

CURRICULUM POLICY

PREAMBLE

The Curriculum Policy at Porthcawl Comprehensive School contains the statutory requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and its subsequent amendments. This states that pupils will follow the National Curriculum unless there are elements to which they are, for any reason disapplied. However, recent changes such as 14-19 Learning Pathways aim to offer greater flexibility and extended opportunities through a curriculum with increasing breadth and choice and which is more relevant and appropriate to the needs of today's young people.

Legal Requirements

The legal requirements are contained in the Education Act 2002 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The EDA 2002 provide for a separate National Curriculum for England and Wales (ss 350 to 368).

The Basic Curriculum for Wales (Amendment) Order 2003 sets out the requirements for the curriculum for maintained schools in Wales.

The Learning Pathways Guidance 2006 is the basis for the implementation of the Learning Pathways 14-19 and provides details about how it will work in practice to benefit young people, the economy and communities in Wales. It enhances the first guidance document issued in July 2004.

The Welsh Assembly Government passed the Learning and Skills Measure in May 2009. The aim of the legislation is to give learners aged 14 to 19 the right to follow a course from a local area curriculum. The Measure will ensure wider choice is available to all 14 to 19 year olds in schools and colleges.

The General Duty of the Curriculum

The EDA 2002 (following previous Acts starting with the Education Act 1944) lays a general duty on the Secretary of State, the National Assembly for Wales, LEAs, school governors and Headteachers of maintained schools to ensure that the curriculum for maintained schools, maintained nursery schools and any funded nursery education is 'balanced and broadly based' and promotes:

- the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society
- prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- offers of equality of opportunity to all

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum in England and Wales contains 'core' and other 'foundation' subjects. The Key Stages relevant to Porthcawl Comprehensive School are:

- Key Stage 3 age 11 to 14 years
- Key Stage 4 age 14 to 16 years

In Wales the responsibility for the policy and implementation of the National Curriculum rests with the Welsh Assembly Government's Qualifications, Curriculum and Learning Improvement Group, one of the four divisions of the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS).

14 – 19

The school's Curriculum Policy takes into account recommendations from 14-19 developments.

Learner Entitlement

At Key Stage 4 the local curriculum consists of general and vocational courses, which includes all National Curriculum Core subjects. The local curriculum of Porthcawl Comprehensive School ensures that the domain, choice and score targets are met so there is a broad and balanced volume for learners.

The local curriculum of Porthcawl Comprehensive School consists of a range of courses that lead to both formal and vocational qualifications.

POLICY

Within the requirements of the legislation quoted the school provides:

- A curriculum that is balanced and broadly based, and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and of society and prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and the world of work.
- Full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experiences in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education, appropriate for their age and aptitude.
- Teaching and learning experiences where pupils will expect to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy.
- Personal, social and health education reflecting the school's aims and ethos
- Appropriate careers advice
- Appropriate programmes of activity for pupils

The school aims to:

- Ensure that pupils develop essential literacy and numeracy skills
- Provide pupils with a full and balanced entitlement to learning
- Foster pupils' creativity and develop essential skills, including learning skills
- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Inspire pupils to a commitment to learning which will last through their lifetime
- Promote high standards in all learning and teaching
- Ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress

PROCESS

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- all statutory elements of the curriculum are met
- all subject the school offers have appropriate schemes of work indicating how the individual needs of pupils will be met
- the amount of time provided for teaching and the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed regularly
- the procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements and pupils and their parents/carers receive information to show how much progress the pupils are making and what is required to help them improve
- the Governing Body is fully involved in decision making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum

The **Deputy Headteacher** and **other Staff** will ensure that:

- the school curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy

The **Governing Body** will ensure that:

- it considers the advice of the Headteacher when approving curriculum changes and when setting statutory and non-statutory targets
- progress towards annual statutory targets is monitored
- it participates in decision making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum

PROCEDURE

Subjects Offered

Key Stage 3

In years 7, 8 and 9 all pupils follow a common curriculum largely dictated by the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Year7 – On entry to the school, pupils are placed in mixed ability tutorial groups with the exception of SEN (X5) and the Basic Skills Support Class (Y4). The subjects followed are:

Art	Biology	Chemistry
DT	Drama	English
French	Geography	German
ICT	History	Mathematics
Music	Physics	PE
RS	Welsh	

PSE is delivered through discrete lessons known as Tutor Period and other additional arrangements e.g. Self Awareness Days

Year 8 – The curriculum subjects are essentially the same as in Year 7 with more extensive setting starting to be applied.

Year 9 – In the interest of continuity and progression the curriculum flows on from Year 8 with pupils following the same subjects. Careers Advice is also provided.

Key Stage 4

All pupils continue to follow the National Curriculum but a range of optional subjects is offered in addition to the core curriculum. All pupils study the following subjects, which are taught in sets according to ability (except for Welsh short course) and will usually sit a GCSE examination in them at the end of Year 11:

English
Mathematics
Science
Welsh

In addition to these, and in line with statutory requirements, pupils study the following subjects which are not examined:

RS
PSHE
Games

Pupils are invited to select five additional subjects from the options menu. Advice and guidance is provided to help pupils choose a broad and balanced curriculum which is relevant and appropriate to their chosen Pathway and career aspirations.

