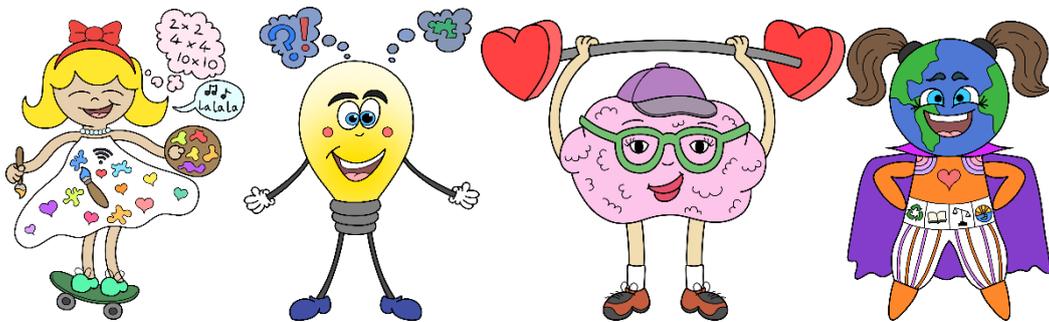# Ysgol Hafan y Môr

Curriculum Policy

Aim:

The purpose of this policy is to explain what the focus of the curriculum is at Ysgol Hafan y Môr. The school will plan against the 6 areas of learning and experience with the 4 purposes driving the curriculum with the key skills in all aspects.

Children's Rights:

> **Article 3:** All children-involved organisations should always do what is best for each child.
>
> **Article 6:** You have the right to life and to grow to be healthy.
>
> **Article 27:** Your right to a good standard of life.
>
> **Article 28:** Your right to learn and go to school.
>
> **Article 29:** Your right to be the best you can be.
>
> **Article 30:** Your right to use your own language.
>
> **Article 31:** Your right to relax and play.
>
> **Article 37:** Your right to be treated fairly.

The 4 Purposes of the Curriculum:

The 4 main purposes to help children and young people are:

1. **Ambitious and capable learners**

   This means that they believe in themselves and what they can do. They want to learn and do better. They have the skills to learn.

2. **Enterprising and creative contributors**

   This means that they can be creative and come up with new ideas. They can work problems out. They can use this in their work.

3. **Ethical and well-informed citizens**

   This means they understand their rights and responsibilities. They participate in their community. They look after the world.

4. **Healthy and confident individuals**

   This means that they have a healthy mind and body. They feel good about themselves and what they believe.

Curriculum Design Principles at Ysgol Hafan y Môr

At Ysgol Hafan Y Môr, our Curriculum is;

- **authentic:** rooted in Welsh values and culture.

- **based on evidence**: makes use of best practice in Wales and beyond.

- **responsive**: relevant to today's needs.

- **inclusive:** is easy for all to understand, encompassing the right of every child and young person to a high quality education.

- **ambitious:** embodying great expectations without setting artificial limits.

- **empowering**: enabling young people to face challenges with confidence.

- **united**: allows continuity and progression (step by step).

- **interesting:** promotes enjoyment of learning.

- **based on subsidiarity**: inspires confidence in all while incentivising proper ownership.

- **easily adaptable:** recognises implications for obtaining appropriate assessment and accountability arrangements.

The Six Areas of Learning

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, we ensure that pupils receive multiple experiences within all areas of learning and curriculum experience.

Creative Arts

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, children and young people will have the opportunity to explore the arts and learn how to enjoy and think about the art of others. All pupils can also be creative. They can learn these things through a mix of different lessons like:
- Art
- Dance
- Film
- Drama
- Music
- Digital media (Digital media means any artwork you create through technology, for example, video, audio recording and websites).

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, we strongly believe that Expressive Arts are key to developing pupils as curious, articulate, and confident individuals. Through practical, varied and purposeful opportunities, learners are encouraged to explore, reflect and create within an environment that nurtures their unique ideas and talents.

Exploring and Developing Artistic Skills
Pupils engage with a range of art forms, including visual art, music, drama, and dance.
For example:
- Observing the work of local artists through workshops or gallery visits, then creating their own responses.
- Learning musical techniques using simple instruments and digital apps to develop rhythm and melody.
- Collaborating on class dance projects inspired by themes such as seasons or emotions.

