



The Ysgol Acrefair Learning Adventure Handbook

Our Curriculum Policy

At Ysgol Acrefair we don't simply believe that learning should be a journey.

We believe that learning should be an adventure.

An adventure upon which 'Every child matters, every day counts'.



The first steps on our Learning Adventure...

On this adventure we seek to ensure that all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, that the teaching and learning experiences along the way are engaging, inspiring and empowering, and that the pathway is personalised to the needs of each *individual* pupil. We endeavour provide the highest quality learning and teaching experiences for everyone who joins us on the adventure, all which are driven by the school's Core Values:

Aspire * Inspire * Nurture * Respect

Every member of our team, children and adults alike, embark upon the *Acrefair Learning Adventure* together. Along the way we embrace change for the better and each of the challenges that we come across we tackle by working together. We look out for the 'magic moments' along the way; the memorable experiences which inspire us and give our learners 'wanderlust'- the desire to *explore* and keep travelling down the pathway which leads to life-long learning!

At Ysgol Acrefair we believe that children should be empowered to make choices about their own learning pathways and allow them to lead their learning experiences and drive their own tailor made curriculum. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We believe that change is the most powerful driving force on our journey and that with innovative teaching and learning experiences children can lead happy and rewarding lives whatever their social and economic circumstances.



Preparing for our Learning Adventure...



As our teachers begin to prepare for our learning adventures, there are some essentials that they will always bring for the road that lies ahead. These include:

- A focus on the learner as the central driver to all we do including leading their own learning.
- Support for Donaldson's new curriculum recommendations for innovation and change.
- Well-being at the core of everything we do and achieve.
- Appropriate skills development woven throughout the curriculum as the starting point for planning and the means by which we assess.
- Inspiration and support for all learners to believe in themselves.
- Focus on continuity and progressions made for all our learners.
- Flexibility and responsiveness to the Pupil's Voice
- Being current in all we do and leading in many aspects of the new curriculum, embracing digital technology and all its possibilities.
- Being highly creative in our approach to learning and teaching.
- Being willing to learn and share good practice in order to encourage positive change.
- Support for Government policy including bilingualism, Curriculum Cymreig/Wales, Healthy Living, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship and the world of work and entrepreneurship.

In which direction will we travel?



In Ysgol Acrefair we understand that we are all different and our Learning Adventures may take us in lots of different directions. However, we also recognise there are some Core Values which will support us on our pathway towards Successful Futures and these underpin all of the learning experiences that children have along the way...

Aspire

We are aspirational for all of the children who attend Ysgol Acrefair and endeavour to ensure that our curriculum enables all children to enjoy and achieve their full potential. On each child's Learning Adventure we will promote opportunities for them to become ambitious, capable learners who:

- > set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge
- > are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts
- > are questioning and enjoy solving problems > can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English
- > can explain the ideas and concepts they are learning about
- > can use number effectively in different contexts
- > understand how to interpret data and apply mathematical concepts
- > use digital technologies creatively to communicate, find and analyse information > undertake research and evaluate critically what they find and are ready to learn throughout their lives.

Inspire

We will plan for learning opportunities which engage and inspire our children whilst they are on their Learning Adventure. We will seek to make their journey meaningful and purposeful so that our children become enterprising, creative contributors who:

- > connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products
- > think creatively to reframe and solve problems
- > identify and grasp opportunities
- > take measured risks
- > lead and play different roles in teams effectively and responsibly
- > express ideas and emotions through different media
 - > give of their energy and skills so that other people will benefit and are ready to play a full part in life and work

Nurture

No child embarks upon their adventure at Ysgol Acrefair alone- we are part of a the wider school TEAM. By being part of this nurturing environment and learning the importance of being part of a caring community we will enable our children to become healthy, confident individuals who:

- > have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs
- > are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy
- > apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives
- > know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well > take part in physical activity
 - > take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk
 - > have the confidence to participate in performance
 - > form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect

- > face and overcome challenge
- > have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can and are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

Respect

We know that the our children's adventure will not stop when they leave Ysgol Acrefair and developing the Core Value of Respect will enable our children at Ysgol Acrefair to become ethical, informed citizens who, on their lifelong learning journey, will be well equipped to:

- > find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views
- > engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values
- > understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights
- > understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting
- > are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past
- > respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society
- > show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Ready to go?

