GRIFFITHSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
Ysgol Gynradd Griffithstown

Title	**Teaching and Learning Policy**
Date	**Dec 2025**
Review	**Dec 2026**
Author	**C Pugh**

Mission Statement
Inspire, Challenge, Achieve
Ysbrydoli, Herio, Cylawni

Vision

At Griffithstown Primary School, excellent teaching ensures that all learning is inspirational and challenging. We are a happy, safe and nurturing school, with excellent behaviour, attendance and punctuality. The opinions of children, parents, staff, governors, the community and other organisations are listened to and acted on in all aspects of school evaluation and improvement. Children develop and apply excellent literacy and numeracy skills across the whole curriculum; we are adaptable lifelong learners. Pupils make healthy choices and have active bodies and minds. Griffithstown Primary School is committed to equality and inclusion, and no one is disadvantaged by social or economic factors. Griffithstown Primary embraces the Welsh language and the heritage of Wales. We understand the diversity of modern Wales and our place in the wider world. Pupils understand the environmental challenges and are prepared for the technological opportunities of the 21st century.

Teaching and Learning Policy 2025

This policy sets out the Governing Body's aspirations for developing learning and teaching at Griffithstown Primary School. It reflects the work the school has undertaken, and will pursue in the future, in developing its own curriculum, enabling our learners to develop towards the four purposes of the Curriculum For Wales.

Roles and Responsibilities

Learning and teaching is a shared responsibility and all members of our school community have an important part to play.

Teachers will endeavour to:

- provide a challenging and stimulating curriculum designed to encourage all pupils to reach the highest standard of achievement
- recognise and be aware of the needs of each individual pupil according to ability and aptitude
- ensure that learning is reflective, progressive and continuous
- be good role models, punctual, well prepared and organised
- complete and embed professional learning within provision
- provide clear information on school procedures and pupil progress
- ensure collaborative links with the local community are strong and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

Parents are encouraged to:

- ensure that their child attends school regularly, punctually, well-rested and in good health
- ensure that their child arrives at school wearing the correct uniform and brings the necessary equipment
- provide support for the discipline within the school and for the teacher
- support the work of educational targets and become actively involved in the implementation of any support program
- participate in discussions concerning their child's progress and attainment
- ensure early contact with school to discuss matters which affect a child's happiness, progress and behaviour

- ensure their child engages with the online resources at home regularly and routinely
- ensure that all contact addresses and telephone numbers are up to date and correct
- allow their child to become increasingly independent as they progress throughout the school
- inform the school of reasons for their child's absence.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- attend school in good health, maintained by adequate diet, exercise and sleep
- attend school regularly and punctually
- be organised and bring necessary equipment
- conduct themselves in line with the Positive Relationships Policy
- take increased responsibility for their own learning.

The community is invited to:

- contribute to events and activities, such as assemblies, specialist outings, clubs, etc.
- present themselves as positive role models
- organise activities and events throughout the year to extend and deepen pupils' knowledge and skills
- volunteer in the classroom.

The Curriculum at Griffithstown Primary School

Skills based curriculum

If we attempt to teach knowledge we will always fail to complete our task. If we teach our pupils the skills they need to learn they can access any information that they need now and in the future. At Griffithstown we aim to develop: *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; and healthy, confident individuals ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society.*

Skills Integral To The Four Purposes

At Griffithstown Primary we will provide opportunities for our pupils to develop:

- creativity and innovation
- critical thinking and problem-solving
- personal effectiveness
- planning and organising.

Cross-Curricular Skills

We organise our curriculum around the planned development of literacy and numeracy skills, and digital competence. *Subject content is only the vehicle to improving skills.* Our learners will be given opportunities across the curriculum to:

- develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills
- be able to use numbers and solve problems in real-life situations
- be confident users of a range of technologies to help them function and communicate effectively and make sense of the world.