Responding and Reflecting
Engaging with art helps pupils appreciate different perspectives and develop their own artistic voice.
Activities include:
- Discussing music or artwork in group conversations or reflective writing.
- Taking part in tasks like *"What makes a good performance?"* to build critical thinking and evaluative skills.

Creating and Connecting through Experience
- Creativity is fostered through practical experiences that combine imagination with learned skills:
- Performing in school eisteddfodau or local community events *(e.g. singing, acting or dance).*

- Producing a short film using tablets or digital devices as part of a *'Weather or News Broadcast'* project.
- Writing and performing a short drama based on a community story or emotional experience.

Building Confidence and Critical Thinking
The expressive arts nurture self-expression, imagination and communication—skills which are essential across the curriculum.
Pupils are encouraged to:
- Reflect on their own work and that of others using precise and respectful language to share constructive thoughts.

Through these experiences, learners are empowered to express themselves creatively, think independently and value the arts as an integral part of a balanced and fulfilling life, laying the foundations for long-lasting wellbeing and self-confidence.

Description of Learning: <u>Expressive Arts</u>

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>

Ysgol Hafan y Môr will teach children and young people how to look after their health.
This means:
- making sure our body is healthy.
- keeping our mind healthy.
- ensuring healthy relationships with people.
- the ability to make good life decisions.

This curriculum will include activities such as cooking, sport and lessons about well-being. Well-being is defined as anything to do with your health and happiness, such as, circle times, promoting national mental health weeks and class activities to educate and promote well-being.

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, our aim is to nurture learners who understand and value their health and wellbeing, and who are equipped to care for themselves throughout their lives. Through a balanced, practical and meaningful curriculum, pupils engage in experiences that promote physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

Physical Health
Through activities such as *healthy cooking and weekly PE sessions*, pupils are encouraged to develop awareness of nutrition, physical movement and balanced lifestyles. For example, they may design a healthy menu for a class picnic based on key dietary principles.

Mental and Emotional Wellbeing
Regular circle times, use of the *Jigsaw* programme, and whole-school lessons on topics such as self-worth, mindfulness and self-regulation provide a safe environment for pupils to explore their feelings and experiences. Activities like creating a *"personal wellbeing map"* or *practising calming techniques* help children process emotions in a healthy way and build resilience.

Decision-Making and Social Influences
Class discussions about healthy choices, *role-playing social scenarios*, and *exploring the outcomes of everyday decisions* offer children the opportunity to reflect on how their actions affect themselves and others. They also consider the importance of saying *"no"*, trusting their instincts, and recognising positive and negative influences in their lives.

Healthy Relationships
Through activities such as *"My Good Friend is…", mapping their personal support network, and solving teamwork challenges in pairs or groups*, pupils develop key communication skills, empathy, listening and conflict resolution strategies. We also work closely with a range of external agencies such as the *NSPCC, Hafan Cymru, Sandy Bear and our School Nurse* to support learners' wellbeing.

Transition and Preparation for Secondary School
Through dedicated transition days and activities in partnership with Ysgol Bro Preseli and Ysgol Caer Elen Secondary Schools, as well as targeted support programmes like *Circle of Friends* and *Talkabout*, pupils are supported emotionally as they prepare for change, discuss worries, and build confidence for the next stage in their journey.

By embedding all of these experiences within a framework of mindfulness, real-life context, and a positive outlook, we ensure that pupils at Ysgol Hafan y Môr grow up to be confident, informed, and ready to care for themselves and others—both during their time at school and far beyond.

Description of Learning: <u>Health and Wellbeing</u>

<u>**Humanities**</u>

Ysgol Hafan y Môr will teach children and young people to think about the world to help them understand it better.

This can be throught the following subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Religions, values and ethics
- Business
- Social Studies

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, we recognise that the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience offers a unique platform for learners to explore big ideas, human issues and historical, geographical and ethical circumstances. This area supports them in learning about place and people, time and change, relationships and responsibilities, through meaningful, real-world experiences.

History
We encourage pupils to explore the history of their local community and the wider world through the eyes of people and events from the past.

They will:
- Study the history of their town or local area *(e.g. visiting the town chambers or old chapel, then writing an imagined diary entry as a child living there centuries ago)*.
- Carry out interviews with family members or neighbours to build a family timeline.
- Discuss how significant events such as the World Wars have shaped today's society.

