



Ysgol Derwen / Derwen Foundation School

*"Happy together, learning forever,
succeeding wherever we may be"*

Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience Policy

This Expressive Arts Area of learning and experience policy has been created in line with the new curriculum for Wales, encompassing the twelve pedagogical principles for learning and the four core purposes. This policy reflects the school vision for curriculum design and has been developed holistically involving learners, staff, parents, Governors and the local community. As a team we carefully think about what we teach, how we teach and why we teach it. Within all teaching and learning, numeracy, literacy and digital competency is promoted. Whilst planning for this AOLE, consideration is given for the inclusion of the local community, Wales and its language and culture.

Exploring the expressive arts, both through their own creative work and other people's, engages learners with genres, techniques, tools, materials and practices and enables them to become curious and creative individuals. By exploring the expressive arts, whether through experimentation, play or formal research and inquiry, learners can develop an understanding of how the expressive arts communicate through visual, physical, verbal, musical and technological means. The expressive arts are also a powerful medium through which learners can explore Wales and its unique traditions and diverse cultures. By providing opportunities for learners to explore their own cultural heritage and that of other people, places and times, enables pupils to discover how the expressive arts can be used to shape and express personal, social and cultural identities. Learners can also explore how the expressive arts can be used to question and challenge viewpoints and be a force for personal and societal change.

What Matters Statements

The Expressive Arts Area of Learning Experience is driven by the What Matter Statements. What Matters in this Area is expressed in three statements which support and complement one another and should not be viewed in isolation. Together they contribute to realising the four purposes of the curriculum.

Within this area of the curriculum, the What Matter Statements are:

- Exploring the expressive arts is essential to develop artistic skills and knowledge and it enables Learners to become curious and creative individuals.

- Responding and reflecting, both as an artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts.
- Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination

Principles

The principles underpinning every Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) at Ysgol Derwen ensures that the curriculum is:

- authentic: rooted in Welsh values and culture and aligned with an agreed set of stated purposes
- evidence-based: drawing on the best of existing practice within Wales and from elsewhere, and on sound research
- responsive: relevant to the needs of today (individual, local and national) but also equipping all young people with the knowledge, skills and dispositions for future challenges as lifelong learners
- inclusive: easily understood by all, encompassing an entitlement to high-quality education for every child and young person and those of parents, carers and wider society
- ambitious: embodying high expectations and setting no artificial limits on achievement and challenge for each individual child and young person
- empowering: developing competences which will allow young people to engage confidently with the challenges of their future lives
- engaging: encouraging enjoyment from learning and satisfaction in mastering challenging subject matter
- manageable: recognising the implications for and supported by appropriate assessment and accountability arrangements.

All Areas of Learning Experiences (AOLE's) are underpinned with challenging opportunities to develop numeracy, literacy and digital competency skills as well as equip learners with the opportunities to develop each of the four core purposes. Teachers are expected to plan using the "four core purposes" of the curriculum and these will ensure our pupils will be:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Ethical, informed citizens who:

- 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.

4. 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.

At Ysgol Derwen we plan opportunities for art, music, creative movement and drama under the Expressive Arts AOLE. These are not identified as separate subject lessons but instead as building blocks for the Expressive Arts AOLE.

Art

Art includes the experimentation and development of an almost limitless range of resources, materials, techniques and processes across all types of art, craft and design to produce a range of outcomes and to demonstrate a personal and creative response. Through art experiences in Ysgol Derwen pupils should be able to:

- show development in their ability to create images,
- work with confidence in 2D 3D and 4D dimensions and on a variety of sizes and scales.
- experiment with a wide range of different media.
- select media and to decide how they are to be used in the work undertaken.
- understand and use the language of art, craft and design when relating to the work and the work of others.
- understand and apply the basic principles of art, craft and design to include line, tone texture, shape, form, space, pattern, colour contrast, composition, proportion and perspective.
- evaluate and discuss the outcome of their own work against declared criteria.
- recognise the difference in approach taken by artists, crafts people and designers in their work.
- recognise that art, craft and design differ from culture to culture and reflect the times in which they were produced.
- relate their art work to other areas of the curriculum.
- use art as a medium to give expression of their world.

