

Ysgol Penmachno - Our Curriculum



‘Tyfu a Dysgu gyda’n gilydd’

Ysgol Penmachno

Our school is situated in the rural village of Penmachno, near Betws y Coed in the county of Conwy, and serves the village and the surrounding area. The school is designated as a Welsh language category 1 school in accordance with the Education Authority's language policy. This means that Welsh is the main medium of the life and work of the school and we seek to ensure that pupils are fully bilingual by the time they transition to Secondary School.

Nursery pupils join us in the morning - Nursery pupils are welcome to come to school the following term after their third birthday.

We currently have two classrooms plus an additional classroom for Craft, Cooking, Music and Wellbeing activities. We have a Breakfast Club and the Urdd Club.

The school is fortunate to have a Forest, several play areas together with a purpose-built yard and playground.



Our vision;

That all children who attend Ysgol Penmachno have full access to Ysgol Penmachno's Curriculum.

We ensure the best possible start and a solid foundation according to their requirements and needs, in a happy, natural, curious, enthusiastic, comfortable, inspiring and challenging atmosphere and environment; all this to ensure that the learners reach their full potential and are lifelong learners.

We strongly believe in giving broad and balanced opportunities and experiences, learning experiences by doing, using our local area and our community so that they have solid foundations for the future.

By learning and growing together it will give our learners firm roots, curiosity and enthusiasm to be;

- * Ambitious and Capable Learners*
- * Enterprising and Creative Contributors*
- * Principled and Informed Citizens*
- * Healthy and Confident Individuals*

Rationale for our curriculum;

Broad, balanced and exciting experiences

The voice of the learners

Active Learning

Challenging

Progressive

A climate where everyone can develop

Solid Foundations

A mixture of teaching and learning methods

Special education

Independence

Natural experiences learning outdoors

Local community

Forest School

Learning by doing

What is Curriculum?

The curriculum should be at the heart of any school, and Ysgol Penmachno's curriculum should be giving learners solid roots based on the 4 purposes in order to realize our vision.

Ensuring a first class learning environment is essential for us as learners and practitioners.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and suitable for all our learners.

Ensuring that all learners make progress is essential at Ysgol Penmachno, responding to needs, interests and the community, ensuring that the pupil's voice is central to everything we do and offer.

Why do we teach this?

To provide high quality learning experiences, which excite and motivate the learners in the classroom and beyond.

How do we teach?

Teachers will be facilitators of learning. The learners' needs, opinions and learning progress are considered. They will plan fun, challenging and progressive experiences. Learners will have a strong voice to influence their learning. As experts, teaching staff will direct the learning in an appropriate direction taking into account the views and ideas of the learners.

The learners will have an opinion on their learning environment and opportunities to work in faith to enrich their learning.

Exciting Opportunities

The learners will have a strong voice to influence their learning. Teachers will consider needs, views and learners' stages and plans exciting, challenging and progressive experiences across all Learning and Experience Areas.

Learning in the Outdoors

Learning experiences will develop and embed the 4 purposes.

Ysgol Penmachno is in a rural area and on a site that offers many outdoor teaching opportunities, our curriculum will provide authentic and fun learning experiences based at the school and in our local community encouraging pupils to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

The Climate of the Classroom

Learners will influence the design of their learning environment.

They will have the opportunity to work in ways that improve their learning and also to present their work in their personal way.

Our Values;

<i>Our Values</i>	<i>Our behaviour</i>
<i>Respect and trust</i>	<i>Everyone in the school is unique - learners and families, staff and stakeholders. We are honest and open in our work and respect everyone's opinions and feelings.</i>
<i>Welfare and care</i>	<i>We show empathy, care and concern for everyone's well-being. We listen and act to ensure that everyone in the school feels safe and that everyone has a voice that is heard.</i>
<i>Happiness and enjoyment</i>	<i>The ethos of each class and learning experiences inspires our learners. We ensure that learners enjoy experiences and develop motivation when learning.</i>
<i>Resilience and confidence</i>	<i>We support each other in the school as learners and staff to be confident and proud of ourselves, to welcome a challenge and to persevere to reach our goal.</i>
<i>Wales and Welshness</i>	<i>We celebrate the language and culture of Wales in every part of our work.</i>
<i>Community and habitat</i>	<i>We play a full part in the life of our community and the community plays a full part in the life of the school. We celebrate and protect our habitat.</i>
<i>Venture and innovation</i>	<i>We support each other in the school, as learners and staff, to take risks with confidence, to think creatively and break new ground and to learn from our successes and failures.</i>
<i>Support and collaboration</i>	<i>Within our classes, our school and across our cluster of schools, we work together and support each other to develop and learn continuously.</i>