Geography

By studying space, place, and the relationship between people and the environment, pupils will:
- Observe daily weather and create temperature graphs, comparing their data with places like Lesotho or Patagonia.
- Draw simple maps of the local area, identifying locations of social or historical interest.
- Complete a school-based research project on sustainability *(e.g. measuring how much plastic is used in a week and ways to reduce it)*.

Religion, Values and Ethics

Through exploring belief systems, values, and moral questions, pupils will:
- Read and discuss religious stories from different traditions and write personal reflections on their ethical messages *(e.g. forgiveness or kindness)*.
- Lead group discussions on fairness, justice or helping others, developing a code of conduct for their school.

Business and Entrepreneurship

We nurture aspiring young leaders through real-world experiences such as:
- In the summer term, Year 6 pupils take part in a small business project called *Menter Cychod Coch*. They develop a stall idea for the summer fair, pitch for a small start-up loan, and launch the enterprise by creating posters, managing a budget and selling their products. At the end, they repay the loan and use their profit to fund a class trip.
- Pupils also explore how local businesses operate through visits to restaurants or shops, where they discuss products, income, profit and loss. Business owners are invited to school to answer pupil-led questions.

Social Studies

Through the study of society, politics and ethical citizenship, pupils will:
- Discuss children's rights and create a 'Class Charter of Rights'.
- Write a formal appeal letter on a local issue *(e.g. the need for a new play area, park improvements or more green spaces).*
- Role-play a town council meeting or parliamentary debate and write a report on the outcome.

Throughout Humanities, pupils develop essential skills such as critical thinking, interpreting information, empathy and creativity. This learning is relevant, practical and reflective of real life, helping children grow into thoughtful, responsible citizens, ready to contribute positively to their local community and the wider world.

Description of Learning: Humanities

Language, Literacy and Communication

Ysgol Hafan y Môr will teach children and young people to understand and use different languages, including Welsh, English and on occasions, other modern languages. We take every opportunity to teach multiple languages and take advantage of the opportunities and unique linguistic experiences of our pupils and their families.

Ysgol Hafan y Môr is a Welsh designated school so at the heart of the school's vision is the Welsh language. We promote it in all elements of school life and work. Ysgol Hafan y Môr pupils leave school as confident bilingual pupils.

When referring to Literacy we consider pupils' speaking, listening, reading and writing skills; skills that enable them to make sense of the world around us.

Ysgol Hafan y Môr will also help our pupils to understand and appreciate literature and create their own. When considering literature, we give pupils the opportunity to experience and enjoy books, poems and films.

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, we believe that the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience is fundamental to learners' intellectual, personal and social development. Developing the ability to express ideas clearly, understand and interpret information, and engage meaningfully with others draws on a rich combination of interrelated skills: speaking, listening, reading, writing and learning an additional language. Through purposeful, cross-curricular opportunities, pupils practise using language in varied and enriching real-life contexts.

Speaking and Listening
Opportunities to discuss, reason and explain support the development of precise spoken language. Activities such as the *"Problem Solving Challenge"*, where small groups explore complex situations and present their ideas clearly, help to nurture purposeful speaking. Through *"Speaker of the Day"*, pupils build confidence in presenting information to an audience using appropriate and meaningful language. Structured class discussions and peer feedback sessions also strengthen active listening and respectful dialogue.

Reading
Learners are introduced to a wide range of texts, including fiction and non-fiction. Activities like *"Contextual Reading Walks"*, in which pupils read signs, leaflets or maps on visits or around the school, encourage them to apply reading skills to real-life situations. *Group Reading* - where pupils read written evidence together, then discuss and answer questions orally or in writing - offers valuable opportunities for collaboration, shared interpretation, and guided development of higher-level reading strategies. This, in turn, helps build confidence and reading fluency.

Writing
Writing skills are developed through meaningful tasks with real purpose. For example, writing a *newspaper report* based on a local storm - such as flooding near the school, power cuts or road closures - enables pupils to present information objectively, use a range of tenses, and structure

facts logically. Discussing the event, conducting mock interviews, and creating bold headlines allows learners to apply formal language, sequence ideas and expand their vocabulary.

Similarly, when writing *friendly letters* to children in schools in Lesotho or the Welsh settlement in Patagonia, pupils are encouraged to explore cultural, geographical and linguistic differences and similarities. They might introduce themselves, describe school life, weather, hobbies and local traditions such as Halloween or the school Eisteddfod, while asking questions to learn about life in a different part of the world.

