

Alltwen Primary School

Curriculum Policy



Our School Vision

During 2025 we collaborated with our children, parents and governors to refresh our school vision to encapsulate our daily values and aspirations for all.

‘Kind hearts, healthy minds, happy lives - a safe and friendly school where everyone belongs to the Alltwen family’

Our Mission Statement

‘We’re more than a school we’re a family’

Our Vision Principles

At Alltwen Primary School, our curriculum is shaped by our vision that “We’re more than a school, we’re a family.” We believe that every child should feel safe, valued, and supported to be kind, healthy and happy as they grow within our community school. Our curriculum principles reflect our commitment to nurturing respectful relationships, promoting wellbeing, encouraging curiosity, and ensuring high-quality learning experiences for all. We aim to provide rich, meaningful opportunities that help pupils develop the skills, knowledge and character they need to thrive—both within school and beyond it—guided always by the principles of kindness, hard work and thinking before we act.

Our Aims

Our aim at Alltwen Primary School is to ensure all our children and their families are safe and happy with an understanding that as a school community we are committed to building good relationships based on mutual respect and trust. In doing so we can work together to secure the very best of opportunities for everyone.

We will...

Enable all our children to raise their aspirations and ambitions to succeed in everything they choose.

Ignite interests and stimulate passions, developing our children’s confidence in themselves as enterprising, creative contributors, in expanding their horizons within and beyond the classroom.

Build partnerships within our community and beyond to develop ethically informed citizens who make the right choices and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the ever-changing world.

Develop healthy, confident individuals who are active, resilient and empathetic and are ready to lead happy, fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Curriculum for Wales

The Curriculum for Wales became live in September 2022.

We pride ourselves on providing a broad curriculum of learning which gives every child many opportunities to pursue the four purposes through a range of concepts.

Children between the ages of 3 to 11 years are organised into the year groups: Nursery, Reception, Year One, Year Two, Year Three, Year Four, Year Five and Year Six.

Learning is planned using The Curriculum for Wales. There are Four Purposes which drive the teaching and learning throughout the curriculum, these are:-

Ambitious, Capable Learners

Ethically Informed Citizens

Enterprising Creative Contributors

Healthy Confident Individuals

There are six Areas of Learning and Experience, these are:-

Languages, Literacy and Communication

Mathematics and Numeracy

Expressive Arts

Health and Well-Being

Humanities

Science and Technology

Opportunities for the pupils to use and apply the cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence are planned for across all areas of learning and experience.

We also aim for our pupils to develop the integral skills of personal effectiveness, creativity and innovation, planning and organising and critical thinking and problem solving throughout their learning journey from 3 to 16 years.

Read Write Inc.

Teach a child to read and keep that child reading and we will change everything.
(Jeanette Winterson)

At Alltwen Primary School, we want to offer your child the best possible start to becoming an independent reader therefore our delivery of phonics is taught through an established and successful programme called Read Write Inc.

Read Write Inc. is a fast paced, rigorous literacy program that is designed to give young children confidence when learning how to read, write, and spell. The program is divided into several stages, each of which builds upon the previous stage and helps children to develop their literacy skills further.

During these sessions, children will be taught to:

- Decode effortlessly
- Spell and handwrite with ease
- Read with fluency and expression
- Comprehend what they read
- Write confidently using oral rehearsal
- Work effectively with a partner to articulate their learning at every step.

Once children have successfully completed Read Write Inc phonics, children will continue to develop further literacy skills through Read Write Inc Comprehension and Read Write Inc Language and Literacy. Pupils read rich anthologies of complete texts by leading children's authors and explore the text in depth with a wealth of engaging activities linked to the texts. Furthermore, during sessions the teaching of more extensive phonics is supported through the Read Write Inc spelling programme.

Concrete, Visual, Abstract Approach to Teaching Mathematics

At Alltwen Primary School we use a concrete, visual, abstract (CVA) approach to the teaching and learning of mathematics. We aim for all children to develop a deep and secure understanding of mathematical concepts, where children enjoy their learning and believe they can achieve.

Blocks of learning are taught using a concrete, visual and abstract approach.