The 4 Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales;

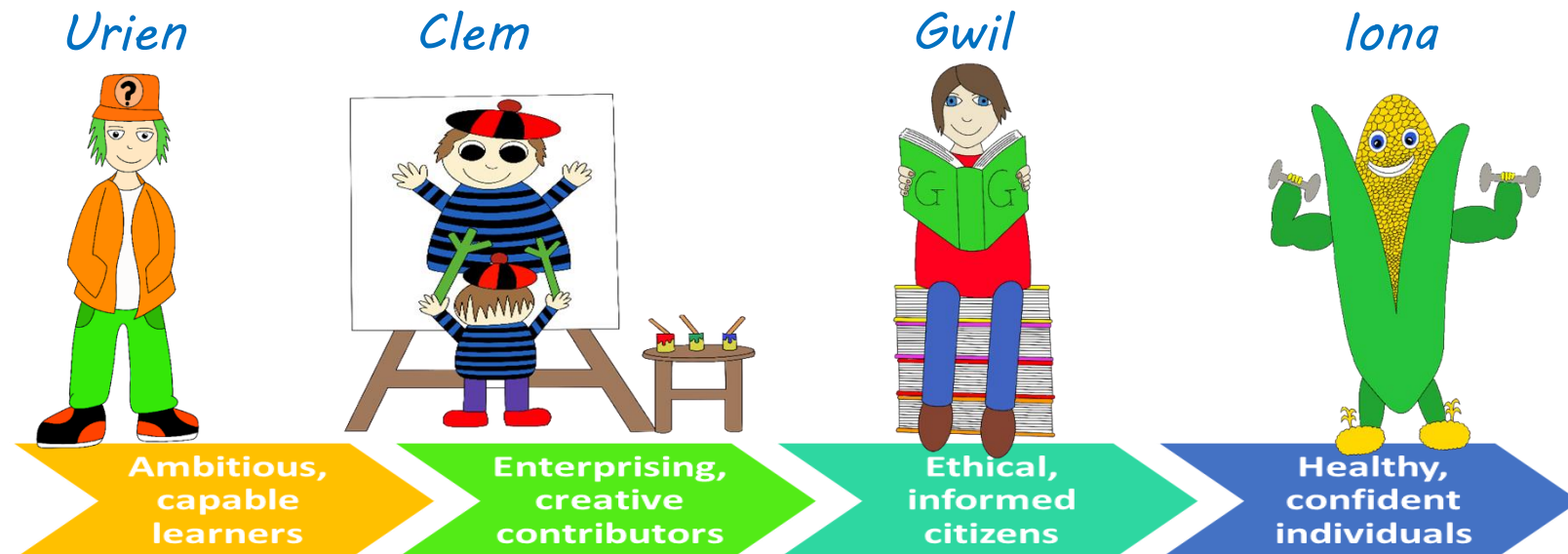
All children and young people will be helped to become:

- *Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives*
- *Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full role in life and work*
- *Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to participate in Wales and the world*
- *Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.*



The 4 Purposes of Ysgol Penmachno;

Due to developments in the Curriculum reform for Wales, we have adapted the new Four Purposes of the Curriculum and personalized them for our Curriculum at Ysgol Penmachno. Come and meet our four characters who represent the Four Purposes.



