

# Ysgol Caban Aur

## Curriculum Policy



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### **Contents**

- 1. Introduction – p2**
- 2. Aims of the Curriculum – p2**
- 3. Curriculum Principles – p2**
- 4. Curriculum Structure – p3**
- 5. Implementation – p3**
- 6. Welsh Development – p4**
- 7. Additional Learning Needs (ALN)– p4**
- 8. Review and Evaluation – p4**
- 9. Partnerships – p4**

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Curriculum subjects – p5**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Ysgol Caban Aur (YCA) is a unique learning environment specifically designed to meet the educational and wellbeing needs of children residing at Afon Goch Children's Home.

1.2 Our curriculum is built upon the principles of the Curriculum for Wales framework, adapted and tailored to address the specific experiences and challenges faced by our learners. We are committed to providing a nurturing, supportive, and therapeutic environment where every child can thrive and achieve their full potential.

## 2. AIMS OF OUR CURRICULUM

2.1 Our curriculum aims to:

- **Develop resilient, capable learners:** Fostering self-esteem, confidence, and a love of learning, recognising the individual journey of each child.
- **Nurture creative expression and emotional literacy:** Providing opportunities for children to express themselves through arts, play, and other creative mediums, promoting emotional wellbeing and healthy coping mechanisms.
- **Build essential life skills and independence:** Equipping learners with practical skills, social skills, and strategies for managing their emotions and behaviour, preparing them for successful transitions and independent living.
- **Create a sense of belonging and community:** Fostering positive relationships, promoting teamwork, and developing a strong sense of belonging within the school and wider community.
- **Provide a foundation for future pathways:** Supporting learners to achieve academic qualifications and develop skills relevant to future education, training, and employment, taking into account their individual aspirations and needs.
- **Address past trauma and promote healing:** Creating a safe and supportive environment that acknowledges the impact of trauma and provides therapeutic approaches to learning and development.

## 3. CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES

3.1 Our curriculum is underpinned by the following principles:

- **Trauma-informed:** Recognising the impact of trauma on learning and behaviour, and adopting teaching practices that promote safety, trust, and emotional regulation.
- **Personalised and flexible:** Tailoring learning experiences to meet the individual needs, interests, and pace of each child, recognising the diverse range of experiences and learning styles within our cohort.
- **Therapeutic and supportive:** Integrating therapeutic approaches into all aspects of school life, providing access to specialist support, and prioritising emotional wellbeing.
- **Relationship-focused:** Building strong, positive relationships between staff and learners, creating a sense of security and trust.
- **Holistic and integrated:** Working closely with social workers, residential staff, and other professionals to provide a coordinated and holistic approach to care and education.
- **Strengths-based:** Focusing on the strengths and talents of each child, fostering a sense of accomplishment and promoting positive self-image.

#### 4. CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

4.1 Ysgol Caban Aur identifies the mandatory elements of the Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) and as such every effort is made to interweave this into the learners' educational journey within the school. These mandatory areas are:-

- Values and Ethics
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Diversity
- Careers
- Human and Children's Rights

4.2 Ysgol Caban Aur's curriculum is organised around the six (AoLEs) of the Curriculum for Wales but with a strong emphasis on personal and social development woven throughout. We recognise that for some learners, foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, alongside emotional regulation, will be prioritised.

- **Expressive Arts:** Used extensively as a tool for emotional expression, creativity, and therapeutic intervention.
- **Health and Well-being:** A core focus, encompassing physical health, mental health, emotional literacy, and social skills development.
- **Humanities:** Exploring themes of identity, belonging, and community, fostering empathy and understanding.
- **Languages, Literacy and Communication:** Developing communication skills, both written and oral, with a focus on building confidence and self-expression.
- **Mathematics and Numeracy:** Building essential numeracy skills, with a focus on practical application and real-world contexts.
- **Science and Technology:** Exploring the world around us, fostering curiosity and problem-solving skills, with opportunities for hands-on learning.

#### 5. IMPLEMENTATION

- **Planning:** Curriculum planning is a collaborative process involving teachers, social workers, residential staff, and therapists. Individual Development Plans (IDPs) are central to our approach.
- **Delivery:** Teachers employ a range of trauma-informed and differentiated teaching methodologies, including individual tutoring, and therapeutic activities.
- **Assessment:** Assessment is ongoing and focuses on progress in all areas of development, including academic, social, emotional, and behavioural. We utilize a range of formative and summative assessment strategies, including observation, portfolio assessment, and standardized tests where appropriate.
- **Resources:** The school invests in resources that support the specific needs of our learners, including sensory equipment, therapeutic resources, and specialist staff training.
- **Professional Development:** All staff receive ongoing professional development in trauma-informed practice, therapeutic approaches, and meeting the needs of children with complex needs.

## **6. WELSH DEVELOPMENT**

6.1 Ysgol Caban Aur will promote the Welsh language and culture within the context of our learners' individual backgrounds and experiences.

## **7. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)**

7.1 Our approach to ALN is integral to our personalised curriculum. IDPs are developed in collaboration with relevant professionals to address the unique learning needs of each child.

## **8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

8.1 This curriculum policy will be reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with Afon Goch staff and relevant stakeholders, to ensure it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of our learners.

## **9. PARTNERSHIPS**

9.1 We work in close partnership with Afon Goch Children's Home, social services, health professionals, and families (where appropriate) to provide a holistic and integrated approach to care and education.

9.2 Ysgol Caban Aur is not registered as an external examination centre. However, the local secondary school 'Ysgol David Hughes' in Menai Bridge acts as our external examination centre for those subjects requiring externally assessed examinations.

**Appendix A: Curriculum subjects:**

The range of curriculum subjects that, dependent on the learner's individual requirements, currently offered are:-

Art	Science	Careers Guidance
Outdoor Education	Therapeutic Projects – gardening, woodcraft	English
Personal Growth & Wellbeing	Welsh Culture	Geography
PSHE/Health & Wellbeing	Religious Education	Mathematics
History	Technology	Educational Visits