



Delivery of our Curriculum



During 2022 – 2023, we continued to make use of our School Improvement Portfolio. The Portfolio allows us the opportunity to record our school improvement journey each year. During 2023 – 2024, we will be focussing on Cymraeg, Science & Technology and the Relationships & Sexuality Curriculum. We will consider:

- ❖ Curriculum Design
- ❖ Teaching & Learning
- ❖ Standards
- ❖ Pupil voice
- ❖ Passion Projects
- ❖ Reducing the impact of poverty on learners' progression and attainment.



Our School Improvement Process has really encouraged everyone to get involved this year, with the Portfolio being used to record our work and to celebrate success. We will be extending the use of our School Improvement Portfolio to record our activities in Mathematics & Numeracy across the school.

We continue to seek the views of our learners in all we do and we ask them what they would like to learn and to choose their topics each year. Topics for 2023-2024 are:

- ❖ Lights, Camera, Action!
- ❖ All Around the World
- ❖ Ready, Set, Go!

We look forward to embedding the Curriculum for Wales and to building successful futures together.

What our children from 5L recently told us about Passion Projects ...

"I think the Passion Projects are much better than our Learning Zones because we have to plan all of our learning."

"I love the Passion Projects because we can work together on topics that interest us."



"5L are so excited about our Passion Projects! We are passionate about Space, Football, Harry Styles, Baking, Cars and Rugby!"





Delivery of our Curriculum Y Canol

In Y Canol we are totally committed to the principles of inclusive education. We also believe that children who have complex learning difficulties require specialist teaching approaches, resources and facilities to enable them to achieve their maximum learning potential. In Y Canol we are proud to be able to offer the 'best of both worlds.'

- ✓ Each child receives a curriculum that is individually designed.
- ✓ We work as part of a multidisciplinary team to meet the specific needs of children.
- ✓ Our excellent facilities include a soft playroom, sensory stimulation room and an adapted kitchen.
- ✓ Our class groups are small and our staffing ratios are high.
- ✓ Every child in Y Canol spends some time during the week with their friends from the mainstream part of Ysgol Heulfan.
- ✓ Language, Literacy & Communication, Mathematics and Numeracy (including Early Concept Development), Health & Well-being and Digital Competence form the core of pupils' Individual Development Programmes.
- ✓ In all classes, the Areas of Learning and Experience provide vibrant contexts through which pupils' individual learning priorities can be addressed. In some instances, pupils also gain subject specific knowledge and skills.

We adopt a total communication approach to learning, which utilises a combination of complimentary alternative and augmented approaches used alongside speech. This immerses pupils in a communication rich environment which includes:

Reciprocity - subtle responses from pupils functioning at the very earliest stage of development.

Intensive Interaction - to shape the learners emergent communicative responses.

Objects of Reference - a tactile communication system for pupils who have multi-sensory impairment.

Makaton - a signing system based on core vocabulary.

Photographs and Symbols - a visual approach for learners with symbolic understanding.

Communication Aids - various technological aids to support communication.

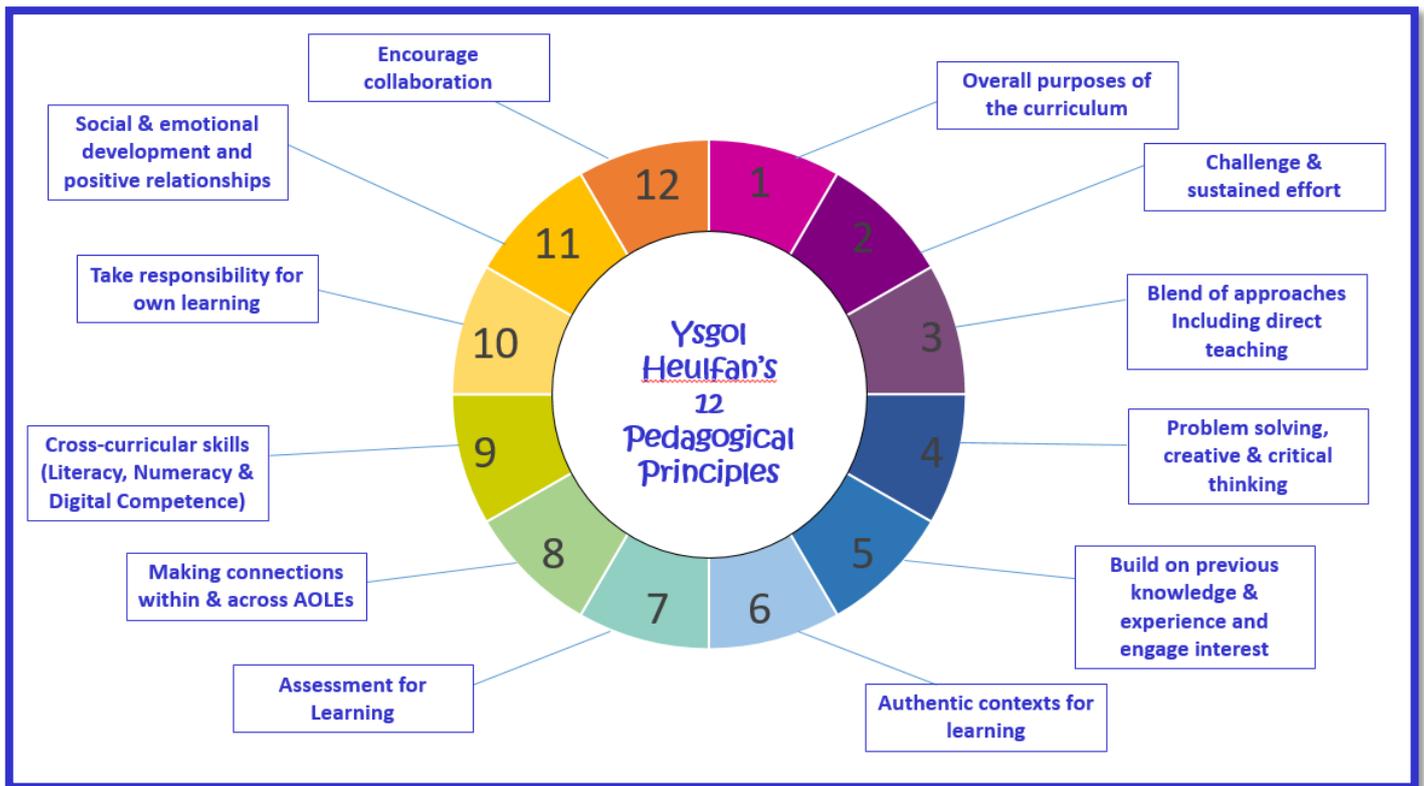
Attention Autism - an approach to develop shared focus and learning.