The 12 Principles of Pedagogy;

Our curriculum here at Ysgol Penmachno is supported by the 12 pedagogical principles. It enables our teachers and their teams to consider the why, the how, as well as the what, so that we can develop a solid understanding of good teaching and learning and try to realise the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales for all learners. Attention is given to reflection and assessment processes throughout the school year and opportunities for the staff of the whole school to measure and reflect on the effectiveness of their provision as well as our pedagogy. Consequently, this allows us as a school community to continue to develop as a learning organisation, undertaking professional learning.

Create authentic contexts for learning

Encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning

Support social and emotional development & positive relationships

Encourage collaboration

Sustained pupil effort to reach high but achievable targets

Employing a broad repertoire of teaching approaches

Promote problem solving, creative & critical thinking

Build on previous knowledge & experience to engage interest

Focus on the 4 Purposes

Use assessment for learning to accelerate progress

Make connections within & across Areas of Learning & Experience

Reinforce Cross Curricular Responsibilities, Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Competence

Planning;

When planning we will pay close attention to the WHY? WHAT? and HOW?

We always ensure that there is a clear reason and rationale for why we choose a theme, context and activities to ensure authentic and purposeful learning. Although learners will have a strong voice to influence their learning. As experts, teaching staff will direct the learning in an appropriate direction taking into account the views and ideas of the learners. Focus will be placed on specific aspects of the AOLE statements in order to ensure depth in their learning. We take advantage of joint planning in order to team teach and take advantage of staff expertise.

WHY?

The voice of the pupil

Community Project

Whole school focus

Assessment findings

4 Purpose

The pupil's requirements

A local matter

In the news

Whole school priority

Why do we learn this?

*Freedom and flexibility for teachers
to choose what is best for our
learners.
Clear logic.*

WHAT?

Integral skills

Progress steps

Learning descriptions

Cross-curricular skills

Cross-curricular themes

Statements of what is important

***What elements need to be
considered?***

*Knowledge and understanding of all
the curriculum guidelines and how
they weave together to stimulate
learning.*

HOW?

Pedagogy and assessment

How are we going to learn it?

*Deciding on the most effective
teaching methods to deepen
learning and ensure the best
learning experience for everyone.*

*Use assessment before, during and
after learning to ensure that
learners make progress.*

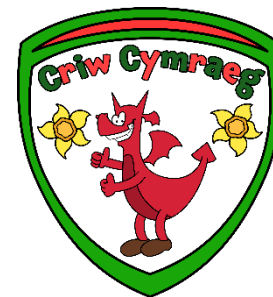
Planning;

A combination of curriculum planning methods are used at Ysgol Penmachno in accordance with the age of the learners and the context of the learning. The school follows cross-school themes where you can see the progress from one key stage to the next. All the school's learning experiences are planned across the school by paying specific attention to purposeful activities, experiences and visits.

The voice of the child, their families and the local community is very important to us and there is flexibility in our planning to follow a different / local / global path so that when an opportunity arises allow us to make our learning experiences relevant, interesting and timely.

The elements of Health and Wellbeing are important to us at Ysgol Penmachno and the extracurricular opportunities are taken advantage of. Our vegetable and fruit garden, nature gardens are on site. We are very lucky to have Coedwig where all the activities and opportunities of Ysgol Goedwig are practiced. We are proud of the link we have created with the local and wider community. We celebrate the pupils' successes weekly in our Reward Service.

Our Councils within the School take an active part in their responsibilities and positions which arise from their councils. These are winning designs that have been digitally designed to reflect our pride in our councils.



Health and Wellbeing

At Ysgol Penmachno we are committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of our school community.

We support the welfare needs of all our learners to ensure that they enjoy their learning and feel safe, happy and confident to participate in all aspects of school life.

Health and well-being is at the core of Ysgol Penmachno. Every effort is made to develop healthy and strong individuals with a positive attitude towards learning, within a caring and nurturing environment.

All members of the school community play a vital role in promoting a positive ethos that encourages learners to thrive, make progress and develop their skills and strengths in preparation for life as adults.

We support our learners through various diverse programs such as; Elsa and Healthy Schools. We are currently embedding the statutory Emotional and Mental Health and Well-being framework which ensures that Wellbeing remains a priority across the school.

All pupils at the school have the opportunity to take part in Llun Lles, Forest School activities on a weekly basis and Gwener Gwych.