- Concrete – children are first provided with the opportunity to explore concepts practically using manipulatives (cubes, counters, bead strings etc.) to model their mathematical thinking.
- Visual – children are then encouraged to draw pictures or diagrams to model their understanding of concepts.

- Abstract – children then move on to more formal mathematical representations and symbols once they have a good understanding of the concrete and pictorial.

During the ‘concrete’ stage of learning children are given time to explore, make connections and discuss their learning. Teachers ‘model’ mathematical sentences to scaffold children in explaining their understanding of the different concepts.

Rather than accelerating onto new content, children are given problem solving and reasoning tasks which challenge their thinking, deepen knowledge and improve reasoning.

Concept Based Curriculum

At Alltwen Primary School we use a concept-based curriculum (CBC). It is an approach to curriculum design that moves away from subject-specific content and instead emphasizes “big ideas” that span multiple subject areas or disciplines. For example, in a CBC classroom, students may study the big idea of “change” in a variety of areas, from patterns in mathematics, to civilizations in social studies, to life cycles in science.

The impetus behind CBC is preparing students for the 21st century by encouraging them to think at a higher level and understand the ‘*so what*’ of what they are learning. After all, the 21st century needs students who can think conceptually.

“Conceptual thinking requires the ability to critically examine factual information; relate to prior knowledge; see patterns and connections; draw out significant understandings at the conceptual level; evaluate the truth of the understandings across time or situations; and, often, use the conceptual understanding to creatively solve a problem or create a new product, process, or idea.”

(Anna Murphy)

Human Rights

Throughout their time with us the pupils will have the opportunity to explore and discuss human rights and the rights of the child.

Using the UNCRC and the Rights Respecting Schools framework we strive to ensure that pupils become empowered, respectful and knowledgeable individuals, well equipped to lead a safe and happy life.

British Sign Language and Modern Foreign Languages

Pupils will learn the BSL alphabet, basic greetings/commands and personal information in order to communicate with each other and the wider community.

In Year 6 pupils will begin to learn basic French in preparation for the transition to secondary school. We will liaise with teachers at the local secondary school to facilitate this.

Religion, Values and Ethics

The teaching of RVE is a legal requirement and learning is planned following our Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus. We hold a daily act of collective worship and invite families to join us throughout the year when children present their class assembly. We invite local clergy to school to speak and also make use of our local churches and chapels for special celebrations during the school year.

ALN

The school makes provisions for children with Additional Learning Needs. Where an additional need is identified our class teachers will differentiate tasks and provide help and support in class. This support sometimes includes the use of Teaching Assistants. Our Additional Learning Needs Coordinator will liaise with and advise the class teacher and further support may be put in place. In some instances, we may need to contact our Local Authority agencies for their help and expertise. Pupils who have Additional Learning Needs will have an Individual Development Plan drawn up which outlines their targets and the support they will receive. We ensure that parents are fully informed at all stages of the process. Our Additional Learning Needs Policy is available for parents upon request.

Relationships and Sexuality Education

Class teachers and our School Health Nurse teach RSE at an appropriate level to all children in the school. RSE is part of the Curriculum for Wales and is taught in such a manner to promote a healthy lifestyle for all. A carefully co-ordinated approach is used, building gradually on knowledge from year to year. The school Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy is available upon request.

The Use of the Welsh Language

Welsh is taught as a second language in all classes, aiming at oral fluency and the written word in preparation for further development in the Comprehensive School. Pupils are encouraged to use every-day phrases and instructions that are practiced daily through the use of incidental Welsh. An interest in Welsh culture and heritage is developed throughout the school through the learning of Welsh songs, verses and hymns and the reading of stories of a Welsh background including Welsh folklore and historical people and events and also through the whole school celebrations of St. David's Day and Dydd Santes Dwynwen (the Welsh Valentine's day). Our children will also learn about Welsh historical events, local artists/musicians and celebrities

and national geographical issues. We hope to instil a sense of belonging in our pupils – Cynefin, where they feel connected to their local environment and each other through a shared understanding of where they come from and what has helped shape their past and will continue to shape their future.

Homework

Homework is shared online via Classdojo or Teams. Pupils are expected to complete tasks, upload and share online.