

Ymestyn Ymlaen Ynghyd



Reaching Forward Together



Our Vision



At Ysgol Estyn we make certain that our whole school community 'Reaches Forward Together' in a happy, fun, caring, inclusive, friendly, respectful, kind and honest way. We ensure all children fulfil their potential..... In whatever that may be!!

Yn Ysgol Estyn rydym yn gwneud yn siŵr bod cymuned ein hysgol gyfan yn 'Ymestyn ymlaen ynghyd' mewn ffordd hapus, hwyliog, gofalggar, cynhwysol, cyfeillgar, parchus, caredig. Sicrhau bod pob plentyn yn cyflawni ei botensial Ym mha beth bynnag y bo!!

Our Warm and Welcoming School

Our staff, Governors and children always provide a warm welcome. Ysgol Estyn is a primary school in Hope which is a small village and community in Flintshire, north-east Wales. The village is located approximately 3 miles from the Wales-England border, on the course of the River Alun, and less than 5 miles from Wrexham. It is predominantly an English speaking village.

At Ysgol Estyn we provide learning experiences for over 200 children from three to eleven years old. We offer Nursery provision in the morning sessions and wrap around care is provided by the local ABC Nursery. We also offer Breakfast Club and After School Club to all children. Pre school children are also welcome to join Playgroup which runs from our school in the afternoons. Our partners ABC Nursery also work with us to provide Holiday Club at our school during most of the school holidays.

Ysgol Estyn is an inclusive, calm and welcoming community. - Estyn



Croeso i - Welcome to

YSGOL
ESTYN



Wellbeing is a central part of our ethos at Ysgol Estyn. We pride ourselves on being a child centred school. We strongly believe that children should enjoy a happy, fun, kind and caring environment. All achievements are celebrated and children are encouraged to be individuals.

At Ysgol Estyn we teach predominantly through the medium of English, but also promote our Welsh heritage and the Welsh language. The home language of nearly all pupils is English. Children celebrate the Welsh language, culture and heritage throughout their work and through dedicated events such as 'Our Wonderful Wales' week. During their time in KS2, children have the opportunity to attend residential trips to Cardiff to fully immerse themselves in the Welsh heritage. Also to PGL outdoor adventure centre, where they are given the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone, face challenges and team build with their friends.

Our Unique School

Located in the semi-rural village of Hope, we are surrounded by local amenities like parks, a Church, shops and a medical centre. We have excellent local groups on our doorstep; Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Boys' Brigade, and Hope Dragons FC. Our beautiful, traditional, red brick Victorian building is a prominent feature of the local community, but it is only a small slice of the rich history that we are surrounded by here in Hope.

Our views looking over the historic Caergwrle Castle is a reminder of our rich, Welsh heritage. The impressive Hope Parish Church can be seen from our school grounds, which also provides exciting learning opportunities and ensures that all children are ethically informed citizens. Hope Mountain provides a beautiful backdrop filled with wildlife and scenic views.



Venture through our historical, red iron gates and you will be amazed by the wealth of opportunities on offer on our substantial school grounds. The outdoor environment plays an important part in our children's learning, health and wellbeing. Parents say ***'Lots of outdoor and practical activities make Ysgol Estyn a unique place to learn.'*** Our Forest Schools area allows the children to be surrounded by nature and our outdoor adventure playground will encouraged children to take measured risks and become confident individuals. Our range of sporting activities include golf, football, netball, hockey and rugby. Our impressive all weather sports pitch provides exciting experiences, encouraging all children to be healthy, confident individuals ready to lead fulfilling lives. Our extensive extra-curricular timetable which includes Glee Club, Nature Club, Criw Cymraeg and Dance also supports this.



Wellbeing

'The Forest school and the mindfulness garden are both unique and beneficial to the children as they love to be outside!' - Parents at Ysgol Estyn



Pupils' attitudes to wellbeing and learning are a strong feature of the school.

Behaviour from nearly all pupils during break times and in lessons is exemplary. - Estyn

Wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do at Ysgol Estyn. Our unique mindfulness garden provides opportunities for our children to be mindful, calm, reflective and to learn to deal with their emotions. This is supported by our Rainbow Droplet programme, which provides children with the tools they need to deal with their mental wellbeing and emotions.



Our Forest Schools and pond area are brimming with nature and wildlife providing rich learning opportunities, surrounded by unique habitats. We are home to wildlife including newts, frogs, minibeasts and birds. Our chickens and ducks not only provide us with eggs, which we sell and donate proceeds to charity. Also the opportunity for children to look after and care for living things - our birds have become unique members of the Ysgol Estyn family.



Working in Partnership

'The relationships between teachers and the family makes Ysgol Estyn a unique place to learn' - Parents at Ysgol Estyn

Our 'open door' policy ensures that the whole local community feels welcome in our school. Parents say *'The school is very welcoming and has excellent outdoor facilities, where children enjoy a range of outdoor activities. Parents are involved in school life where possible (in normal non-covid times). The lessons are fun and engaging. There are lots of opportunities for learning different sports and wellbeing activities.'* Excellent communication systems mean that parents are always up to date with what's going on in school. Our digital learning platforms and open evenings means that parents are up to date with their child's progress. Family Learning opportunities are a fun, popular way of allowing parents to learn alongside their children in school, where mutual respect is always shown.