Families and Community

Collaboration with our parents/carers and our school community is vital to us at Ysgol Penmachno. We provide various opportunities for parents to develop their knowledge and understanding of the programs and interventions we offer to the pupils. We have strong relationships with community supported provisions as well as local businesses.

Cross Curricular Skills

Our provision at Ysgol Penmachno uses the statutory cross-curricular skills which enable our learners to work towards realising the Four Purposes

The three cross-curricular skills, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence enable each individual to access the appropriate provision in order to prepare them for life and work in the future.

Our learners have opportunities to;

- Develop communication skills*
- Use numbers and solve problems within real life situations.*
- Use a variety of technologies to help them communicate and make sense of the world around them.*



The 6 Areas of Learning and Experiences

Expressive Arts	Health and Wellbeing	Languages, Literacy and communication	Humanities	Mathematics and Numeracy	Science and Technology
					
Music Art Drama Dance	Physical Education Personal Social Health and Economic Education	Welsh/ English Read Writing Orality	Geography History Religious education	Number Data Handling Space, Shapes and Measurement	Science Design and Technology Food Technology information technology

Cross Curricular Skills

<u>Literacy</u>	<u>Numeracy</u>	<u>Digital Competency</u>
• Oracy • Reading • Writing	• Developing mathematical proficiencies • Developing number skills • Developing measurement skills • Developing data skills	• Interoperability and collaboration • Citizenship • Production • Data and Computational Thinking

Crosscutting Themes

Relationship and Sexuality Education	Human Rights Education and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Diversity	Careers and Work-Related Experiences	Local, National and International Context
--------------------------------------	---	-----------	--------------------------------------	---

Statements of what matters;

The statements of what is important for all AOLE's will form the basis of our planning for progress, depth and breadth of skills and knowledge.

What Matters Statements for the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience					
Languages, Literacy & Communication	Health and Wellbeing	Mathematics and Numeracy	Expressive Arts	Humanities	Science and Technology
Languages connect us	Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits	The number system is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities	Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals	Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future	Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena
Understanding languages is key to understanding the world around us	How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well being	Algebra uses symbol systems to express the structure of mathematical relationships	Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts	Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways	Design thinking and engineering offer technical and creative ways to meet society's needs and wants
Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication	Our decision making impacts on the quality of our own lives and the lives of others	Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world	Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination	Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs Informed, self aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action	Design thinking and engineering offer technical and creative ways to meet society's needs and wants
Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity	How we engage with social influences shapes who we are, and affects our health and well being	Statistics represent data, probability models chance, and both support informed inferences and decisions			Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives
	Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well being				Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe
					Computation is the foundation for our digital world

Enabling learners;

This curriculum links to the principles of child development as well as the Four Purposes. It provides a variety of experiences within a variety of contexts. We use the curriculum alongside our knowledge and experiences to reflect on and respond to the individual needs of the school's youngest pupils. Effective planning enables us to make the best use of our school's environment and resources.

There are five developmental pathways that play an important role in our pupils' learning and development. These pathways have been developed to ensure that pupils are supported to make progress at their own pace.

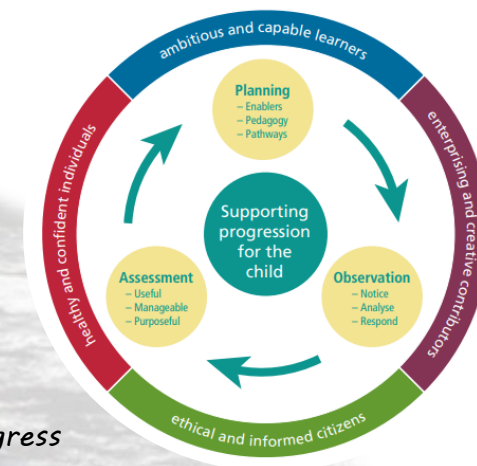
The five developmental pathways; Belonging, Communication, Exploration, Physical Development and Wellbeing

Observations

Observation plays a key role at Ysgol Penmachno. It helps to learn about what motivates, interests and entertains our learners. We use these observations to support our planning. We observe pupils daily, inside as well as outside. We consider when and how to best interact with our learners during their learning.