Letters to children in Lesotho could include reflections on living with little rainfall and invite discussion about traditional dress, food or daily routines. Letters to Patagonia might open dialogue about speaking Welsh abroad and how Welsh traditions are kept alive in a distant but culturally connected community.

Description of Learning: <u>Languages, Literacy and Communication</u>

<u>Mathematics and Numeracy</u>

Ysgol Hafan y Môr will teach children and young people to understand and use numbers. The use of numbers in everyday life is called numeracy. Learning about maths and numeracy will mean:

- understand how numbers work.
- understand how symbols can be used and what they think. A sign is a symbol that can tell you what to do. For example, the plus sign thinks you are adding two numbers together. Like 2 + 2. Works symbols are also used in place of numbers, for example a – b.
- understand how to measure things and work with different shapes.
- understand how to gather information using this information to make decisions.

Mathematical development has evolved hand in hand with the progression of civilisation from its earliest beginnings. It is a truly global discipline, surrounding us in everyday life and forming the foundation of countless aspects of our world, from architecture and art to music, finance and engineering. While mathematics can be both creative and beautiful and, in its applications, it is also essential to advancement across all other areas of learning and experience.

In addition, numeracy - the use of mathematics to solve real-world problems - plays a key role in our daily lives and the economic wellbeing of society as a whole. It is therefore vital that mathematics and numeracy experiences are as exciting, engaging and accessible as possible for all learners, and that such experiences build mathematical resilience.

The importance of this Area of Learning and Experience is expressed through four key concepts that support and reinforce one another. These should not be viewed in isolation, as together they contribute to realising the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales:

Statements of What Matters

- The number system is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities.

- Algebra uses symbol systems to express mathematical structures and relationships.
- Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position; measurement quantifies phenomena in the physical world.
- Statistics represent data, while probability models chance—both support informed conclusions and decisions.

Progression in Mathematics and Numeracy is framed around the development of five interconnected proficiencies. These are not hierarchical, and all should be considered when designing a curriculum that supports learners' progression.

1. **Conceptual Understanding**
   Learners develop deep understanding of mathematical ideas through exploratory tasks.
   Example: Investigating number patterns using building blocks or identifying multiples by moving across a floor grid.

2. **Communication Using Symbols**
   Pupils are encouraged to use mathematical symbols accurately to convey ideas.
   Example: Writing simple equations to represent word problems or using diagrams and graphs to present findings from a science project.

3. **Strategic Competence**
   By engaging with authentic problems, learners develop the ability to apply strategic approaches.
   Example: Taking part in a classroom 'shop' game where they choose appropriate coins to pay correctly and calculate change.

4. **Logical Reasoning**
   Discussing, explaining, and justifying mathematical decisions helps pupils build their reasoning skills.
   Example: Debating in groups why one answer may make more sense than another in a simple probability task or explaining consistent pattern rules.

5. **Fluency**
   Confidence, speed and automaticity in core skills—such as multiplication, division, addition and subtraction—are continually strengthened.
   Example: Timed multiplication challenges or throwing and catching games where number facts must be recited instantly.

Learners have regular opportunities to practise mental maths daily, alongside a variety of rich reasoning and problem-solving experiences throughout the year.

Progression is closely linked to each learner's individual mathematical development. Within any class, there will naturally be a range of stages, and teachers tailor their differentiation to meet the needs of each learner. By embedding the five proficiencies within coherent practice, we ensure

meaningful, secure progress that builds mathematical competence relevant to the real world.

Description of Learning: [Mathematics and Numeracy](#)

Science and Technology

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, pupils are given the opportunity to explore Science and Technology and understand how both the natural and human-made worlds work and evolve. Every learner is encouraged to ask questions, experiment, and design solutions to real-life problems.
They gain these skills through a practical mix of subjects such as:
- Science
- Design and Technology
- Digital Technology
- Problem Solving and Engineering
- Innovation and Modelling Ideas through Technology

Curiosity and the Search for Answers
Curiosity is central to learning at Ysgol Hafan y Môr. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions about the world around them and use reasoning, evidence, and creativity to investigate. Through observing, testing ideas and developing useful models, learners build understanding of how the world works and become independent thinkers.
Example: Pupils investigate to discover how light travels through different materials, comparing transparent, translucent and opaque surfaces using torches to observe the effects of light on objects.

