



Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn

Our Curriculum Rationale



Hand in Hand - together we can



Our Vision



Share the vision, spread the passion

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn is a small, warm and welcoming school that provides a fun learning environment for our young children. We strive to create a safe and secure setting where every member of the school community feels valued and genuinely cared for. In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we have high expectations of all our children and challenge them in many different ways.

The school is a bright, colourful and attractive place where all members of staff work hard to create a nurturing and creative environment for all our learners. Staff believe that all children deserve success as soon as they enter their first classroom and we work hard to ensure that all opportunities are made available to them. It's imperative that our children receive the best possible start through being taught a balanced curriculum by committed and effective staff. The staff here in Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn have a passion for our school and our children – a passion that is palpable and contagious.

In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we believe that building positive relationships with parents, carers and families is key to the success and happiness of our children. The effectiveness of the school also depends on a wider network of influential groups such as governors, community organisations and the Local Authority. We have worked hard to create an ethos within our school which makes everyone feel welcome, valued and supported.

Our vision for all, can best be summarised in our vision statement -

Hand in hand, together we can



Our core values and aims

We asked members of our school community what our vision and values look like

Warm, caring and friendly ethos	All who step in to the building are warmly welcomed. Visitors to Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, often remark on the lovely atmosphere within the school. We work hard to make sure that the school is bright, clean, colourful and attractive with fairy lights and fresh flowers helping to enhance the environment. We strive to make all visitors and members of the school community feel comfortable, relaxed and at ease.
Fun and laughter	We believe in the power of humour! Staff in Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn are not afraid to have fun and at times, tell jokes, act in a silly way etc, to generally bring smiles and laughter in to the classroom. We believe that children model their mood, behaviour and their attitude on the adults around them. Here in school, our staff show joy, smiles and enthusiasm and act as positive role models to the children around them.
Inclusive education	In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, all our children are valued, respected and their individual needs met by dedicated and experienced practitioners. We ensure that all our children are treated fairly and that regardless of their needs or barriers to learning, we create supportive classroom environments where all achievements are celebrated no matter how small or large.
Family feel/positive relationships and partnerships	Here in school, we strive to build positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Parents / carers are welcomed into the school and are encouraged to have an input into the many different aspects of school life. Staff recognise the skills and talents of parents and help nurture their talents. Parents and family members are made to feel that their opinions and ideas matter and that they feel a genuine sense of ownership. School believes that its relationship with parents is of paramount importance and that a solid Home / School partnership provides the best opportunity for the holistic development of the child.
Dedicated team of staff	Our staff work hard to ensure that every child succeeds in every way possible. They are committed, passionate and dedicated staff who are constantly looking at ways to raise standards because they want each and every child to do their very best.
Environmentally aware	In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we are taking active steps to make our school a greener and more eco friendly place. We are working hard to cultivate and promote an awareness of environmental issues within the school. Our wildlife garden is enjoyed by all members of the school community as well as the local wildlife!



This is Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn

When we discussed our vision, these keywords occurred most frequently -



Our Context

The School Community

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn is situated in the Queensway ward on the Caia Park estate in Wrexham. The school was built over 40 years ago and was previously known as Caia Park Nursery and Wrexham Early Years Centre. In 2020, the school expanded in size when the Local Authority extended our facilities, providing us with additional classrooms, offices and meeting rooms. The school officially changed its name in late 2020 to Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn to reflect our position as a school in Wales and as an educational establishment with 'green' credentials.

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn is a school for young children aged 3 to 5. It is a mainstream school but operates as an ALN specialist resourced provision. Most children who attend the school have been referred by the Local Authority for further assessment within our resourced provision. The school caters for children across Wrexham County Borough, however many pupils who attend the school are from the Caia Park area. Caia Park stands in a socially deprived area of Wrexham, where there is considerable unemployment, a high proportion of single parent families and families on low income or family benefits.



The school

In September 2023, we have -

Dosbarth Lafant

1 Nursery class in the morning

1 Nursery class in the afternoon

Dosbarth Grug

Reception pupils – full time

Dosbarth Gwyddfif

Reception / Year 1 – full time

We have three full time Teachers and seventeen Teaching Practitioners. The Headteacher and ALNCo have a teaching commitment.

The Governing Body are very supportive and committed and are active in the life of the school.

In September 2023, we have 50 children on roll. There are twenty four Nursery children, twenty two Reception and four Year 1 children. There are 39 boys and 11 girls currently attending Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn.

The Local Authority has identified 50 children as requiring a resourced placement

No pupil has Welsh as their first language. Three children have English as a second language.

Our Curriculum

Why, what and how we learn?



All teaching and learning is underpinned by four core purposes. The four purposes are at the heart of our curriculum. They are the starting point for all decisions on the content and experiences developed as part of the curriculum to support our children and young people to be:

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



In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we aim to ensure that all our children receive the best possible start by being taught a fun, balanced and engaging curriculum by committed and effective staff.