As we embark on our Learning Adventure, the phases of our journey will be organised in the following ways:

The Primary Phase is split into 2 phases of education: Foundation Phase (Nursery - Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6).

Foundation Phase - Reception to Year 2

The Foundation Phase (FP) places great emphasis on learning by doing. Children are given many opportunities to gain first hand experiences through play and active involvement. Much of their learning takes place through the continuous and enhanced provision.

The statutory Areas of Learning in the Foundation Phase are:

- Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity
- Language, Literacy and Communication Skills
- Mathematical Development
- Welsh Language Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

Literacy and Numeracy Alongside Digital competency are central to the curriculum and are planned, taught, monitored and assessed through all areas of learning.

National Curriculum - Year 3 to Year 6

The National Curriculum identifies four core subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Welsh 2nd Language

There are also seven foundation subjects:

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- Design and Technology (D&T)
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education (PE).
- RE

Personal and Social Education (PSE) is also taught cross Key Stage 2. PSE relates to everything that a school does to support and promote the personal and social development and wellbeing of its learners.

National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF)

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential in order for young people to reach their potential. We believe they are the key to closing the gap for our children. The National Literacy and Numeracy Framework has been developed to help achieve the Welsh Government's aim that the children of Wales are able to develop excellent literacy and numeracy skills during their time at school. Expectations for literacy and numeracy are given for each school year group

At Ysgol Acrefair the LNF is at the heart of the curriculum planning, ensuring the embedding of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.

We use Building Blocks an innovative planning, monitoring and assessment tool to support learning and teaching. Building Blocks takes the two new areas of the new curriculum for Wales, Language, Literacy and Communication and Numeracy and Mathematics, ensuring that Literacy and Numeracy are embedded in cross curricular 'Rich Tasks' that are meaningful to the children's learning experiences ensuring that skills are used in context leading to deep level learning and understanding.

Following our own maps...

At Ysgol Acrefair, we implement 'thematic approaches' to learning across the primary phase with children leading their own learning in a highly creative way. Some subjects are taught in discrete methods such as phonics through letters and sounds, mental maths and basic skills development. We plan out the intended skills for the half term and then plan with the children to ensure that their learning follows the pathway that they find most meaningful and relevant to them. We believe that this approach makes learning more interesting and purposeful for learners and gives an emphasis to skills development and application whilst allowing pupils to direct their own learning.

Children are given opportunities where appropriate in their study of all subjects to promote their knowledge and understanding of Wales and their personal and social development and wellbeing.

- **Personal and Social Education**

Children are given opportunities to promote their health and emotional wellbeing and moral and spiritual development; to become active citizens and promote sustainable development and global citizenship (ESDGC) and to prepare for lifelong learning.

Personalised Learning Model

In Ysgol Acrefair we truly believe in 21st century learning approach where the teacher takes on the role of a facilitator to the learning and allows the children to lead and direct their own learning. Our prime focus is to develop the knowledge and skills of the children whatever their stage. We have high expectations of all learners and believe all children can have the potential to be whatever they want to be. We try to empower our children to make the right choices in school and in life. We use digital technologies to allow children to learn in different styles and believe in a practical hands on approach to learning.

As a school we are committed to developing lifelong learning. We develop children's metacognition and learning behaviours through identified opportunities for planning and reflection based on learning objectives and success criteria. This is integrated in all learning experiences.

We believe that learners need to be fully aware of their own learning progress and the next steps for their improvement. We plan exciting learning experiences that engender curiosity and questions in our learners and encourage them to make independent choices.

Pride in where our adventure begins...



Welsh Second Language/Bilingualism

Ysgol Acrefair is an English medium school and few pupils come from Welsh speaking homes. We take pride in our role as Welsh educators and actively promote and develop the use of Welsh as a living language. We have the aim of making our children's learning as bilingual as possible.

In addition to discrete weekly sessions in all year groups where we teach 'Welsh as a Second Language', the school tries to promote the use of Welsh through a variety of strategies:

- All classes spend 10 minutes each day - during Cymraeg Bob Dydd- practising vocabulary appropriate to their age and ability, e.g. greetings, informal conversations, instructions, songs and rhymes, games, etc.
- A consistent approach to the role of helpwr heddiw and a progressive set of sentence patterns used daily.
- Almost all instructions are given bilingually or in Welsh, for children to hear and respond to, e.g. register, hands up, line up, asking for the toilet.
- Staff members and pupils greet each other throughout the day using the medium of Welsh and pupils are encouraged and supported to use the short sentence patterns they know outside of the classroom in the playground.
- A key member of staff supports a group of interested children to promote Welsh outside of the classroom. This group is known as Criw Cymraeg. They have an action group of their own and they set their own targets.
- Subject/area of learning specific Welsh is used by children and teachers appropriate to their age and ability.
- The use of Welsh is promoted through prayer and Worship, both in classes and in collective worship.
- Curriculum Cymreig- Children are given opportunities to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales.

