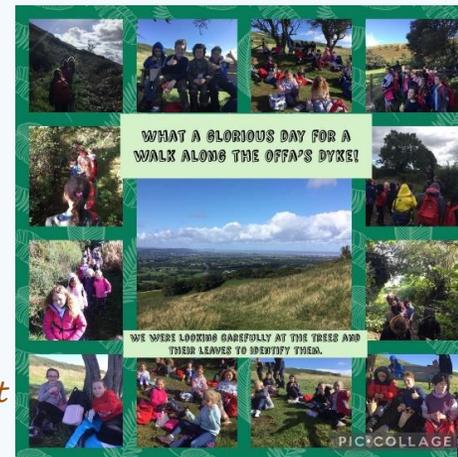
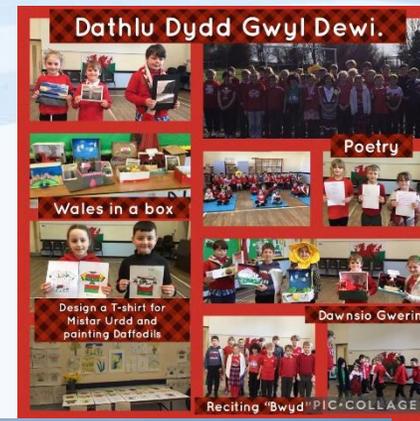
At Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl we teach predominantly through the medium of English but with significant use of the Welsh language. The home language of all pupils is English.

Learners celebrate the Welsh language, culture and heritage throughout their work. We ensure we incorporate the principles of Cymraeg Campus in all aspects of our curriculum. During their time in KS2, learners have opportunities to attend residential trips to Pentrëllyncymer, Glanllyn and Cardiff.

As a Church in Wales school Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl aims to provide, in partnership with all stakeholders, a quality education and a breadth of opportunities, so that all pupils reach their full potential.

We aim to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.





# Our Curriculum

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



A curriculum is important to every school and its learners. When designing Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl's curriculum we have ensured that the learning will be engaging, relevant, challenging and motivational to children in the classroom and beyond.

Our aim is to provide high quality teaching experiences will ensure our learners are ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy citizens.

Our appealing and engaging topics, together with pupil voice, will allow learners to have opportunities to work in ways that enhance their learning and also present their work in their own unique and personal way.





# Designing Our Curriculum



*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

## 1. Principles & Purpose

- Determining the intent of our curriculum

## 2. Entitlement & Enhancement

- Determining our learner offer

## 3. Breadth & Balance

- Determining the content of our curriculum

## 4. Pedagogy

- Planning the delivery of our curriculum

## 5. Progression & Assessment

- Planning for progression

## 6. Review & Evaluate

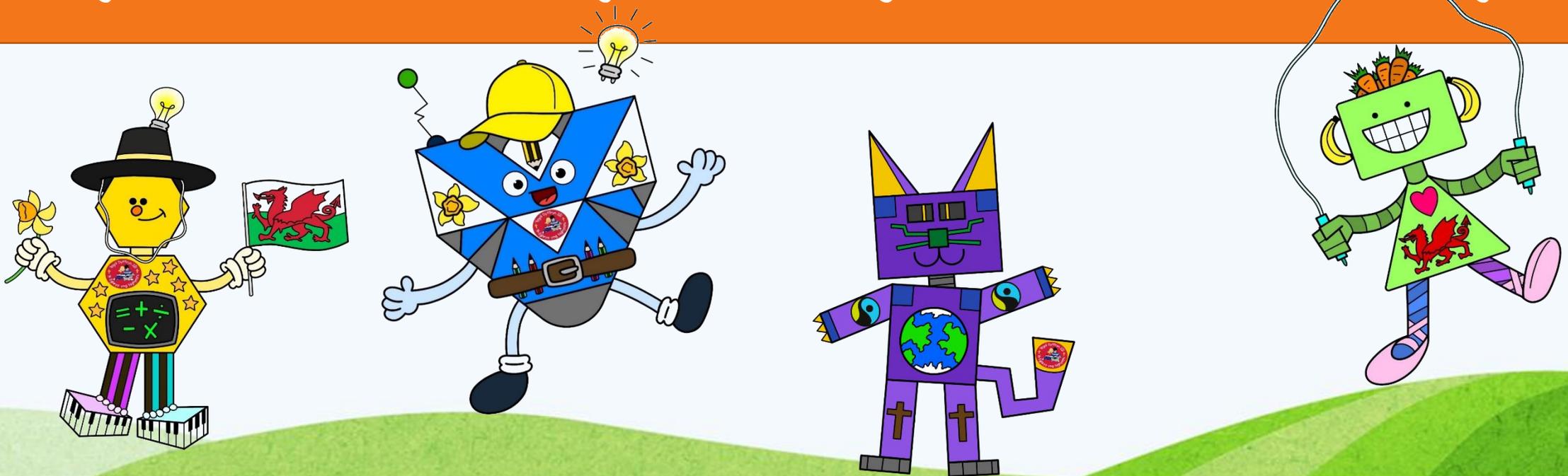
- Decide what works well and what areas need development