Our teachers and teaching assistants work together to create a happy and inclusive learning environment that engages and motivates all learners. Teachers plan fun, interactive lessons to challenge and inspire all pupils. The children experience a wealth of well planned structured activities which provide appropriate progression for all. Our staff are well qualified and experienced and have a good understanding of the requirements of an early years curriculum. They understand the need for children to be well supported when learning through play and the need to use a variety of teaching styles to suit all types of learners. Our children are encouraged to become independent thinkers and learners. Lessons have a well planned variety of learning styles and activities which motivate and engage all learners.

There is a consistent daily routine which allows children to feel secure in their play. A well organised routine sets time limits for the completion of tasks and allows time for teacher directed and child initiated learning to take place. A high adult / child ratio enables close observation and sensitive handling of all situations.

Mandatory cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competency are embedded along with integral skills – creativity and innovation; planning and organising; personal effectiveness; critical thinking and problem solving.

At Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, the curriculum introduces the children to skills, knowledge and experiences through the six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) encompassing the Statements of What Matters and reflects the Principles of Progression.



The Four Purposes of the curriculum in Wales should be that children and young people develop as:

The Four Purposes

*Healthy,
confident
individuals ready
to lead fulfilling
lives*

*Ethical, informed
citizens ready to
be citizens of Wales
and the World*

*Enterprising,
creative
contributors ready
to play a full part in
life and work*

*Ambitious, capable
learners, ready to learn
throughout their lives*



Areas of Learning and Experience



There are 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLEs)

- Expressive Arts
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Science and Technology
- Health and Wellbeing
- Humanities



Statements of What Matters

In each Area of Learning and Experience there are statements of what matters. The statements support our children to think about what they are learning and are designed to support progress, building upon understanding and skills.

<p>Expressive Arts WM1 Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals.</p>	<p>Expressive Arts WM2 Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts.</p>	<p>Expressive Arts WM3 Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.</p>	<p>Humanities WM1 Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.</p>
<p>Humanities WM2 Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways.</p>	<p>Humanities WM3 Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.</p>	<p>Humanities WM4 Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.</p>	<p>Humanities WM5 Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action.</p>
<p>Health and Well-being WM1 Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits.</p>	<p>Health and Well-being WM2 How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being.</p>	<p>Health and Well-being WM3 Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our lives and the lives of others.</p>	<p>Health and Well-being WM4 How we engage with social influences shapes who we are and affects our health and well-being.</p>
<p>Health and Well-being WM5 Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well-being.</p>	<p>Languages, Literacy and Communication WM1 Languages connect us.</p>	<p>Languages, Literacy and Communication WM2 Understanding languages is key to understanding the world around us.</p>	<p>Languages, Literacy and Communication WM3 Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication.</p>
<p>Languages, Literacy and Communication WM4 Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity.</p>	<p>Mathematics and Numeracy WM1 The number system is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities.</p>	<p>Mathematics and Numeracy WM2 Algebra uses symbol systems to express the structure of mathematical relationships.</p>	<p>Mathematics and Numeracy WM3 Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world.</p>
<p>Mathematics and Numeracy WM4 Statistics represent data, probability models chance, and both support informed inferences and decisions.</p>	<p>Science and Technology WM1 Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena.</p>	<p>Science and Technology WM2 Design thinking and engineering offer technical and creative ways to meet society's needs and wants.</p>	<p>Science and Technology WM3 The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.</p>
<p>Science and Technology WM4 Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives.</p>	<p>Science and Technology WM5 Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe.</p>	<p>Science and Technology WM6 Computation is the foundation for our digital world.</p>	

Well - being

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn provides a caring and nurturing environment for our children, staff and visitors. The well being of all members of the school community is of paramount importance to us.

All parents and children on starting school meet with staff to share, 'What is Important to the child', through a One Page Profile. This is an opportunity for parents to share with staff how best everyone can support their child's well being and emotional health.

School has an ELSA trained member of staff who helps support the emotional needs of our children. We have a wide range of resources, for example puppets, sensory toys and story books to support all aspects of well being.

The school has a Wellbeing Coordinator to support the emotional health and well being of children, staff and parents. Our Home / School Link Coordinator works with colleagues to offer drop in sessions, workshops and 1 to 1 sessions for parents. We have an initiative called *#dosomethingthoughtful* where we share small gifts and experiences with our parents / carers. This helps to help build positive relationships with home and helps to promote a 'feel good factor'.

Staff have been trained in Trauma Informed practices and have an awareness about the effect of trauma on young minds.



Planning

In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn our planning is informative, detailed and well entrenched. Staff plan collaboratively to ensure that the needs of the children and the curriculum are met. Written evaluations of the day are regularly made following staff discussions at the end of a session. These evaluations inform planning and ensure that activities meet the needs of all our learners. Our planning ensures that all children are provided with a broad range of interesting activities that take in to account children's interests. School ensures that a variety of teaching / learning styles and techniques are used in order to cater for all children's needs. Lessons have a well planned variety of learning styles and activities which motivate and engage all learners. Staff are enthusiastic and imaginative in engaging children's interest in a range of multi-sensory activities.



In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn we plan our curriculum through a range of topics and themes. Due to the learning needs of our children, we need to be flexible and creative when planning our curriculum in order to meet the needs and interests of all our children. We ensure that we give children the time to acquire, practise and apply their skills and knowledge.

