

Ysgol Gynradd **Llanidloes** Primary School

# Languages, Literacy and Communication Curriculum Policy



This policy was adopted on 8 February 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of the Governing Body)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

This policy is a statement of aims and principles for the teaching of Languages, Literacy and Communication at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes. It outlines our vision, as well as the organisation and implementation of Languages, Literacy and Communication as an Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) for the purpose of informing all learners, staff, parents/guardians, governors, and outside organisations. It is written according to the Curriculum for Wales (Welsh Government, 2022).

## **Curriculum for Wales 2022**

The Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) addresses fundamental aspects of human communication. It aims to support learning across the whole curriculum and to enable learners to gain knowledge and skills in Welsh, English and *international languages* as well as in *literature*.

The four statements that express what matters in this AoLE should be addressed holistically. This means that different languages should be explored in relation to one another, so too the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. It also means that learning about and through literature should be seen as contributing to all aspects of learning about languages.

Learning and experience in this AoLE aims to enable learners to communicate effectively using Welsh, English and international languages. It aims to encourage learners to transfer what they have learned about how languages work in one language to the learning and using of other languages. This *multilingual* and *plurilingual* approach is intended to ignite learners' curiosity and enthusiasm and provide them with a firm foundation for a lifelong interest in the languages of Wales and the languages of the world; and thus to make them ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.

This readiness to learn is further supported since effective language skills help learners to make sense of concepts across the curriculum, for example by enabling them to articulate their reasoning when solving problems and analysing information. Effective multilingual skills deepen this ability as they enable learners to respond in many more contexts.

Given that a key aspect of effective language learning is the willingness to experiment and take risks in trying out new structures, sounds and patterns, learning and experience in this AoLE can empower learners to be creative and to persevere when facing challenges. Together, these skills can build learners' confidence to grasp new opportunities and to adapt to different roles which in turn can develop them as enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.

In this AoLE, languages are seen as a key to social cohesion, which can promote better local, national and global understanding. The aim is to encourage learners to engage critically with languages and literature in order to help them develop not only their own sense of identity, but also an understanding of the relationship between their own cultures and communities and those of other people. This understanding can be deepened as learners are afforded opportunities to learn multiple languages. This linguistic knowledge and these skills are needed to participate confidently and empathetically in society, which contributes to developing learners as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

Engaging with this Area also helps learners to become healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society as the skills promoted through languages, literacy and communication are key to enabling learners to express themselves effectively, to be open to other people's points of view and to develop positive relationships.

## **Our vision**

Our vision for our learners is for each individual to be excited by the richness of literature and become a confident user of languages. We want our learners to be ambitious problem solvers who are not afraid to be creative when learning and using languages. Our desire is for our learners to be curious as they make connections between languages and seek opportunities to practise them. Our learners will embrace other languages and cultures and enjoy the linguistic diversity of our community 'Cynefin'. Children should leave the primary school having had rich linguistic experiences that give them 'roots and wings' that they will remember and cherish.

## **Curriculum Aims**

Our aim is to provide engaging, diverse, and purposeful educational experiences that are inclusive of all learners. Our intention is for all pupils to become confident users of languages who can communicate well with others and are curious to learn, use and develop their use of languages, both now and in the future. Our hope is for pupils to become aware of different languages and cultures within Wales and around the world and for pupils to develop into multilingual and plurilingual learners. We hope that all pupils will develop a love of literature and to use this passion to develop their own reading and writing skills.

Planning for Language, Literacy and Communication will begin with the four core purposes at the centre ensuring support for our learners to become:

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

Our school curriculum will cover all the 'What Matters Statements', providing engagement with their key concepts in a developmentally appropriate way. There are four what matters statements specific to the Language, Literacy and Communication AoLE and these will be used as guidance for planning a broad range of learning experiences. Alongside this, the five principles of progression will be used to support learners in revisiting and deepening their understanding of the concepts within the statements of what matters.

## **Principles of progression**

1. Increasing effectiveness as a learner
2. Increasing breadth and depth of knowledge
3. Deepening understanding of the ideas and disciplines within areas
4. Refinement and growing sophistication in the use of application of skills
5. Making connections and transferring learning into new contexts

## **What matters statements**

### ***1. Languages connect us***

- Learners will understand that languages connect us with people, places and communities.
- Learners, as citizens of bilingual Wales in a multilingual world, will be equipped with the ability to use Welsh, English, British Sign Language and other languages in a plurilingual context.
- Learners will be given opportunities to learn about their own cultural identity as well as the cultural identities of others.
- Learners will be encouraged to develop pride in their identity and belonging to Wales as well as the world.
- Learners will be supported in becoming aware of the diversity of languages enabling them to recognize similarities between languages and encouraging them to embrace differences between them too.
- Learners will be supported to develop and understanding of the origins, evolution and features of a range of languages. Learners will be provided with opportunities to develop their creativity, as well as skills such as medication, adaptability, and empathy.