## The Four Purposes

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

The purpose of the New Curriculum is to support our children and young people to achieve the four Core Purposes, which are:

- 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



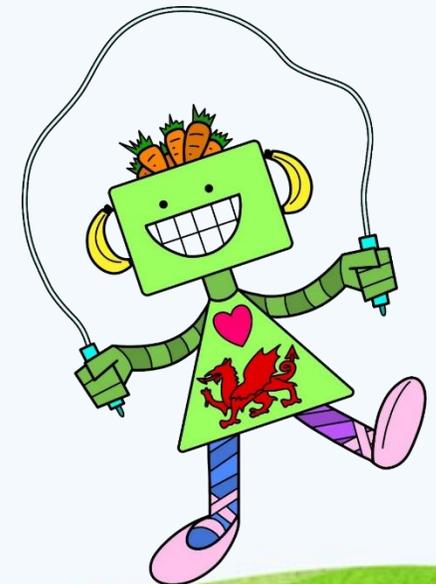
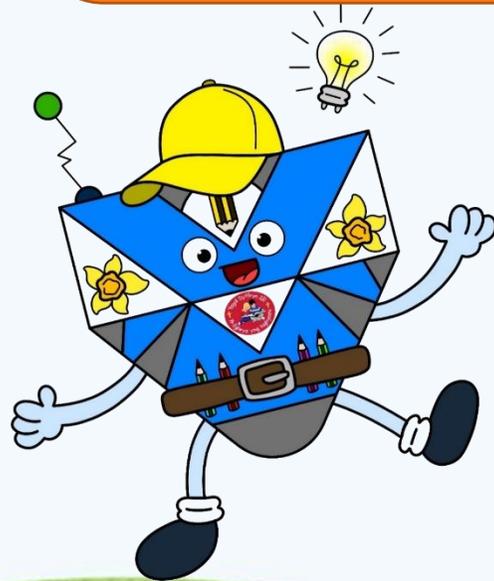
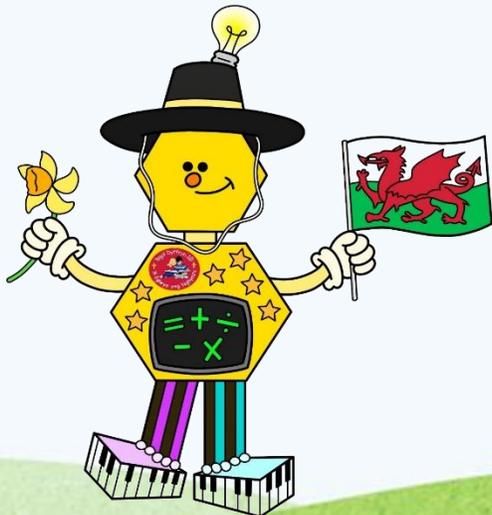


# The Four Purposes

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



Come and meet our Four Purpose characters, designed and created by the pupils of Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl. In the following four slides you will meet the characters and see how we have made the Four Purposes more child-friendly.



