Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School



Curriculum Policy

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CoG:

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of the curriculum at Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to develop a common approach to the teaching of the curriculum which will ensure continuity and progression throughout the school.

OUR SCHOOL

At Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School, we believe that we are all lifelong learners - children and adults alike - and this means we are continually evolving in order to embrace change for the better. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone: with wellbeing at its core. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We empower them to make choices about their own learning pathways and allow them to lead their learning experiences and drive their own tailor-made curriculum.

We work hard to ensure that all children are given a wide range of the highest quality teaching and learning experiences during their time at Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School. We offer a curriculum which is broad, balanced and differentiated to meet children's individual needs, with teaching and learning experiences that are engaging, inspiring and empowering. The curriculum and teaching and learning experiences are driven by the school's Vision and Aims.

VISION STATEMENT

Opening the door to your future… With God, all things are possible.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Through the curriculum, teaching and learning experiences we offer at Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School, we aim to:

- **B**elieve that all our learners can be creative, confident individuals who take responsibility for their actions in a safe, stimulating Christian environment.
- **L**ay the foundations for happy and fulfilling lives with healthy minds and bodies.
- **A**cknowledge and meet the needs of all our learners, promoting a positive self-image and high aspirations.
- **E**stablish a safe, challenging learning community to develop a strong sense of belonging.
- **N**ourish the minds of all our learners through the delivery of an enriched and enhanced skills and values-based curriculum.
- **A**ctively foster the moral and spiritual wellbeing of every learner, developing understanding and mutual respect.
- **V**alue our community and rich heritage to develop an awareness of our position in the wider world.
- **O**ffer opportunities for learners to express themselves creatively and take risks.
- **N**urture and develop a love of God, one another and themselves.

These aims are embodied within our Rainbow Dreams curriculum which is…

Reflective, **A**spirational, **I**nclusive, **N**urturing, **B**road, **O**riginal, **W**onderful

Which in turn gives every child the…

Desire to **R**each **E**very **A**im and the **M**otivation to **S**ucceed



All of the above values, aims and objectives seek to meet the purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, to help children and young people develop as:

- 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.

EQUALITIES

Every effort is made to ensure that teaching and learning provides equal entitlement of the curriculum for all children who attend Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School irrespective of race, religion or belief, gender, age, disability and language. Sensitivity and fairness are emphasised during monitoring and assessment to take into account equality of opportunities. Each child is valued and seen as unique. We endeavour to ensure the curriculum and learning and teaching opportunities cater for the learning needs of the individual pupil with the aim of stretching them to the full extent of their capabilities and providing them with the opportunity to demonstrate fully what they know, understand and can do. The children's wellbeing is always central to everything we do.

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the Curriculum for Wales, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experience of the children. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills that will empower their future.

In Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School we truly believe in a 21st century learning approach where the children lead and direct their own learning. Our prime focus is to develop the knowledge and skills of the children whatever their stage. We aim to empower our children to make the right choices in school and in life and have high expectations of every learner.

We use the four purposes to shape all learning experiences and believe in a practical, hands on approach to learning which encapsulates the skills that will help learners thrive in an increasingly digital world. We adopt a thematic approach to planning: developing a holistic curriculum where more than one area of learning may be linked, whilst maintaining a heavy focus on literacy, numeracy, and digital competency. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the Curriculum for Wales and there is planned progression across all Areas of Learning and Experiences (AOLE).

As a school we believe that learners need to be fully aware of their own learning progress and the next steps for their improvement. We plan exciting learning experiences that engender curiosity and questions in our learners and encourage them to make independent choices. Learning should bring together a breadth of knowledge and skills, allowing the learners to use and apply them in new and challenging contexts.

We plan our curriculum in three phases:

- We agree a long-term plan which indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review our long-term plan on an annual basis.
- Within our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the skills and objectives that will be covered when teaching each topic. Staff then plan with the children how the skills will be delivered. This approach makes learning more interesting and purposeful for learners and gives an emphasis to skills development and application whilst allowing pupils to direct their own learning. Our medium-term plans are often supported by the use of the Building Blocks Curriculum resource.
- Our short-term plans are used by teachers to set out the learning objectives for each session, to identify which skills we want the children to achieve, the success criteria and context of the session and the resources and activities we are going to use.

At Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School some subjects are taught in discretely such as Phonics through Letters and Sounds and Maths through TAPAS, though links to our thematic approach are made wherever possible.

We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, and to be involved in the learning process as far as possible through:

- opportunities to initiate and influence learning, e.g. through class planning sessions and Pupil Voice groups;
- an Assessment for Learning (AfL) approach;
- ensuring that thinking time is given;
- learning objectives and success criteria being shared, displayed and discussed;
- modelling of work and activities taking place;
- involving children in setting their own personal targets;
- celebrating children's attitudes and efforts;
- providing high quality feedback to children on their learning;
- encouraging and facilitating self and peer support and evaluation;
- recognising and celebrating children's achievements in all areas of life.

We believe that children learn when teaching and learning is relevant to their lives in the wider community. In our school you will see:

- members of the local and wider community engaging in school life;
- celebrations of national and international events;
- an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities;
- visits to places which enhance pupils learning;
- links with the local business community, charities and cultural organisations.

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING:

Assessment is intrinsic to curriculum design. Its overarching purpose is to support every learner to make progress. Assessment should always focus on moving learning forward by understanding the learning which has already taken place and using this to ensure that each learner is challenged and supported appropriately, according to their individual learning needs. Assessment plays a fundamental role in enabling each individual learner to make progress at an appropriate pace, ensuring they are supported and challenged accordingly. Both practitioner and learner should develop an understanding of how the learner learns and their attitude and approach to learning, in order to support them to continue to progress and to foster commitment to their learning.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the Curriculum Leadership Team is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for all the areas of learning & experience (AOLE);
- support and offer advice to colleagues on issues related to the AOLEs;
- monitor pupil progress in partnership with AOLE Leads.

It is the role of the Curriculum Leadership Team to keep up to date with developments in the curriculum, at both national and local level. The team liaises with all AOLE leaders to review curriculum plans for the AOLEs, ensuring that there is full coverage of the Curriculum for Wales and that progression is planned into schemes of work. All leadership activities will be completed in line with the School Development Plan.

REVIEW

We are aware of the need to review the Curriculum Policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. The policy will therefore be reviewed as part of a planned cycle or earlier if necessary.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- Blended Learning Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- ALN Policy
- More Able and Talented Policy
- AOLE Policies
- E-safety policies