Option Systems at KS4 and KS5

The option system at KS4 is structured so that it offers a balanced and broadly based range of subjects that open progression routes at later stages as well as offering varied learning experiences.

Subjects at KS4

The following subjects are available;

Geography	Music
History	Hospitality
RS	Catering
French	IT
German	PE
Welsh	DiDA
Biology	BTEC Sport
Chemistry	Media Studies
Physics	Computer Aided Design
Art	Science (various qualifications)
Business Studies	Key Skills
Drama	Workskills
Design Technology: Graphics	Child Development
Design Technology: Product Design	
Design Technology: Resistant Materials	
Design Technology: Textiles	
Electronics	

The school has a collaborative arrangement with a local business 'Classic Look' to provide City & Guilds Hairdressing.

PSE is delivered through discrete lessons known as Tutor Period and other additional arrangement.

The option system at KS5 enables pupils to choose from a range of subjects both at the home school and through other learning providers.

Subjects at KS5

The school offers a variety of courses which include A/S, A2, BTEC, NVQ, AAT, Level 1/Level 2. These are offered in a variety of ways:

- School based courses
- School based collaborative courses – subjects also offered to other providers through X / Y column arrangements e.g. Drama, Textiles, French, Music.
- Collaborative courses
 - i) Bridgend College X / Y column subjects
 - ii) Other schools X / Y column subjects
 - iii) Bridgend College Voc A/Voc B
 - iv) Bridgend College Twilight Provision

The following subjects are based at Porthcawl Comprehensive School:

English	Economics
Mathematics	Sociology
Further Mathematics	Drama *
Biology	DT
Human Biology	Electronics *
Chemistry	French *
Physics	German *
Geography	PE *
History	Computing
RS	Media Studies
Welsh	Music *
Welsh Bac	Textiles *
IT	BTEC Performing Arts
Art	Key Skills
Business Studies	* are offered to other schools for 14-19 collaboration

The following subjects are offered through collaboration at other Learning Providers:

Applied IT	Psychology
Government & Politics	Law
Travel & Tourism	Film Studies
BTEC Musical Theatre	Sociology
BTEC Construction	AAT Accounting
BTEC Animal Care	Health & Social Care
BTEC Applied Science	Hospitality & Catering
BTEC Media	Child Care
BTEC Public Services	CACHE
BTEC Dance	Variety of Level 1/2 courses at Bridgend Coll
BTEC Engineering	
BTEC Music Technology	

PSE is delivered through discrete lessons known as Tutor Period and other additional arrangements.

Disapplication

In accordance with the law the school has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the National Curriculum programmes, or by disapplying the National Curriculum for the duration of a Key Stage in order to:

- allow a pupil to participate in extended work related learning
- allow a pupil with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area
- to allow a pupil making significantly less progress than other pupils 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 full consultation with pupil and parents/carers/guardian.

Equal Opportunities

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

In accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable.

Differentiation

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

Religious Education

Religious education is provided for all pupils at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5

Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from religious education if they so wish.

Collective Worship

All pupils are expected to take part in daily collective worship. The school has a programme of collective worship involving year assemblies, house assemblies and tutor group assemblies (*Thought for the Day*). Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they so wish.

Sex Education

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

A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents/carer. In accordance with the law, the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all pupils, but parents/carers may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

Careers and the World of Work

All pupils receive a structured programme of Careers and the World of Work delivered in Key Stages 3 and 4 via the PSHE programme and through block release sessions from the timetable.

All pupils undertake a period of work experience in Years 11 and 12. Careers information and guidance, along with support for Higher Education application is also provided in Year 13. A careers advisor is located in school.

Physical Education and Games

All pupils are expected to take part in the school's PE and Games programme. Pupils can only be excused from PE/Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent/carer should be produced. Medical support should be provided in the event of a long-term excusal.

Extra-Curricular Activities

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

Additional Learning Needs

The school has an ALN policy for all pupils who are placed on the ALN register. The school will determine appropriate courses of action for each pupil in line with their IEP and in consultation with parents/carers.

Homework

The school expects homework to be set as appropriate. As guidance the school expects pupils to spend the following approximate time on homework.

Years 7, 8 and 9	30 mins per subject	2-3 subjects per night
Year 10 and 11	45 mins per subject	2-3 subjects per night
Year 12 and 13	According to subject need	

It is understood that these times are a guide and that, on occasions, it will be inappropriate.

Y Cwricwlum Cymreig

All pupils will be helped to understand and celebrate the distinctive quality of living and learning in Wales and to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical, and linguistic characteristics of Wales. This will be delivered as a cross-curricular theme where relevant in individual subjects and school events and assemblies.

Political Education

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

Concerns and Complaints

Parents/carers with concerns on any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the pupil's Head of Year. If the issue is not resolved parents/carers should make an official complaint, in writing, to the Headteacher. The school has a Complaints Policy and Procedure, which can be obtained from the Headteacher.