# Ambitious Capable Ana

I can try my best and challenge myself

I can use my knowledge and skills in different ways

I can ask questions and enjoy solving problems



I can find out information and give my opinion

I can understand data and use my mathematical skills

I can use digital technology to create, communicate and find information

I can communicate and explain my ideas in different languages

I am ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

# Enterprising Creative Efan

I can use my knowledge and skills to create something new

I can think of different ways to solve a problem

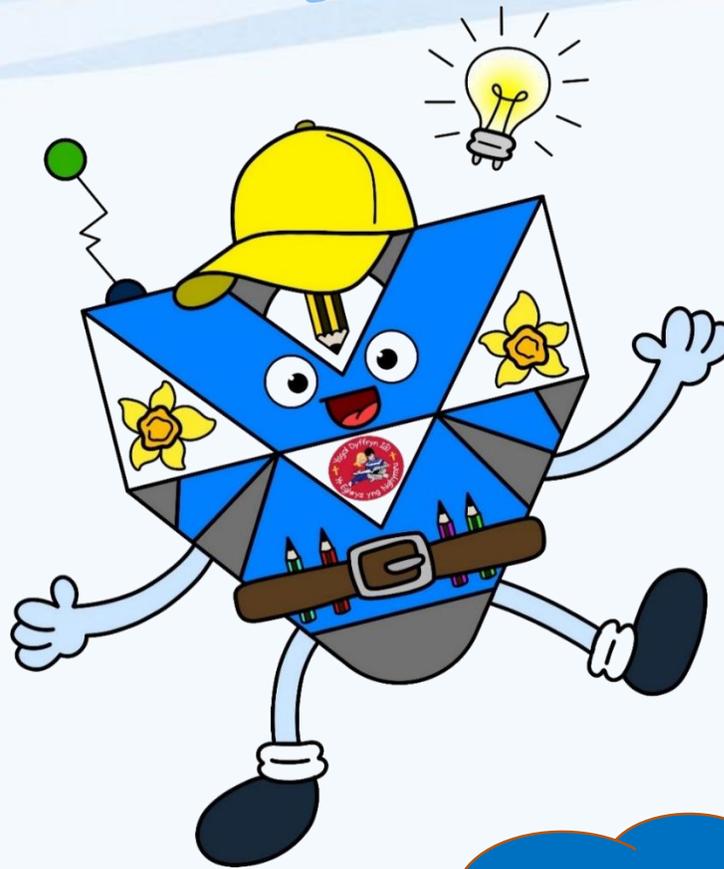
I can use information to help me take risks

I can make the most of every opportunity

I can use my energy and skills to help others

I can work well in a team taking different roles

I can show my ideas and emotions using different media



I am ready to play a full part in life and work.

# Ethically Informed Edi

I can use information to help me have an opinion

I can find out good and bad things that are happening in the world and how it could affect me

I can understand that I have rights and responsibilities

I can understand that what I do has an effect on others



I can show that I know about the world around me now and in the past

I can show respect for people in the world around me

I can understand how important it is that we look after our planet

I am ready to be a citizen of Wales and the world.

# Healthy Confident Hana



*I can become more confident and resilient*

*I can understand how to treat others and understand what other people are feeling*

*I can understand how to keep healthy by eating a balanced diet and taking part in regular exercise*

*I can take part in physical activity*

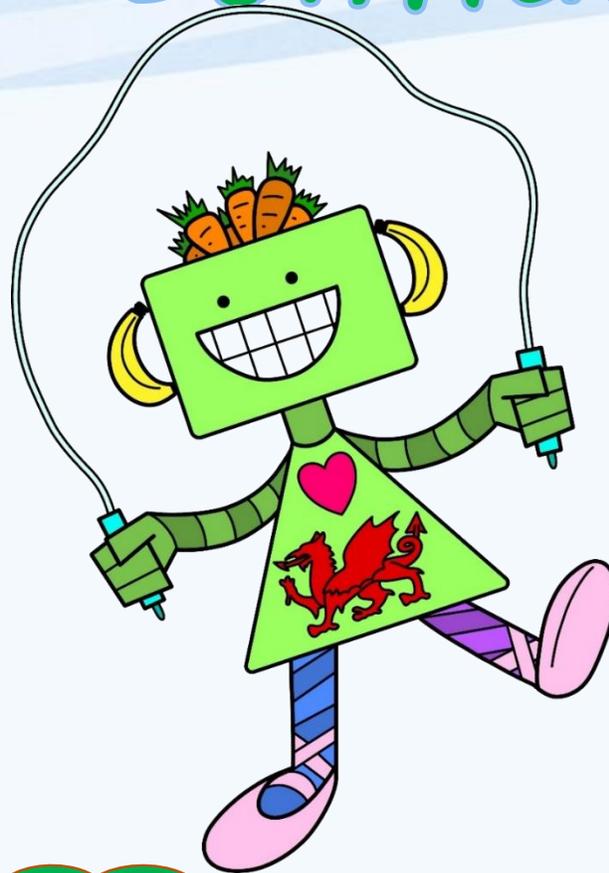
*I can find information to keep me safe*

