

The Powys Curriculum Statement

‘To be educated is not to arrive at one’s destination; it is to travel with a different view’

-Paul Hirst

‘Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.’

-William Butler Yeats,

Introduction

This statement revises and updates the Powys Local Authority Curriculum statement of 1996. It is intended to:

- express the educational philosophy of Powys Local Authority;
- support schools in defining their own aims and values as part of their own curriculum policy (NB: all schools are required to formulate a curriculum policy and review this on an annual basis – *The School Government (Terms of Reference) (Wales) Regulations 2000*;
- present a ‘Big Picture’ of the school curriculum requirements reflected in the revised curriculum 2008.

The 'Big Picture' of the Curriculum

The 'Big Picture' is our attempt to provide an 'at a glance' summary of the principles behind the school curriculum. We have expressed it in terms of the major curriculum aim and objectives, the statutory curriculum requirements, the main principles supporting effective learning and the attitudes and dispositions which we hope all learners will develop.

Aim

Our aim encapsulates the drive to maintain high standards and to develop a curriculum for lifelong learning.



Curriculum Objectives

We have identified three over-arching aims underpinning our curriculum statement. Each is an attempt to summarise more detailed aspects of education.

Objective 1: To develop our young people as successful and independent learners

- to maximise the potential of all learners;
- to help learners to acquire and understand increasingly complex knowledge, concepts and attitudes;
- to develop learners' abilities to think, question, analyse, investigate and solve problems independently and with others;
- to engender a love of life-long learning;
- to enable all styles of learning and learners to be successful.



Curriculum Objectives

Objective 2: To develop our young people as confident individuals

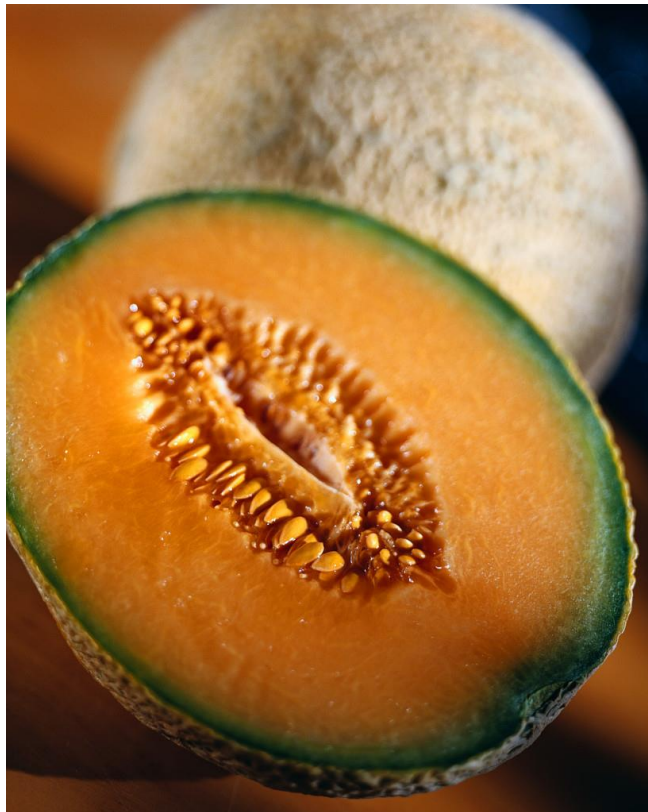
- to contribute to the individual learner's understanding of themselves;
- to help learners to understand their preferred way of learning and how they can improve;
- to enable all learners to make positive, well informed decisions about all aspects of their life;
- to support learners in taking risks in their learning and to make them resilient in tackling challenges



Curriculum Objectives

Objective 3: To develop our young people as responsible citizens

- to prepare all learners for the world of work;
- to help learners to understand, value and respect their own and others' language, culture, heritage and traditions;
- to help learners to actively understand their social, political, economic and environmental responsibilities as citizens at a local, national and global scale.



The Statutory Curriculum Requirements

The revised curriculum is built on the following principles:

- a focus on the learner;
- emphasis on subject-specific and cross-curricular skill development;
- a focus on continuity and progression 3-19;
- flexibility;
- relevance to the twenty-first century;
- support Government policy including bilingualism, Cwricwlwm Cymreig/Wales, Europe and the World, equal opportunities, food and fitness, education for sustainable development and global citizenship, and the world of work and entrepreneurship.



Supporting effective learning

Our young people learn best when they:

- use their hearts, minds and bodies;
- learn through practical and exploratory experiences
- experience activities which are exciting, enjoyable and challenging;
- are encouraged to take risks;
- work collaboratively;
- feel safe, cared for and respected;
- are given responsibility;
- understand their own learning strategies;
- know what success looks like;
- receive feedback on their successes and on how they can improve

. . . and when their learning takes place in a variety of contexts, both formal and informal and where there is good transition from one classroom to the next and one school and the next.

Life-long Learners

In order to support our young people to become life-long learners, we have defined four major attitudes and ten dispositions which we hope they will aspire to through the curriculum they experience