Progression
Our curriculum at Griffithstown Primary, supported by effective teaching and learning, will ensure all pupils make meaningful progress from their starting point. Learner progression not only reflects the knowledge and understanding within the six Areas of Learning and Experience but also reflects the capabilities reflected in the four purposes, their integral skills, and the cross-curricular skills. Teachers at our school will use a range of pedagogical approaches to support the progression of our pupils. Assessment plays a central role in enabling appropriate progression of each individual pupil and at an appropriate pace. Details are outlined in the *Assessment Policy.*

Pedagogical Approaches
Pedagogy is at the heart of curriculum and at Griffithstown Primary we have a strong vision of teaching and learning in supporting effective learning. Our vision for each of the six areas of learning and experience are:

Mathematics & Numeracy Vision:
- All pupils must use concrete resources daily to support the development of independent learning.
- All learning must be varied and engaging with practical and authentic opportunities.
- Numeracy skills must be effectively applied and developed across the curriculum for all pupils.
- Maths must provide opportunities to make real life and authentic connections that enable pupils to think critically and problem solve.
- Teachers must provide opportunities for high quality digital learning, and access online maths platforms regularly.
- Families must access online maths platforms at home to support high quality learning.

Languages, Literacy and Communication (LLC) Vision:
- LLC at Griffithstown Primary will enable all pupils to become competent and confident readers and writers. LLC will ignite curiosity through literature and build a passion for reading for pleasure. A language continuum will enable learners to develop their repertoire and become more proficient.
- We will empower pupils to communicate effectively and will encourage all pupils to share their views and respect the views of others, emphasising the importance of high-quality listening and responding.
- LLC will build a sense of belonging, confidence, enthusiasm and pride with the Welsh language, culture and communities. LLC will provide opportunities to become multilingual through trans-language exposure. LLC ensures that our learners gain the knowledge and tools to make connections and transfer skills between languages.

Science and Technology Vision:
- Science and Technology at Griffithstown Primary will facilitate curiosity through enquiry-based learning.

- All pupils will make informed decisions and judgements about actions that impact the diverse world around us.
- Pupils will thoroughly and consistently analyse scientific and technological enhancements and changes.
- All pupils will develop a collective responsibility to become ethically informed citizens of Wales and have a significant understanding of ethics in Science and Technology.
- Authentic Science and Technology opportunities will empower learners to become problem solvers, innovators and entrepreneurs through designing, creating, and thinking dynamically.

Humanities Vision:

- Humanities at Griffithstown Primary will ignite a sense of wonder and inspire pupils to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. We will encourage pupils to engage with the most important issues facing humanity, including sustainability and social change, and help to develop the skills necessary to interpret and articulate the past and the present.
- Humanities will encourage enquiry and discovery, as the pupils are challenged to be curious and to question, to think critically and to reflect upon evidence. Pupils will explore and review the ways these events and experiences are perceived, interpreted and represented. Pupils will form their own viewpoints and recognise those of others.
- At Griffithstown Primary, Humanities will enable pupils to experience the wonder of the natural world and contribute to pupils' spiritual development, faith and well-being. Humanities will cultivate in our pupils' a sense of place and sense of belonging, as embodied in the Welsh word *cynefin.*
- Humanities will enable pupils to understand that both, individually and collectively, choices can have major impacts on society. Pupils as responsible citizens will develop a common understanding of the diverse history, cultural and religious heritage, ethnic diversity, identities, experiences and perspectives of Griffithstown, Wales and the wider world. Pupils will develop entrepreneurial skills while recognising the importance of creating a just and sustainable future for themselves and their local, national and global communities.
- Humanities will help pupils develop an awareness of their own rights (including those protected in the UNCRC and UNCRPD), as well as their needs, concerns and feelings, and those of others.

Expressive Arts Vision:

- Expressive Arts at Griffithstown Primary School will empower pupils to approach problems through artistic means and a range of disciplines such as performing, presenting, sharing, exhibiting and producing. Pupils will therefore develop a sense of creative confidence.
- Expressive Arts at Griffithstown Primary School will expand the horizons of our pupils and provide opportunities for them to transform their ideas into work that hold emotional, cultural and commercial value.
- All pupils at Griffithstown Primary School will effectively reflect upon, develop and value their own artistic pieces and that of others.