*I can show confidence when performing*

*I can overcome challenge*

*I can use knowledge and skills to become more independent*

*I can friends and be a good friend*



*I am ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.*



# Areas Of Learning Experiences

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

Our curriculum is divided into six Area of Learning Experiences (AOLEs). They are:





# Curricular Responsibilities

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



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.

Religion, values and ethics

Relationships and sexuality education (RSE)

Welsh

English



# Curricular Responsibilities

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

Our Ysgol Dyffryn Ial curriculum embeds the mandatory cross-curricular skills, integral skills and cross-cutting themes, which underpin the Four Purposes of the Curriculum.

## Three Cross-Curricular Skills

**Literacy**  
Develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills

**Numeracy**  
Be able to use numbers and solve problems in real-life situations

**Digital Competency**  
Be confident users of a range of technologies to help them function and communicate effectively and make sense of the world

## Integral Skills

Creativity & Innovation

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

Planning & Organisation

Personal Effectiveness

## Five Cross-Cutting Themes

Local, national and international context

Careers and work-related experience

Diversity

Relationships and sexuality education

Human Rights and the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

## Statements of What Matters

*We will develop the skills and concepts contained within the twenty seven Statements of What Matters in the AOLES. When we revisit we will extend and deepen these skills and concepts to ensure progression in learning appropriate to our pupils' developmental stages*

Expressive Arts	Health & Well Being	Humanities	Language, Literacy and Communication	Mathematics & Numeracy	Science & Technology
<p><b>WM1</b> Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals.</p>	<p><b>WM1</b> Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits.</p>	<p><b>WM1</b> Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.</p>	<p><b>WM1</b> Languages connect us.</p>	<p><b>WM1</b> The number system is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities.</p>	<p><b>WM1</b> Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena.</p>
<p><b>WM2</b> Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts.</p>	<p><b>WM2</b> How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being.</p>	<p><b>WM2</b> Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways.</p>	<p><b>WM2</b> Understanding languages is key to understanding the world around us.</p>	<p><b>WM2</b> Algebra uses symbol systems to express the structure of mathematical relationships.</p>	<p><b>WM2</b> Design thinking and engineering offer technical and creative ways to meet society's needs and wants.</p>
<p><b>WM3</b> Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.</p>	<p><b>WM3</b> Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our lives and the lives of others.</p>	<p><b>WM3</b> Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.</p>	<p><b>WM3</b> Expressing ourselves through language is key to communication.</p>	<p><b>WM3</b> Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world.</p>	<p><b>WM3</b> The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.</p>
	<p><b>WM4</b> How we engage with social influences shapes who we are and affects our health and well-being.</p>	<p><b>WM4</b> Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.</p>	<p><b>WM4</b> Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity.</p>	<p><b>WM4</b> Statistics represent data, probability models chance and both support informed inferences and decisions.</p>	<p><b>WM4</b> Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives.</p>
	<p><b>WM5</b> Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well-being.</p>	<p><b>WM5</b> Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action.</p>			<p><b>WM5</b> Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe.</p>
					<p><b>WM6</b> Computation is the foundation for our digital world.</p>



# Our Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl 'Non-Negotiables'



*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

At Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl we aim to enrich and broaden our curriculum through experiential learning opportunities within our locality and further afield. Our pupils are entitled to a variety of non-negotiables that enhances their personal development.

