



**BRYN CELYNNOG**

Comprehensive School

*Nurturing Success*

# **CURRICULUM POLICY**

**LAST APPROVED BY GOVERNORS:  
NOVEMBER 2023**

**DATE FOR REVIEW: NOVEMBER 2024**

## **BRYN CELYNNOG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

### **CURRICULUM POLICY**

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

The school aims to:

- instil in students a passion for learning which will last a lifetime
- foster students' creativity and curiosity;
- develop students' learning skills and discipline for learning;
- promote a healthy and active lifestyle;
- promote outstanding teaching.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

The school's curriculum follows statutory requirements and the requirements of the National Curriculum.

It is balanced and broadly based, and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our students and of society and prepares our students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

We expect students to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy, numeracy, and ICT, as well as thinking skills, the ability to work with others, problem solving and improving own performance.

The curriculum includes:

- personal, social, health education, reflecting the school's aims and ethos;
- religious education;
- appropriate careers guidance;
- physical education.

#### **Equal opportunities**

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

#### **Disabilities**

In accordance with the statutory requirements, the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all students as far as is reasonably practicable. The school has an Accessibility Plan and an Equality Policy, which is available to parents on request.

#### **Differentiation**

A variety of teaching and learning methods and materials are used in all courses to suit students' different needs.

## **Class sizes**

Class sizes are generally no larger than 32, with the exception of the accelerated groups which may be slightly larger. SEN classes usually contain no more than 15-18 students. Most practical subjects are taught with class sizes 20 or below.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Years 7 - 8 – Curriculum for Wales**

Curriculum for Wales guidance was published by Welsh Government in January 2020 for roll out from September 2022. In short, it aims to help each school develop its own curriculum, enabling their learners to develop towards the four purposes of education – the starting point and aspiration for every child and young person in Wales.

The principles set out in the four purposes of Curriculum for Wales are already central to everything we do at Bryn. We endeavour to ensure we meet all of our pupils' various and evolving needs in a way that will equip them to succeed in leading fulfilling lives as valued members of society. We regularly listen to our learners' views on the academic, social, emotional and physical aspects of their learning experiences and continually look for ways to put their views into practice.

Curriculum for Wales requires schools create a curriculum that covers six Areas of Learning:

- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Maths and Numeracy
- Science and Technology
- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities

### **Curriculum for Wales at Bryn Celynnog**

Nurturing Success: At Bryn Celynnog we endeavour to meet each and every student's evolving academic, social and emotional needs, while cultivating their individual talents, in order to equip them to succeed and thrive in school and as valued members of society.

We have designed a rich and varied curriculum which will provide our students with experiences, skills, knowledge and understanding aimed at igniting passions, inspiring a lifelong love of learning and equipping them to flourish in school and beyond. It is our intent to nurture our learners to succeed in becoming:

- 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

### **Cross Curricular Priorities**

The Areas of Learning are underpinned by the cross curricular priorities: Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence. We have long been committed to prioritising skills development in

order to provide every pupil with the tools they need to succeed in 21st century society. We feel it is important that pupils are presented with real life, problem solving situations in order for them to develop their literacy, numeracy, reasoning and ICT skills in ways that are relevant to their lives.

These three crucial, transferrable skills form the basis for learning across our current curriculum, and will remain as the basis of our new curriculum. Over the past ten years we have done extensive and successful work in the area of skills development, as evidenced in our results at all Key Stages, which show significant year on year improvement. Our approaches have been highlighted as excellent practice and as such we have been asked to share our them with schools across the region.

Access our Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Toolkits to view our principal methods and terminology, which will help you to support your child's skills development at home.

#### Cross-cutting Themes

In addition, each student's learning journey will incorporate valuable opportunities to broaden their consideration of local, national and international contexts, and to develop their understanding of relationships, human rights, diversity, and careers and work-related experiences.