Informed Decision-Making
Pupils develop the ability to evaluate scientific claims and make decisions that impact their wellbeing and the environment. Evidence-based research is emphasised, helping pupils understand how science shapes the world.
Example: A class discussion on climate change, in which pupils explore how everyday choices; like recycling or electricity use, affect the planet. They create posters outlining steps everyone can take towards sustainable living.

Design and Engineering Thinking
We nurture creativity and practical problem-solving through design processes. Pupils are given opportunities to generate ideas, manage risks and develop effective products or systems that address needs within the community.

Learning from the Natural World
The living world is an interconnected system in balance. Through exploring how environments affect organisms, pupils gain awareness of their role in nature and the impact their actions have on life.
Example: Visiting local woodlands or beaches to study natural habitats, pupils observe and record living things and investigate how these organisms interact with their surroundings. External organisations such as Darwin Science and Natural Resources Wales support these experiences.

Understanding Matter, Forces and Energy
We help pupils recognise how matter and forces shape the universe, empowering them to predict and manage everyday events. Concepts in chemistry and energy provide opportunities to find sustainable solutions and use natural resources efficiently.

Computing and the Digital World
Technology is an everyday part of pupils' lives at Hafan y Môr. We support them to understand how computing helps solve problems and navigate modern society, while raising awareness of the moral and social responsibilities that come with using technology.
Example: Pupils use block-based programming software like Scratch to write basic code that moves a character on screen in response to commands.

Description of Learning: [Science and Technology](#)

<u>**Cross-Curricular Themes or Skills for the whole curriculum:**</u>

At Ysgol Hafan y Môr, teachers will plan to ensure that all subjects develop the following cross-curricular skills:

- Literacy skills – listening, talking, reading and writing.
- Numeracy skills – understand and use numbers.
- Digital skills – able to learn and understand technology. This means the ability to use digital devices such as computers, ipads and Chromebooks.

The above skills will be key to each child's success in order for them to have the best possible access to the Curriculum for Wales.

<u>**Broader skills to consider when planning:**</u>

- **Critical thinking and problem solving** - adopt logical and critical processes to analyze and understand situations

- **Planning and Organising** - securing solutions and implementing ideas

- **Creativity and Innovation** - exploring ideas and expressing opinions

- **Personal Effectiveness** - behaving in an effective and appropriate manner

<u>**How can the above be achieved?**</u>

Teachers will carefully co-plan within the school's open themes with an emphasis on pupils' constructive experiences and progress. This enables the school to reach a balance of the six areas of learning and experience ensuring that pupils receive valuable experiences within and outside the classroom.

At Ysgol Hafan Y Môr, emphasis is placed on developing and enriching pupils' Literacy, Numeracy and Digital skills so that they can confidently apply the skills cross-curricular in the six areas of learning and experience.

Health and wellbeing will be expected to feature clearly in the planning and when considering Humanities, Science and Technology and Expressive Arts it will be possible to choose a theme with a trend towards a particular area of learning and experience *e.g. Humanities studying the local area, Science and Technology taking into account inventions etc.* The pupil's voice will be key in the planning process.

Pupil Voice:

When planning cross-curricular themes or rich tasks, pupils' input will be at the heart of planning and teaching and learning. As a result, our hope at Ysgol Hafan Y Môr is that pupils will take ownership of the activities and their own learning. Sessions at the start of each term are used across the school to highlight pupils' ideas for learning within the themes. Consistently throughout the theme, the teachers respond to the pupils' curiosity and questions in navigating the activities, *for example when studying the Europe the pupils can indicate an interest in contemporary events such as Ukraine and asylum seekers*.

Pedagogy:

At the heart of school pedagogy are the 12 principles of Teaching.
See the Teaching and Learning Policy for more information.

1. General purpose of the curriculum	2. Continuously striving	3. A mix of strategies
4. Problem solving, creative and judgemental	5. Develop prior knowledge and engage interest	6. Valid contexts
7. Assessment for Learning	8. Connections within and across the Areas of Learning and experience	9. Cross-curricular responsibilities
10. Encouraged to take responsibility	11. Social and emotional development	12. Encourage collaborative working

Keeping the Policy Up to date:

This policy will be reviewed annually.