### ***What it will look like at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes ...***

- Cynefin – we have a whole school approach to prompting pupils' sense of identity and belonging: Cynefin. Pupils are supported in learning about the history of Wales and its culture through traditions such as Dydd Gwyl Dewi, Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen or celebrations such as Mr Urdd's Jambori.
- All classes have a unique Welsh name which is linked to a Welsh Tale, historical event or creature developing a stronger sense of identity and belonging. All pupils are aware of their class name and the story/history behind the name and have engaged in activities associated with these.
- All pupils participate in the school Eisteddfod as individuals, small groups or part of their house choir. Pupils are encouraged to compete in the local and National Urdd Eisteddfodau too.
- All pupils have access to reading materials, games and resources in English, Welsh and other languages and pupils are encouraged to use these regularly.

- Our Criw Cymraeg hold assemblies, encourage pupils to use Welsh on the yard, count our school Welsh points, have been involved in creating labels for the Co-op and promote a strong Welsh ethos throughout the school and community.
- All classrooms have clear signs showing colours, days and months and key phrases in Welsh and English and other languages too, thus encouraging pupils to communicate effectively in a range of languages. Pupils are encouraged to use these signs and phrases regularly.
- All pupils are equipped with the skills and confidence to answer the register in a language of their choice.
- Pupil Voice – pupils are involved in the planning of their lessons and challenges thus developing a stronger interest and involvement in what they are learning about in school.
- Staff provide pupils with many opportunities to learn songs and phrases in English, Welsh and other languages during assembly and class time.
- Pupils explore the local area, attend school trips and residential trips thus allowing the pupils to experience using English, Welsh and other language outside of school and their homes.
- All pupils are able to develop their French skills during sessions with a French teacher from the High School.

## ***2. Understanding languages is the key to understanding the world around us***

- Learners will understand that languages and literacy are fundamental to human communication.
- Learners will become aware that languages enable us to make sense of what is heard, read and seen and help to develop our understanding, empathy and our ability to respond and to mediate effectively.
- Learners will be given opportunities to experience languages, as well as images, in a range of forms and genres.
- Learners will have opportunities to participate in rich and varied activities and experiences thus improving their ability to become creative and enterprising in their use of a range of languages in a plurilingual context.
- Learners will be supported and encouraged to develop the skills to become unbiased and critically aware interpreters of what they hear, read and see in order to interact as capable, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

### ***What it will look like at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes ...***

- Phonics lessons – pupils have regular phonics lessons to ensure that they have a good phonetical understanding and are aware of how to blend correctly thus enhancing their ability to read and write and to communicate effectively.
- Guided reading sessions throughout the school in both English and Welsh enable pupils to read confidently in both languages and understand the text they have read.

- Pupils have access to a range of different genres. This ensures that all pupils have reading resources available to further develop their understanding of their topics, hobbies, and interests. Pupils have access to a range of books in a variety of languages.
- Pupils benefit from working with engaging visiting authors who inspire them to develop a love of books, reading and writing both at school and at home.
- Pupils have the opportunity to attend plays at local theatres featuring well known stories/plays. Pupils have developed a greater understanding of how languages work and how others communicate.
- All pupils develop role play skills associated with their topic, including the use of different languages. Pupils participate in Christmas productions, carol services and end of year productions (year 6) and are encouraged to use both Welsh and English phrases and songs.
- Genius hour – older pupils complete genius hour projects whereby they create and share their work/ideas in a method of their choice. Pupils choose their own topic such as a hobby or interest and work individually or as part of a group. Some pupils have chosen to look at countries and languages and therefore developed their research skills and knowledge of understanding of other languages.

### ***3. Expressing ourselves through language is the key to communication***

- Learners will understand the importance of clear and effective communication as a life skill.
- Learners will be given opportunities to develop the ability to use and adapt languages in a range of roles, genres, forms, media, and styles
- Learners will have the ability to choose an appropriate language and to mediate in a bilingual and multilingual context, they will explore the language of restorative justice and develop emotional literacy.
- Learners will be given opportunities to use a range of languages in order to be effective as they interact, explore ideas, express viewpoints, knowledge and understanding and build relationships.
- Learners will be given a range of experiences which will support them to develop an awareness of how they use a range of languages to express themselves for different purposes and audiences.
- Learners will be encouraged and supported to speak and write in English and Welsh, developing a love of both languages.