Dance

Dance includes performing, choreography and appreciation across a range of styles. In Ysgol Derwen, dance is integrated into a range of class and school activities. Through dance experiences in Ysgol Derwen pupils should be able to:

- Consider shape and body frame, time rhythm.
- Perform improvisation and character interpretations.
- Choreograph pieces to and dance compositions to fit in with a chosen theme.
- Use dance to express feelings and express communication.
- Have good spatial awareness.
- Fully participate in Dance PE activities.
- Participate and evaluate dance activities including traditional and those from other cultures
- Participate in whole school concerts
- Participate in Assemblies

Drama

Drama includes acting, directing, design, technical theatre and arts administration. Through drama experiences in Ysgol Derwen pupils should be able to:

- Participate in action rhymes and songs
- Music and PE activities
- Take part in role play
- Take part in hot seating activities
- Script writing and performing.
- Take part in Whole school concerts and assemblies

Music

Music at Ysgol Derwen aims to develop skills, concepts and knowledge through musical activities. The children of Ysgol Derwen take part in music activities which encourage every child to:

- Develop the appropriate skills through which they can express ideas, thoughts, enjoyment and feelings through music making. Taking into consideration, pitch, melody, dynamics, texture, tempo, timbre, rhythm, meter, form and structure, tonality sequence harmony.
- Develop their own awareness and understanding of music from a variety of traditions, styles, idioms, cultures and places.
- Strive to achieve, within their own capabilities, both confidence and the highest possible artistic standards in performing and composing.
- Enjoy music.
- Participate classroom-based music sessions
- Participate School assemblies and whole school singing
- Participate in School concerts

Film and digital media

Film and digital media at Ysgol Derwen, includes television, film, radio, games design, photography, print media, social media, sound and audio production. In order to achieve this, we encourage every child to:

- To use digital media to edit productions
- To use virtual reality sound effects
- To produce graphics/ leaflets to assist/ advertise productions
- To create animations using programmes such as Scratch

Monitoring

The lead for Expressive Arts is Mrs Jan Cartwright.

It is the responsibility of the Humanities lead to:

- Attend any training and cascade information to all staff
- Participate in an annual learning walk accompanied by SLT and relevant governors
- Review the Policy and Resources on an annual basis. The review will inform any subsequent change.
- Lead and communicate with the school team effectively
- Identify staff training needs in their subject
- Assist staff and Head teacher in identifying and prioritising needs
- Support staff in their planning of subject
- Provide exemplar material/lessons to support staff
- Complete a subject audit and action plan annually
- Audit available resources to enhance the experiences for all children

Assessment and progression

Progression in learning is the process of developing and improving pupil's skills, knowledge and understanding over a period of time. Through the development of this AOLE, there will be principles of progression which will aim to support learners through:

- Increasing breadth and depth of knowledge
- Deepening understanding of the ideas and disciplines within areas of learning and experience
- Refinement and growing sophistication in the use and application of skills
- Making connections and transferring learning into new contexts
- Increasing effectiveness as a learner

The new curriculum is built on learner progression. There has been a change from the current phases and key stages to a continuum of learning from 3 - 16 years old. The new continuum has progression steps, reference points that relate broadly to expectations at 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 years of age. These progression steps are set out as a series of achievement outcomes, which are broad expectations of learning over two to three-year periods.

Assessment is considered to be an integral part of the teaching and learning in each area. It measures what a pupil actually knows and understands, and this informs future teaching.

Formal/summative assessment is carried out at specific times during the school year.

Continuous and formative assessment takes place on a daily basis and includes:

- Observing and questioning pupils
- Teacher assessment
- Taith 360
- Progression steps

Inclusion

All children are provided with equal access to the Humanities AOLE. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, culture, language or religion. The school will endeavour to ensure that access to materials, equipment and furniture are adapted to meet any particular needs so that the pupil can work alongside their peers. Individual pupil provision, including universal and enhanced provision, is detail on class provision map.

This policy was approved by full governing body on: **June 29th 2022**

This policy will be reviewed initially after 12 months and thereafter every two years.

Signed: *R Jones* (**Headteacher**)

C Turner (**Chair of Governors**)