Assessing Pupils

Assessment helps us learn what learners can do, it enables all learners to make progress at an appropriate pace ensuring they are supported and challenged. It informs our staff about the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of the learners across the five developmental pathways and progression steps. This enables us to provide strategies that give motivation to the learners.



Assessment and Progress;

The Curriculum for Wales gives us the opportunity to ensure that learners' progress is the main purpose of Assessment and not an accountability exercise. We at Ysgol Penmachno are developing a complete picture of each learner's development, including their well-being, willingness and desire to learn as well as the development of their skills, knowledge and understanding. We emphasize the importance of ensuring a mutual understanding of progress across the practitioners of the school and the cluster and on regular discussions with parents and carers to discuss their children's progress.

The school will fulfill the Curriculum Assessment Purposes as follows:

1. Continuously support individual learners day to day

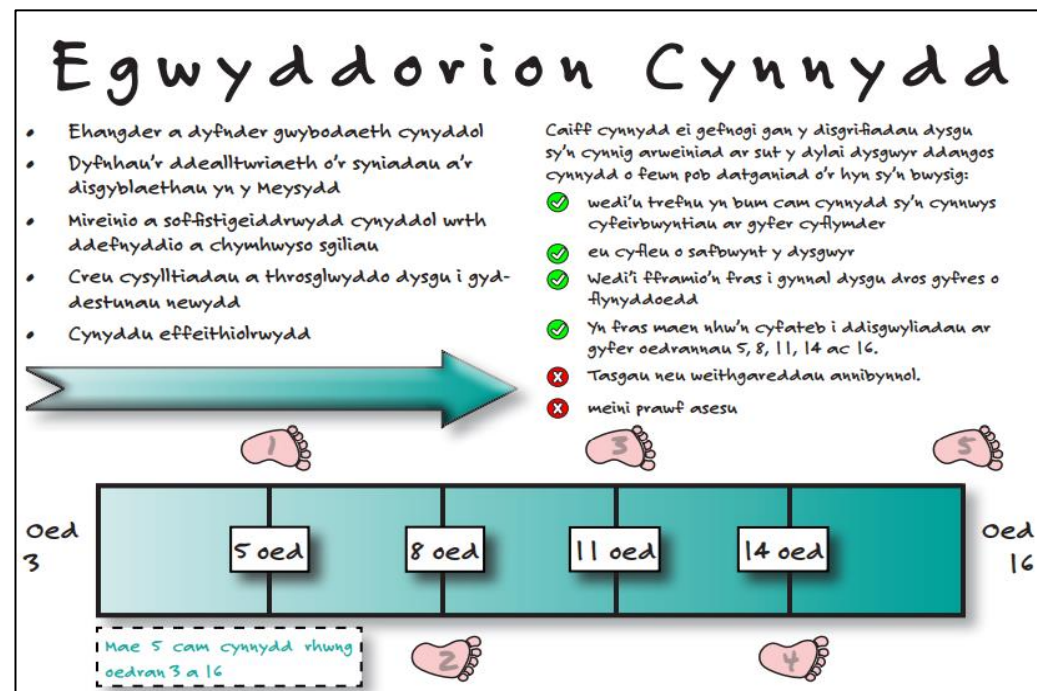
Consistently high quality formative assessment on the classroom floor day in and day out gives learners and practitioners a clear picture of attainment and next steps.

2. Identify, crystallize and reflect on the progress of individual learners over time

3. Understand the progress of groups in order to reflect on practices

Specific and regular periods are set aside for practitioners to discuss the progress and needs of learners and specific groups of learners through professional dialogue in order to plan for further progress. Such discussions will also facilitate and promote any transfer and transition between classes and schools.

Formative use is made of national tests and standardized tests e.g. PASS and CAT4 as required in these discussions. Regular discussions are held with the learners and their parents/carers to discuss progress including external agencies when necessary.



Ysgol Penmachno



'Tyfu a Dysgu gyda'n gilydd'

