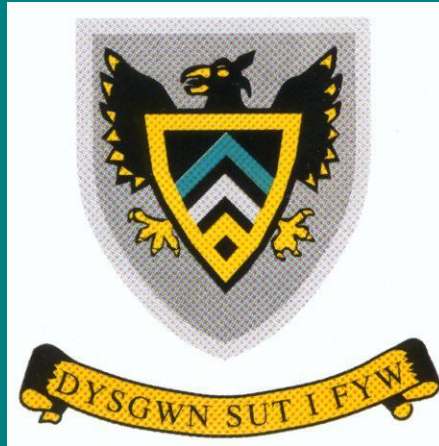


CURRICULUM POLICY



BRYNTIRON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

Aims

At Bryntirion Comprehensive School “We learn how to live.” Every learner has talents and skills which we aim to identify and nurture. All pupils, irrespective of race, gender or ability have the right to access to a curriculum which is broad, balanced, relevant and coherent, and meets statutory requirements. This policy provides an overarching framework which translates that belief into effective teaching and learning so that every learner reaches their potential.

The National Curriculum is the legal foundation upon which our curriculum is built but a school’s “curriculum” is far wider than the academic progress it offers. It can be described as the total experience of the pupils while at school; incorporating the complete educational programme offered by the school, the culture, relationships and values embodied by the school and a wealth of other opportunities. We value our pupils as independent, confident lifelong learners and as considerate members of our society.

Our aims for the curriculum are to:

- Create a curriculum that engages and challenges all pupils;
- a curriculum that equips them as 21st century learners with the skills and abilities to function and succeed in a variety of situations
- Ensure the Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form curriculums meet the requirements of Learning Pathways 14-19 and the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure (2009)
- Implement all recommendations from the Review of Qualifications for 14-19 and provide learning pathways that are inclusive of the revised GCSEs for English Language, Maths Numeracy and mathematics GCSE
- Ensure the curriculum we offer includes a range of recognised and appropriate vocational qualifications
- Design a curriculum that reflects the needs of our changing cohorts and provides a meaningful and engaging experience for our learners in line with key performance measures
- Provide a Key Stage 3 curriculum that builds systematically as pupils move from Primary to Secondary school, ensuring continuity and progression within and between key stages
- Ensure all pupils have access to personal support and careers guidance and maintain regular dialogue with appropriate staff regarding progress, aspirations and learning pathways
- Ensure that our pupils perform well in attaining the qualifications most valued by employers and post-16 and higher education providers as well as by parents, pupils and schools

School curriculum

The curriculum offered at Bryntirion Comprehensive School meets all the statutory requirements of the Welsh Government as set out in the National Curriculum for Wales. Teaching and learning strategies motivate pupils to learn effectively. A range of policies cover specific areas of the curriculum and detailed information in other related policies should be referred to separately.

Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF)

(Welsh Government 2013, National Literacy and Numeracy Framework) The LNF is a curriculum planning tool that ensures all teachers embed literacy and numeracy in their teaching. The framework is a statutory curriculum requirement and all pupils are assessed against it annually. Progression through the LNF and performance in the national reading and numeracy tests demonstrate how learners are achieving against the expectations for literacy and numeracy at the end of each school year.

Key Stage 3

All Key Stage 3 pupils follow a common curriculum which offers a wide range of subjects to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum for Wales. It introduces new subjects to pupils, for example modern languages and creative arts. The aim is to offer a well-rounded curriculum and broaden pupils' options for choice at Key Stage 4. They follow parts of the curriculum in their mixed ability form groups but are also taught in sets and groupings which allow teachers to maximise learning for all. The curriculum model is laid out below:

Subject	Percentage of curriculum time
Mathematics	14
English	14
Science	10
Physical Education	6
History	6
Geography	6
Religious Studies	6
Welsh	8
French	6
Art	4
Technology	6
Music	4
Information Technology	4
Aspire	4
PSE	2

Key Stage 4

The curriculum for years 10 and 11 has two separate parts comprising the Core and the “options.” The Core encompasses the legally required subjects of English, Welsh, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education and the Welsh Baccalaureate. “Options” include a range of academic and vocational qualifications which enable pupils to follow their aptitudes and interests and maximise their opportunities to succeed. All subjects are allocated delivery time either equal to or above the guided learning hours. Pupils are well prepared for a range of GCSE, BTEC and Vocational Qualifications. All subjects are offered

Pupils are guided into learning pathways for Key Stage 4 via the options process and the Careers Pathway Programme (See KS4 pathways document). These pathways ensure that all pupils access appropriate courses with appropriate support.

The Key stage 4 model (based on fortnightly timetable):

Core Curriculum						Options			Total
English	Math	Science	WBQ /RS	Welsh	Games	1	2	3	50
8hrs	8hrs	9hrs	4hrs	4hrs	2hrs	5hrs	5hrs	5hrs	

Post 16 Education and Sixth form

Our learner pathway support at Key Stage 4 enables learners to select the appropriate post 16 route for them. A significant proportion return to Bryntirion Sixth Form whilst others choose to join a range of local training providers and further education colleges or go into employment. This process is laid out in the Post 16 pathways document.

We have a thriving sixth form which prepares a significant proportion of pupils to go on to higher education. Working within the Bridgend Local Area Collaboration our sixth form curriculum offers learners the opportunity to take relevant public examinations to access higher education. Currently this is up to 4 subjects to AS level in year 12 and 3 subjects to A2 in year 13. All subjects are allocated 9 hours of delivery time at AS and A2 level although this is reviewed on the basis of pupil numbers. All pupils follow the Welsh Baccalaureate at advanced level, enabling them to gain further skills and accredited UCAS points. The Welsh Baccalaureate is allocated equal delivery time as per the option subjects.

Our pastoral and personal support for learners at Key Stage 4 enables them to select the appropriate post 16 route for them. Many choose to join a range of local training providers and further education colleges or go into employment.

Review

The curriculum offer at Bryntirion Comprehensive is reviewed and revised regularly in the light of pupil voice, Welsh Assembly Government Policy as well as part of any local or national priorities. Many of the changes to the curriculum offer at Key Stages 4 and 5 are in direct response to pupil voice. Any recommendations about curriculum change are made to the Governing Body. Any curriculum change or plan is incorporated into the School Improvement Plan.

The provision of an effective curriculum which is regularly monitored and reviewed ensures that all learners are challenged and equipped as 21st century learners with the skills and flexibility to function in a rapidly changing society.