Our close working relationship with Castell Alun secondary school and cluster of primary schools is extremely productive. We support each other and work collaboratively to provide all children with opportunities to become ambitious, capable learners. Our positive relationship with Castell Alun ensures a smooth transition between primary and secondary school for our older learners. We also work in close partnership with Playgroup and ABC Nursery to provide additional support for our younger learners.

Opportunities

The extras that are being offered within the normal school day such as the dance and singing classes makes Ysgol Estyn a unique place to learn. My daughter looks forward to these every week. - Parents at Ysgol Estyn



Our strong links with outside agencies mean that children get additional opportunities to thrive; through Xplore, Open the Book Bible stories, Theatre productions, dance, singing, gymnastics, Wrexham FC, local Police, Rainbow Droplet Mindfulness or Spectrum project. We strongly believe that all children have unique talents and we are confident that we provide a wide range of opportunities to ensure that each single child finds something that they can enjoy and be passionate about. Opportunities including Estyn's Got Talent, Leavers Service, Christmas Productions and Ysgol Estyn's Dragon Den provide opportunities for all children to shine.



Our Digital Vision

As ICT underpins today's modern lifestyle. It is essential that all children gain the confidence and ability that they need in this area, to prepare them for the challenge of a rapidly developing and changing technological world.

ICT at Ysgol Estyn will provide a stimulating and enjoyable set of tools to enable good quality teaching and learning to take place. It will be a vehicle through which each curriculum area is supported. It will allow all children to make excellent progress and enable teachers to teach more efficiently and effectively. Our vision is to enable pupils to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We help them develop the necessary skills for using information in an effective way. This is a major part of enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners. Our vision is for increased participation of parents and carers' in their children's learning.



Our aims are:

- For ICT to be fully embedded into the curriculum so that it enhances learning.
- For all children to become confident and competent users of ICT.
- For children and staff to have access to a range of ICT resources including new emerging technologies.
- For children to understand how to stay safe when using technology and to use technology appropriately.
- For all staff to continually improve and develop their ICT skills and to take a shared responsibility for developing ICT and E-Safety.
- To use ICT to promote links with parents and the wider community

Our Digital Leaders

At Ysgol Estyn, we believe it is important for pupils to take ownership of their learning and to have greater roles in school decision-making. We provide many opportunities for children to play a part in making the decisions that affect them. We recognise that pupils have logical perspectives and opinions on issues that matter in the classroom, in the school and in the community. We give pupils an active role in influencing decisions about these issues as well as in the implementation of them. We enable pupils to participate as active young citizens.



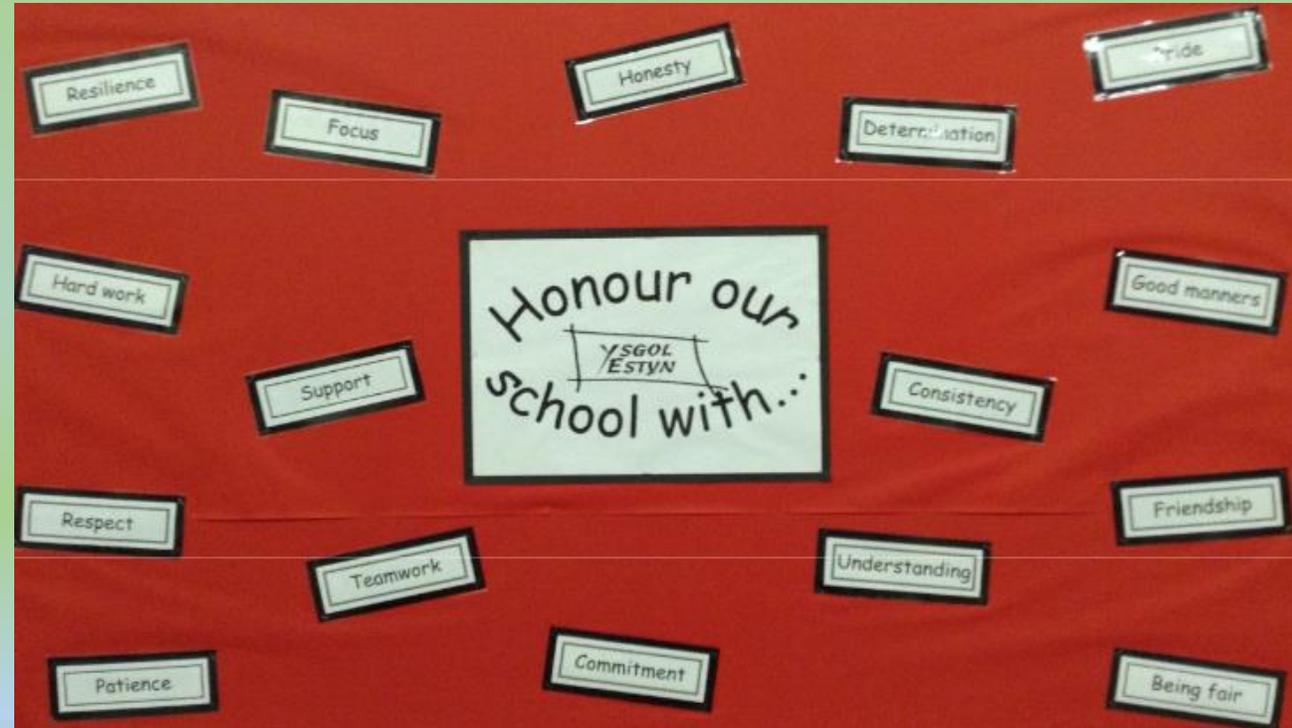
Our Digital Leaders job description:

