Porthcawl Comprehensive School

Curriculum Policy

Approved by: Full Governing Body	Date: 1st December 2025

<u>**Curriculum Policy**</u>

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. Further legal requirements are contained in the Education Act 2002 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Act 2002 provides for a separate National Curriculum for England and Wales (ss 350 to 368). The current school curriculum is underpinned by the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act which makes the Curriculum for Wales mandatory for all pupils across the 3-16 age range. Out of this legislation, the school has developed its own curriculum, known as the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl'.

Vision of the Curriculum

The Curriculum for Porthcawl is the formal means by which the school translates its aims, ethos and values into practice. Our curriculum has equity and excellence at its core and aims to help our young people exemplify the four core purposes of the Curriculum for Wales:

1. Ambitious, Capable Learners.
2. Enterprising, Creative Contributors
3. Ethical, Informed Citizens
4. Healthy, Confident Individuals

Aims of the curriculum

As stated in our Curriculum for Porthcawl summary, our curriculum aims to:

- Develop students who are happy and supported to develop self-worth and understand the worth of others as valued members of their community and wider society.
- Foster the values, attributes and integral skills to thrive in the present and the future, as articulated through the 'Porthcawl Purposes' and the 'Porthcawl Pupil'.
- Develop the disciplinary knowledge and skills contained within the Curriculum for Porthcawl Overviews that each subject area has as their intended curriculum and criteria for success.
- Develop the capacity to transfer learning sequentially within subject disciplines, across the curriculum and to wider contexts to accelerate progress and future learning.
- Provide pupils with opportunities to participate in purposeful and authentic experiences that enrich and enhance their learning experience.
- Enable pupils to acquire and refine underpinning, cross-curricular literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills.

- Develop pupils' understanding of relationships and sexuality education, human rights education, diversity, careers and work-related experiences.
- Encourage pupils to consider and understand the local, national and international contexts that their learning takes place within.
- Facilitate progression along a 3-19 continuum of learning in line with the expectations contained within the Principles of Progression.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher (Standards)** will ensure that:
- all statutory elements of the curriculum are met;
- all subjects 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; and
- the Governing Body is fully involved in decision making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum.

Teaching 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; and
- it participates in decision making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum.

Key Stage 3

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 follow a common curriculum comprised of 50 timetabled lessons per fortnight. All lessons are 1 hour in length. In these year groups pupils are primarily taught in mixed-ability, tutor group classes.

- In Maths pupils are placed into sets based on attainment levels from Year 7 onwards.
- In Science, pupils are placed into ability sets from Year 8 onwards.
- All sets are reviewed regularly by relevant subject staff.
- A full list of subjects and curriculum hours per fortnight is listed below. These allocations do not change across Years 7, 8 and 9.

Subject	Teaching Hours per fortnight
English Language and Literature	7
Mathematics and Numeracy	7
Computing and Digital Skills	3
Physical Education	3
Welsh	3
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
Technology	2
History	2
Geography	2
RVE (Religion, Values & Ethics)	2
Art	2
Music	2
Drama	2
French	2
German	2
Health & Wellbeing	2
Enrichment	1
Total	**50**

Key Stage 4

All pupils continue to follow a 50-lesson fortnight curriculum cycle as outlined for Years 7, 8 and 9. The curriculum at this age is made up of compulsory subjects and optional subjects. Pupils are able to choose their 3 optional subjects from carefully designed subject columns in the Spring Term of Year 9. In these years, pupils are taught in a variety of different classes.

- In Maths they continue to be taught in attainment-based sets.
- In Science pupils are taught in sets but also according to which type of Science qualification they are being entered for (Triple, Double or Single Award).
- In Welsh pupils are placed into sets within their curriculum band (X or Y).
- Pupils will also experience mixed-ability classes in most options subjects (listed below), core PE and RVE, English, and the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate.

The curriculum covers all statutory requirements as laid out in the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act.

Subject	Teaching Hours per fortnight
English Language and Literature	8
Mathematics and Numeracy	8
The Sciences	9
Option Subject A	5
Option Subject B	5
Option Subject C	5
Welsh	4
Welsh Baccalaureate	3
Core PE	2
Core RVE	1
Total	**50**

As part of their options process, pupils are able to choose three optional subjects from the list below. The make-up of specific options columns varies year-on-year to ensure curriculum balance and optimal pupil choice. Subject in bold font are vocational alternatives to GCSEs.

History	Geography	Religious Studies	Business Studies
French	German	Digital technologies	Computer Science
Media Studies	Physical Education	Drama	Music
Art & Design	Textiles	Food & Nutrition	Product Design
Engineering	**Work-Related Education**	**Learning in the Outdoors**	

Post-16

Porthcawl has a large and highly successful Sixth Form which offers a wide range of courses to learners in years 12 and 13. The school also works as part of a Bridgend collaboration to further support pupil choice where there is an identified subject area where the school has been unable to run its own internal provision. Subjects are arranged into Options Columns like in Years 10 and 11, and these columns are reviewed annually to optimise pupil outcomes and choice. Nearly all pupils will initially study 4 subjects as well as the Welsh Baccalaureate skills challenge certificate. The following subjects make up the school provision offer. They are not represented in their current columns as these change every year.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics
Further Maths	Electronics	English Literature	English Lang & Lit
Media Studies	Digital technology	Computer Science	Business Studies
History	Geography	Christianity, Philosophy & Ethics	Government & Politics
Sociology	Music	Drama	Performing Arts
Physical Education	Art & Design	Textile Design	Product Design
French	German	Welsh	Welsh Baccalaureate

The school curriculum for all ages is reviewed and monitored by senior leaders, staff and Governors annually to ensure it is compliant with all required elements of the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act and other relevant pieces of legislation.