Staff ensure that there is a good balance between adult directed times and child initiated learning.



We help to enrich our learning through planning outings eg to the local Church at Christmas time and inviting guests eg local police into the classroom.

We also respond to unforeseen local and national events as they arise.

Teaching – how we teach



In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, the 12 pedagogical principles are used to underpin the implementation of the curriculum.

Our staff will reflect upon, share and develop our teaching practices, based on our understanding of the pedagogical principles set out in the Curriculum Framework.



In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, staff are fully aware of best practice and the latest curriculum developments. They are aware that creating a high quality learning environment is essential for all children to thrive and develop.

Our staff will provide broad, high quality teaching experiences that will excite and motivate our children. Practitioners understand the need for our children to be adequately supported when learning through play and the need to use a variety of learning styles to suit all types of learners.

Staff will provide suitably challenging activities and will encourage our children to become independent thinkers and learners. The staff will facilitate learning through appropriate and effective intervention in the various work areas. A high adult / child ratio within the school, enables close observation and sensitive handling of situations. Our staff use Makaton sign language to support the development of communication skills such as expressive speech and language.

In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we consider high quality teaching essential in realising the four purposes and the requirements of the Curriculum Framework. Our curriculum will help children to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy and Digital Competency across all areas of learning. Promotion of the Welsh Language and culture will be a fundamental part of the curriculum. The children will start to learn about sustainability and community involvement. They will be encouraged to be curious, creative and independent.



Our staff access professional training opportunities to help them discover innovative teaching techniques and practices.

Members of staff have attended ELKLAN training in order to help support the children's language and communication skills.

Inclusion

At Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, the child and those important to the child, are at the heart of our ethos and practise. We value Person Centred Planning and strive to ensure that each child's voice and needs are heard and acted upon.

Person-centred planning is a process of constant review, learning and listening. Person-centred planning focuses on the immediate and the future, taking into account the needs, thoughts, concerns and opinions of the individual, and consulting their family and friends and others within their 'personal network.'

Children may have an identified Additional Learning Need (ALN) and Individual Development Plan (IDP), prepared by the Local Authority, when they start at our school. An IDP identifies children's main areas of ALN and through the Additional Learning Provision (ALP) desired yearly outcomes and provision is clearly set out. We work closely with parents and other professionals involved with the child, in identifying how we can best support these outcomes in the short term and long term.

Children may also be offered a place for further assessment. Working closely with parents, Local Authority and other professionals working with the child, we will determine if a child has an ALN requiring an IDP. If an ALN is determined, Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn will then prepare and maintain the IDP.

The ALNCo oversees how children's learning needs are supported, monitored and assessed. As part of this process, the ALNCo ensures that regular reviews of a child's individual Additional Learning Needs (ALP) take place. It is the role of the ALNCo to ensure that the provision we provide will continue to meet a child's individual ALN.

Our ALNCo works closely with parents and other professionals to determine if a child has an Additional Learning Need (ALN) that requires an Additional Learning Provision (ALP). She is responsible for the overseeing of appropriate transfer of information between settings and the Local Authority.

At Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we are constantly looking for ways we can train and skill up staff in their understanding of what 'good' inclusion looks like and how we can best support our children's needs. Staff have attended many in house training sessions from external organisations such as the Speech and Language service.

Staff have completed Makaton training, Autism awareness training, Trauma informed training and Person Centred Planning training.

Proactive joint-working practices which involve parents / carers and partner agencies are important to ensure the best outcomes for the learner / child.

Developing a working partnership with parents / carers is vital in supporting their child's learning and whole school experience. We work closely with parents to feel that they fully belong to the school community.

Our home / school link co-ordinator makes weekly phone to share with parents their child's news from school. In consultation with parents / carers, workshops will be held to discuss strategies to support for example; their child's sleep routine, diet or toileting needs.



Progression and Assessment

Baseline assessments take place in the Autumn Term for all our children. These initial assessments are undertaken by all practitioners. Our curriculum ensures opportunities for ongoing assessments. Progression is closely monitored and tracked and is used to inform intervention groups and provision.

Most children who attend Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, are identified as needing additional language support. Individual and small group support is provided for these children with appropriate activities aimed at developing children's expressive, receptive and social communication language skills.

Throughout the year, staff observe the children, looking at what they understand and what they can do. This information helps us to plan appropriate activities and experiences for the children in order to help them move forward in their learning. We believe that parents know their children best and we ask them to contribute to the assessment process by sharing information about what their children like to do at home and how they as parents are supporting development.



Parents and carers are kept regularly informed of their child's progress through classroom door and telephone conversations, Home / School diaries, meetings etc. Parents / carers receive a termly report and a detailed annual report at the end of the summer term. Parents / carers are invited to discuss the contents of the annual report with teaching staff. There are many opportunities throughout the school year for parents to ask questions about what, why and how their child is doing.

Reflecting and Reviewing

We embark on a path of continuous improvement through reflecting and reviewing our practice. We will regularly review and refine our curriculum in order to monitor the impact that it has on teaching and learning. This will be achieved through robust monitoring and by listening to feedback from all members of the school community.