#### ***What it will look like at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes ...***

- There are a range of role play opportunities throughout the whole school encouraging pupils to think creatively, use expression and to communicate clearly.

- All pupils are encouraged to participate in the Christmas Production/Carol Service and End of Year production (Year 6 only) and assemblies. Pupils are involved in singing, acting, creating scenery and costumes.
- Staff and pupils use Green Screens regularly. These are used to develop the pupil's imagination and to encourage them to adapt their communication skills to suit the roles and genres they are learning about.
- Genius hour – older pupils complete Genius Hour projects whereby they research their own topic and decide how they are going to present their findings – fact files, PowerPoint presentations, Green Screen, 3D models and many other methods. This develops their ability to think creatively, to communicate effectively with others and to express themselves clearly.
- Pupils have the opportunity to visit Maes-y-Wennol to sing to and alongside residents. This encourages pupils to perform confidently, communicate with residents and create an enjoyment of singing and languages amongst both pupils, staff and residents.
- Diversity – pupils have participated in assemblies whereby they share information about themselves that others may not be aware of. Some pupils have shared skills, hobbies and cultural facts. The pupils have spoken clearly and ensured that their answers are clear for all to hear, informative and that the language they have used is suitable for all pupils to understand. Pupils also engage with visiting speakers and workshops, exploring cultural and ethnic diversity, such as Windrush.
- Eisteddfod – pupils are encouraged to participate in a variety of competitions at the school, local and National Eisteddfod developing all aspects of their communication.

#### ***4. Literature fires imagination and ignites creativity***

- Learners will understand the importance of literature and how it expands our horizons.
- Learners will feel inspired and motivated by a range of Literature, whilst also learning more about languages and communication.
- Learners will be given experiences which will engage them as listeners, viewers, narrators, and creators.
- Learners will use their experiences to develop their appreciation of a 'creator's craft' as well as opportunities to develop their own creative skills.
- Learners will be given opportunities to experience a variety of diverse literature that gives them an insight into the culture people and history of Wales as well as the wider world. They will have opportunities to respond to a range of diverse literature.
- Learners will be supported to develop their understanding of their own and other people's experiences, beliefs and cultures. As their understanding develops their

ability to demonstrate empathy will be enhanced, which will support their emotional and mental well-being.

- Learners will be given a broad range of experiences which will spark their imagination and creativity and develop a lifelong love of literature.

### ***What it will look like at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes ...***

- Visiting authors – pupils have met and worked alongside authors during different workshops both in person and online. They have learnt about the backgrounds of the authors, how they started writing and heard the authors reading from their books.
- Hay festival – older pupils can attend Hay Festival where they can meet and listen to different authors/illustrators and develop a stronger love of books.
- Competition Winners – older pupils have participated in online sessions with authors as they have won competitions on Fiction Express.
- World Book Day is celebrated throughout the school and staff and pupils are encouraged to share their favourite books. Staff have visited different classrooms throughout the school to share their stories and passion for reading.
- All pupils participate in daily story time and can explore a range of genres and languages. During these sessions pupils learn how to use expression, how to read correctly and how to engage listeners.
- Pupils have the opportunity to meet different guest speakers who are invited to school to hold assemblies and workshops.
- Pupils are provided with opportunities to celebrate a range of different celebrations which broaden their knowledge and understanding of different cultures and backgrounds.
- All pupils have access to a diverse range of books for to explore and learn about different cultures and languages.
- Pupils visit the local library regularly and have the opportunity to learn about how the library system works, how they can join and also to listen to a story.
- All pupils have guided reading sessions in both English and Welsh. All pupils have individual reading books to read in school and at home.

At Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes, we aim to support all staff, pupils and parents/guardians with their Language, Literacy and Communication skills.



- Staff are given regular opportunities to discuss their career path through performance management meetings and support and time is offered for staff to fulfil personal and professional development.
- The Language, Literacy and Communication AoLE members have held team meetings, met with other cluster AoLEs and joined training sessions. They have also presented information about their AoLE to all staff and Governors and collaborated with federation high school colleagues.
- Parents/guardians and governors are valued as part of school community by all staff.
- Parents/guardians and governors are invited into school for assemblies, school performances and celebrations.
- Parents/guardians can ask staff for support or guidance with phonics and reading. Information is provided for parents to support their children with phonics and handwriting.
- Parents/guardians and pupils are encouraged to read regularly at home. Support, advice, and encouragement is offered to parents/guardians.
- School communication is provided for parents/guardians in a language of their choice.
- Parents/guardians are invited to come into school for parent and teacher consultations whereby they can look at their child's work and learn about their child's targets/next steps.
- Our school website has links to resources which can be used at home to support pupils with their English and Welsh reading, writing and oracy.