



# Tywyn Primary Pupil Voice Policy

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ARTICLE 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child(UNCRC) sets out the right of children and young people to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account on any matter that affects them**

### **Rationale**

We believe that children need to be active participants in their own education and to feel that their opinions will be heard in the wider school community. At Tywyn Primary School, we therefore seek ways to listen to the views of our pupils and involve them in decision making so that they are engaged as partners in the life of the school. We believe that this will make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

### **Student voice and pupil participation activities**

There is a wide range of approaches that we are developing at Tywyn Primary School to support pupil participation and promote pupil voice:

- School Council (see separate policy), Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg, Eco-Committee
- Year 6 Monitors
- Fundraising campaigns (both teacher and pupil initiated)
- Assessment for Learning – self and peer assessment
- Parent Consultation meetings – children participating in their parents’ evenings by giving their views and outlining their strengths and areas for development
- Listening to Learners – children develop ‘good learning dispositions’ to be able to discuss their development as learners
- Pupils with additional learning needs are involved in decisions that affect their learning and well- being through their Person Centred Reviews and One Page Profiles
- Pupil questionnaires
- Suggestion boxes

### **Curriculum**

We also believe in embedding pupil voice into the curriculum, with teaching and learning activities being used to enable pupils to be curious and motivated, and to make informed decisions about their lives, their health and wellbeing, and the environment. Children are consulted about their own areas of interest and enquiry; these are taken into account in the teacher’s planning.

### **Involving pupils in their own learning**

Pupil participation in their own learning means a range of different things in the classroom. It includes developing projects to reflect interests and needs as expressed by pupils; encouraging pupils’ reflection on their own and others’ learning; reflection by pupils on the style and content of lessons and opportunities to give feedback to teachers.



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Assessment for Learning encourages a view of assessment as an essential part of everyday classroom practice involving teachers and learners in reflection, dialogue, decision-making and target setting.

### **Benefits of pupil involvement**

There is a range of benefits in greater participation. For pupils these include increased self-confidence and feelings of empowerment, and a greater sense of responsibility. Behaviour has the potential to improve with pupils taking greater responsibility for their own behaviour, as well as improved learning. We believe that there is a positive impact of pupil participation on their own work and the school environment. Children's insight into the ways they learn best and the ideas that they have for lesson content and style as well as their ideas on the life of the school should be welcomed. Pupils' learning will improve when their views are taken into consideration. This can only have a positive impact on raising standards.

### **Developing a whole school approach**

To encourage a consistent, positive attitude to pupil participation at Tywyn Primary School, the whole staff, including the non-teaching staff, should understand the benefits of pupil participation, be clear in their role in terms of supporting pupil participation and be kept well-informed about issues being discussed and proposals put forward by the school council and other pupil representative groups. Staff will identify and share good practice to help promote a coherent approach which supports continuity as pupils move between classes and year groups. We will also incorporate this into relevant policies. We believe that our pupils have an important part to play in helping us to improve in every aspect of school life.

"Children and young people's participation in wider aspects of learning needs to build on the work of school councils to secure real engagement in the learning process."

Where learners are actively involved they are more likely to be engaged in school life, leading to improved learning and well-being.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Pupil participation and pupil voice are monitored and evaluated by the Headteacher in line with other existing procedures for curriculum development.



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