- Expressive Arts will develop curious minds to foster innovation and creativity, thus enabling our pupils to explore capabilities within the arts.

Health and Wellbeing Vision:

- At Griffithstown Primary we are committed to a holistic approach to health and well-being to ensure that our pupils become happy, healthy, confident and resilient citizens of Wales.
- A whole school approach will prepare all pupils for life's opportunities and challenges.
- We will provide opportunities for pupils to explore their mental health and emotional well-being. We will create a culture where talking about mental health and emotional well-being is accepted, understood and valued.
- Pupils will be encouraged to lead healthy and active lifestyles which promote good physical health and well-being.
- We will support our pupils to make informed and considered decisions. Pupils will learn the importance of healthy relationships, keeping safe in the community and online, and how to seek help and guidance.
- We will instil respect for all members of our community and value their contribution to our local area, Wales and the wider world.

Learning Environment

Griffithstown Primary School is 'open plan' and in most year groups two classes share one large area. The learning environment, both indoors and out, is varied. It is designed to encourage pupils to be independent, to have a say in their own learning and to take increasing responsibility for it. It allows pupils of all ages to experience authentic learning opportunities. It enables pupils to apply, use, consolidate and extend skills. Whether outdoors or inside, the learning environment is safe, secure and includes all learners.

Organisation

The curriculum is organised into three whole school topics: Autumn Term – *New Beginnings / Influencers*; Spring Term – *Cymru Am Byth*; Summer Term – *Our Sustainable World.* Each year group has their own topic title underneath this. They plan 'Big Questions' and ensure all Areas of Learning and Experiences are covered. In addition, each year group covers the mandatory elements of relationships and sexuality education (RSE,) and religion, values and ethics (RVE.) Year groups also have specific literary texts which sometimes link to their topic.

Planning

Teachers have non-contact time one day a fortnight for P.P.A. (Planning, Preparation and Assessment.) Teachers, across year groups, collaborate to prepare all planning which is stored electronically using '*Taith 360'*. Coverage of the *Four Purposes*, statements of *What Matters* and *Descriptions of Learning* are tracked through this program. Teachers evaluate activities to identify next steps of learning for individuals and groups of pupils. Continuous formative assessment of learning and scheduled summative assessments both inform teachers' planning. Teachers' planning is differentiated to show activities for individuals and groups of learners incorporating strategies identified in IDPs, OPPs, IAPs, and reports from external agencies. In

addition to this, pupils are grouped for specific intervention to address specific needs in literacy, numeracy and well-being.

Resources
Whenever possible, purposeful concrete resources are used in preference to abstract ideas or a reliance on previous knowledge and experience. Teaching assistants are a valuable resource and are planned for and utilized to ensure effective support for our pupils.

Grouping
Pupils work in similar and mixed ability groups, pairs and individually throughout the day, to suit the requirements of the learning and teaching. Pupils are encouraged to work co-operatively and to help one another.

Recording work
Pupils record their work in colour-coded exercise books according to the subject. Oral and practical activities will be recorded electronically and stored in folders on *See Saw.* A sticker will be put in the pupils' books to signpost the location.

Equality & Equity
We ensure fair support, not equal treatment, so all pupils flourish. At Griffithstown Primary School, we actively promote equity by addressing barriers linked to ALN, gender, sexuality, poverty, and other forms of disadvantage. Every child receives the tailored support they need to thrive in an inclusive and respectful environment.

Life Long Learning
Pupils, staff and governors are encouraged and developed as life-long learners. Staff and governors attend training and development opportunities. Teachers share their learning with pupils to demonstrate the importance of life-long learning.

Professional Learning
Leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, NQTs, and students are committed to continuous professional growth. Staff engage in a wide range of development opportunities, including collaboration with colleagues, external training, and independent research. All teachers actively participate in structured collaborative teams through the WalkThru programme. Professional learning is integral to improving provision and outcomes, and its impact is evidenced through lesson observations, learning walks, work scrutiny, and pupil voice.

Next review date: Dec 2026