In Years 7 - 8, within the areas of learning and experience, students study:

- English / literacy
- Maths / numeracy
- Science
- Spanish
- Welsh
- Art
- Geography
- History
- Music
- **Drama**
- Technology
- PE
- RE
- PSE

#### **Years 9 - 11**

The school gives students opportunities for accreditation by various bodies in a number of subjects, including GCSEs, BTECs, Level 1/2 Awards and other qualifications at level 1 and level 2. This caters well for the full spread of ability. Access to the Learning Core ensures that students acquire key skills, knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values, and a range of common experiences.

At Key Stage 4, a range of pathways are available for all students, with carefully structured guidance to ensure that students opt for the most appropriate personalised pathway.

Students study the following

- GCSE English Language plus English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics plus Numeracy (plus Additional Mathematics for the more able)
- GCSE Science as Double Award or GCSE Biology/Chemistry/Physics
- GCSE Full Course Welsh
- GCSE Short Course Religious Education
- Personal & Social Education / Work Related Education / Sex Education
- Physical Development
- Skills challenge certificate (Welsh Bacallaureate)

In addition, students are able to select from the following courses:

### **Level 2**

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE French
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Digital Technology
- GCSE Music
- BTEC Performing Arts
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Spanish
- BTEC Sport

### **Level 1 / 2 Awards**

- Engineering
- Retail Business

### **Other Level 1/2 Qualifications**

- Princes Trust
- LiFE (Lessons in Financial Education)
- Agored Cymru (PSE/Work Skills)

Robust transition arrangements are in place at KS3-4, including opportunities for one-to-one interviews between senior staff and students and their parents at a special Year 9 Options Evening; interviews with the Careers Advisor; and informal opportunities to discuss appropriate individual choices with the Head of Learning.

## **Post 16**

The Sixth Form operates as part of a successful consortium with the neighbouring comprehensive school, Y Pant.

The school operates an open Sixth Form and welcomes students of all abilities. However, there are strict entry requirements for certain courses. Students wishing to pursue A level courses must achieve at least a grade B in their chosen subjects. (C grade pupils are accepted on trial.)

The range of post-16 courses available to students is extensive, with five common option columns to ensure breadth of choice to students from both schools. A common Sixth Form prospectus is published annually. Common transport arrangements are in place. Due to consortium arrangements, class sizes are, in general, viable. Psychology is taught on both sites by a teacher who is employed jointly by both schools.

All pupils at KS5 will follow the advanced Skills Challenge Certificate.

## **Disapplication**

In accordance with the law, the school has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the National Curriculum programmes, or dis-applying the National Curriculum for the duration of Key Stage 4, to:

- allow a student to participate in extended work-related learning;
- allow a student with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area; and
- allow a student making significantly less progress than other students of his/her age to consolidate his/her learning and progress across the curriculum.

Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the student and parent.

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is available to all students.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education in years 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Parents do not have the right to disapply their children in year 7 and 8 due to the new RSE Code.

## **Collective Worship**

All students up to Year 11 are expected to take part in daily collective worship. The worship is mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not distinctive of a particular Christian denomination.

The school has a programme of collective worship involving year group assemblies, house assemblies and tutor group assemblies.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. Parents should inform the Head Teacher in writing if they wish to withdraw their child from collective worship.

### **Sex Education**

The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all students, in which students are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life.

A full statement of the school's Sex & Relationships Education Policy is available to parents.

In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all students, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons. **Year 7 and 8 students cannot be withdrawn due to the new RSE Code.**

### **Political Education**

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner.

### **Physical Development**

All students are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme. Students can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the school.

### **Extra-curricular activities & YEPS**

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All students are encouraged to take part in the programme.

### **Homework**

The school expects homework to be set as appropriate.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The school has a special educational needs policy for statemented and non-statemented students. The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with parents and the Local Authority.

### **Concerns & Complaints**

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the student's Head of Learning.

If the issue is not resolved parents should make an official complaint in writing to the Headteacher.

### **PERFORMANCE**

This policy will be monitored by the Deputy Headteacher in charge of the Curriculum, who will report to the Headteacher on its implementation on a regular basis.

The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body's Curriculum Committee on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.