Songs, cues, routines and repetition support learners to make sense of their world & promote learning & well-being.

We believe that children learn best when they are enjoying themselves. Consequently, much of the learning in Y Canol is play based and all of it is fun!

We endeavour to provide a caring, supportive and stimulating learning environment and we actively celebrate achievement in all its guises.

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We aim to link everything we do to the twelve pedagogical principles. Our staff support learners to identify their greatest area of need and match this with the most appropriate teaching approach. The impact of the teaching approach is then assessed through the pupil's progress.

The twelve principles are not intended to be used as a checklist but rather to underpin the implementation of the curriculum.

Opportunities for ongoing reflection and assessment are sought throughout teaching and learning experiences. The assessment process is continuous and pupil centred, with every step being acknowledged and celebrated. Each individual child whether they attend the Foundation Phase, Y Canol or the Juniors is on their own unique learning journey.

As a staff, we have realised the importance of instant feedback and thus use a range of approaches rather than marking at the end of the lesson or school day. We make use of verbal feedback, pit-stops, talking partner support, visualisers, WAGOLLS, Wow Walls, peer assessment and self-assessment. In addition, we use our own 'In the Moment Monitoring' to ensure that our learners can talk about their work, can show understanding and are aware of their next steps and targets for improvement.

The Ysgol Heulfan approach aims to achieve success for every child ... working together to be the best they can be!



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When we asked our children what makes our school special they told us ...

1. Everyone feels looked after and safe. They believe they work hard and enjoy their learning. We always ask the children what they think about Ysgol Heulfan and they all agree that our Teaching Team make it special.
2. Pupil Voice: The children are asked to suggest Topics and the School Council agree on the Topics for the year. The Topics are made super exciting with lessons, entry and exit points, Passion Projects, visits and visitors. Everyone enjoyed the whole school topics for 2022-2023 – Brilliant Britain, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and Science is All Around.
3. Read, Write, Inc: The children feel confident in reading and writing. They all remember about learning in groups in the Foundation Phase and about how much Read, Write, Inc helped them. The children now enjoy linking all of their Literacy work to a novel in the Juniors and they would like this to continue.
4. Super Learning Days: the children have such happy memories of *Alien Invasion*, *Pumpkin Competition*, *The Wedding*, *Careers Day*, *Building Bridges* and lots more!
5. FaCE projects. We have enjoyed re-introducing our Face projects this year. The children recall special events when a member of their family attends school and everyone works and learns together. As part of our Family Projects, the children enjoy buddying up with another class and to sharing their learning – they appreciate the help from older children. We have two books celebrating all of our FaCE projects and the children like looking through them.
6. Forest School & Outdoor Learning: the children love spending time outdoors. This started in the Foundation Phase, with the outdoor Areas of Learning and now, building on this, each class in the Juniors has at least one lesson outdoors. In addition, we have a brilliant Forest School and everyone enjoys the lessons there.
7. Finally, during Covid19, the children told us that the thing they missed the most was our Assembly Time. The children absolutely love Assembly Time when they have the opportunity to listen a story, to sing and to pray and just to have a special little chat!