- ❑ *Our Whole School Projects – For one day of each term the whole school works on a project together. The projects give pupils a deeper understanding of relevant topics e.g. Eco project, school environment*
- ❑ *Health & Well-being – On 'Well-being Wednesdays' all our pupils have one session to concentrate on the Five Ways to Well-being – Take Notice, Connect, Be active, Keep learning and Give*
- ❑ *Church Links – The children have a weekly service in St. Teclas church for Collective Worship and support the pupils Christian values.*
- ❑ *Whole School Services – These are held in St Teclas & St Tysilio church for significant times in the Church calendar such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.*
- ❑ *Real PE – is a unique, child-centred approach that transforms how we teach PE to include, challenge and support EVERY child.*



# Planning

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



Teachers' Long-Term Planning ensures that the curriculum is broad and is balanced. It covers the topics taught over the academic year over a four-year cycle.

Medium-term planning is devised to ensure that the Statements of What Matters are covered in a progressive way through a combination of pupil voice and direct teaching of skills and concepts.



# Pedagogy

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



At Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl we provide our pupils with discipline, specific knowledge and skills by directly teaching them English, Mathematics, Cymraeg and ICT (in Foundation Phase only). For the rest of the day pupils choose work on their termly topic based on the big question.

## The Power of Pupil Voice

At Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl, the teachers choose the topics but the children decide what they want to learn from it. Pupils are motivated and enthused by their invaluable and heavily involved input into the topic.



# Pedagogical Principles

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

Create authentic context for learning

Encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning

Support social and emotional development and 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 four purposes

Use assessment for learning to accelerate progress

Make connections within and across Areas of Learning and Experience

Reinforce Cross-Curricular Responsibilities, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence

*A range of pedagogical styles will be used, with our teachers choosing these approaches thoughtfully in the context of the curriculum purposes and the needs and developmental stages of pupils.*



# Pedagogy

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



## Chilli Challenges

*'Chilli challenges' is a teaching and learning strategy designed to give students a degree of choice over the activities they complete and therefore more ownership of their learning, which then allows work to be more closely matched with each student's ability.*

## Talking Partners

*Pupils rotate Talking Partners each week*

- Children are encouraged to discuss their learning and become more actively involved*
- It gives children time to formulate their opinions and find an answer they are confident with*
- Children are more comfortable discussing their ideas with a peer before a teacher*
- It involves everybody, instead of the same students answering questions*



# Assessment

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



## The Purpose of assessment

The Curriculum for Wales gives us the opportunity to ensure that pupils' progress is the primary purpose of Assessment and not an accountability exercise. We will use various assessment strategies, which will enable each individual pupil to make progress at an appropriate pace, ensuring they are supported and challenged accordingly. Initially we will be using Taith 360 as an assessment and tracking tool.

Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl will fulfil the Curriculum's Assessment Purposes as follows:

### 1. Support Individual Learners on a daily basis

Formative assessment of consistently high quality in the day-to-day classroom provides learners and practitioners with a clear picture of attainment and next steps.

### 2. Identifying, capturing and reflecting on individual learner progress over time



And

### 3. Understanding group progress in order to reflect on practice.



Teachers are given regular opportunities to discuss the progress and needs of learners and specific group of learners through professional dialogue in order to plan for further progress. These discussions will also include any transfer and transition between classes and schools.

We also assess and monitor each learner's well-being (PASS) and cognitive development (CAT4). These assessments are used to formulate an accurate snapshot which provide attainment, progress and well-being targets.



# Assessment

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*

## Communicating and engaging with parents/carers



Communication with parents/carers is imperative in any school. At Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl, we do this efficiently and effectively. This fosters a positive relationship in order to engage them in purposeful and meaningful dialogue. When undertaken well, this can help pupil progression by helping parents/carers to understand how they can support the learning within and outside the school environment.

We communicate in a variety of effective ways through face-to-face meetings/parent's evenings, SeeSaw and email.

Information on any support, interventions or additional needs required for the pupils' development is shared with parents and carers.





# Review & Evaluate

*'We learn, We smile, We live, We dream together'*



Now that we have established our new curriculum at Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl, it is imperative that we regularly review its impact on teaching and learning, making any adaptations or changes we need to improve it further. We will encourage further professional learning opportunities and additional planning and review days in school to continue to improve our curriculum.