Joining us on our adventure

Our School Community

We believe that children learn when learning and teaching is relevant to their lives in the wider community. In our school you will see:

- members of the local and wider community engaging in school life
- links with the local business community, charities and cultural organisations
- celebrations of local, national and international events

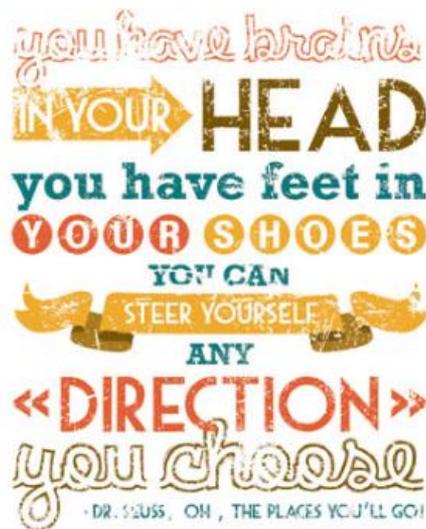


As part of our work on developing the curriculum at Ysgol Acrefair, the staff embarked on a project called 'Re-imagining the Curriculum'. One of the tasks that they completed was based upon the National Trust's list of things that they believed would inspire children to get away from their TV screens and celebrate learning in the outdoors. Inspired by this, we began to compile our own list of experiences that we believe are an essential part of the 'Acrefair Learning Adventure'. These were...

- Chance to walk over the aquaduct or go on a canal boat (local heritage).
- Hunt for mini-beasts
- Learning to swim
- Making pancakes
- Icing a cake
- Playing a musical instrument
- Going on a teddy bear's picnic
- Going camping
- Watching a pantomime
- Splashing in puddles
- Sleeping over somewhere new
- Meeting the people who help us (police officer/fore officer)
- Taking a photograph
- Becoming a scientist/meeting someone who already is one.
- Travelling by steam train (local heritage)
- Watching a butterfly hatch from a caterpillar
- Listening to stories read out loud
- Representing the school (sport events or other)
- Trying a new sport

- Going on an adventure
- Walking on the sand and paddling in the sea
- Building a den
- Planning a journey (and then going on it!)
- Being celebrated in the news!
- Eating at a restaurant and paying the bill
- Visiting a castle
- Learn the basics of cooking
- Visiting an art gallery or museum
- Having my own time to shine and show off my special talent.
- Paying for something with real money
- Running a business
- Interview an older person
- Meet someone from a different country
- Visiting the Llangollen Eisteddfod
- Being part of a performance
- Overcoming a challenge- like walking up to Dinas Bran Castle!
- Walking through woodland
- Meet an author or poet
- Watch how frogspawn changes
- Plant it, grow it, eat it
- Visit a farm and feed a lamb
- Visit the zoo
- Learn first aid
- Look up at the stars
- Visit Cardiff
- Give something back- do something for charity
- Learn to ride a bike safely

You will notice that there aren't quite 50+ as we believe that it is essential that children choose their own pathways too.....



Equalities:

Every effort is made to ensure that teaching and learning provides equal entitlement of the curriculum for all children who attend Ysgol Acrefair irrespective of race, religion or belief, gender, age, disability and language. Sensitivity and fairness is emphasised during monitoring and assessment to take into account equality of opportunities. Each child is valued and seen as unique. We endeavour to ensure the curriculum and learning and teaching opportunities cater for the learning needs of the individual pupil with the aim of stretching them to the full extent of their capabilities and providing them with the opportunity to demonstrate fully what they know, understand and can do. The children's wellbeing is always central to everything we do.

Review

We are aware of the need to review the Curriculum, Learning and Teaching Policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. The policy will be reviewed at least every two years and more regularly if appropriate.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- Effective Learning Policy
- Foundation Phase Policy
- Key Stage 2 Policy
- Additional Needs Policy
- Curriculum Policies

The following articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Curriculum Policy: 1,2,3,4,6,12,13,15,23,27,28,29,30 and 31