- To promote the use of ICT to enhance teaching and learning.
- To share our Digital Vision for the school.
- To teach others how to stay safe online.
- To provide training for pupils, teachers and parents.
- To monitor, evaluate and report to Governors, Parents and Pupils on how ICT is used in school.
- To research latest technology and decide what we invest in at Ysgol Estyn.
- To maintain and update equipment.

Our Values

When consulting our Parents, Governors and Children about what they believe to be important values at Ysgol Estyn they said.....

sure they have fun
caring
inclusive **happy fun** respect
Happy learners kindness



We considered all of these when agreeing our values and behaviours.....

Our Values	Our Behaviours
Trust and Respect	We instil a culture of mutual trust and respect throughout our school and beyond involving all learners, families, staff and visitors. We also model respect for the environment, our building, ourselves and the world we live in.
Kind, Caring and Committed	We are a kind, caring, friendly and committed school, where having a kind attitude and a caring nature is modelled by the whole school community. We believe that kindness costs nothing but means everything.
Happiness, Fun and Enjoyment	We instil a happy and fun environment throughout our school thus supporting us to inspire and engage our learners, staff and all stakeholders. Children and staff are motivated, positive and enjoy school.
Inclusive and Sympathetic	We provide a fun, stimulating, worthwhile and meaningful education for all individuals in our school. Each individual is valued for being themselves. We are sympathetic towards the needs of all within our school and tailor their experiences respectfully.
Wellbeing and Nurturing	We priorities wellbeing before anything else at Ysgol Estyn. We ensure that everybody feels valued, we build self-esteem and we show empathy, concern and care for all. Children are encouraged to express their emotions knowing that they will be listened to. All individuals are valued and cared for in our school.
Community and Habitat	We show respect for our school community as well as the local and global community. We play an active part in our village.
Support, Collaboration and Teamwork	We work collaboratively with all stakeholders (children, staff, parents, cluster of schools, Governors, community and outside agencies) to ensure that we deliver a meaningful curriculum. We have an ethos of mutual respect running through our school where we support each other and work effectively as a team. All stakeholders have a voice and that voice is always listened to.
Confident, Hardworking and Determine	We aim to bring out the best in everybody, we support each other to be confident and proud of ourselves. We embrace challenges and encourage each other to take risks and push boundaries.
Patience and Resilience	Our ethos is learning from our mistakes. Children are encouraged to believe in themselves, to be individuals and to challenge themselves in all areas of life.

By ensuring that our values and behaviours are instilled at Ysgol Estyn, we strive to ensure that all children within our school community will be **Ambitious, Capable Learners, Healthy, Confident Individuals, Ethical Informed Citizens and Enterprising, Creative Contributors** ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.



Our Curriculum



A curriculum should be considered as the 'heart' of any school. Our curriculum is our vision to ensure our children are ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy citizens. All skills are delivered through our exciting and engaging curriculum.



(These are the skills that the parents at Ysgol Estyn feel are most valuable to their children becoming life long learners.)

Everything in our curriculum is underpinned by the 4 Core purposes. We ensure we cover the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience and the What Matters Statements whilst being aware of the learners progression steps. At Ysgol Estyn we believe our Curriculum to look like this:

4 Purposes of the curriculum.

'Ambitious, Capable Learners.' 'Enterprising, Creative Contributors.'
'Healthy, Confident individuals.' 'Ethical informed individuals'

6 Areas of Learning Experience

Expressive Arts

Health and Well-being

Humanities

Languages, Literacy and Communication

Mathematics and Numeracy

Science and Technology

'What Matters'
- Skills
- Experience
- Knowledge

Skills – Literacy, Numeracy, Digital, Welsh

Progression Steps/Achievement Outcomes – For learners at age 5, 8, 11, 15. Reference points for each individual 'I can...'
'I have...'

The Curriculum for Wales core purposes are at the heart of our curriculum at Ysgol Estyn.

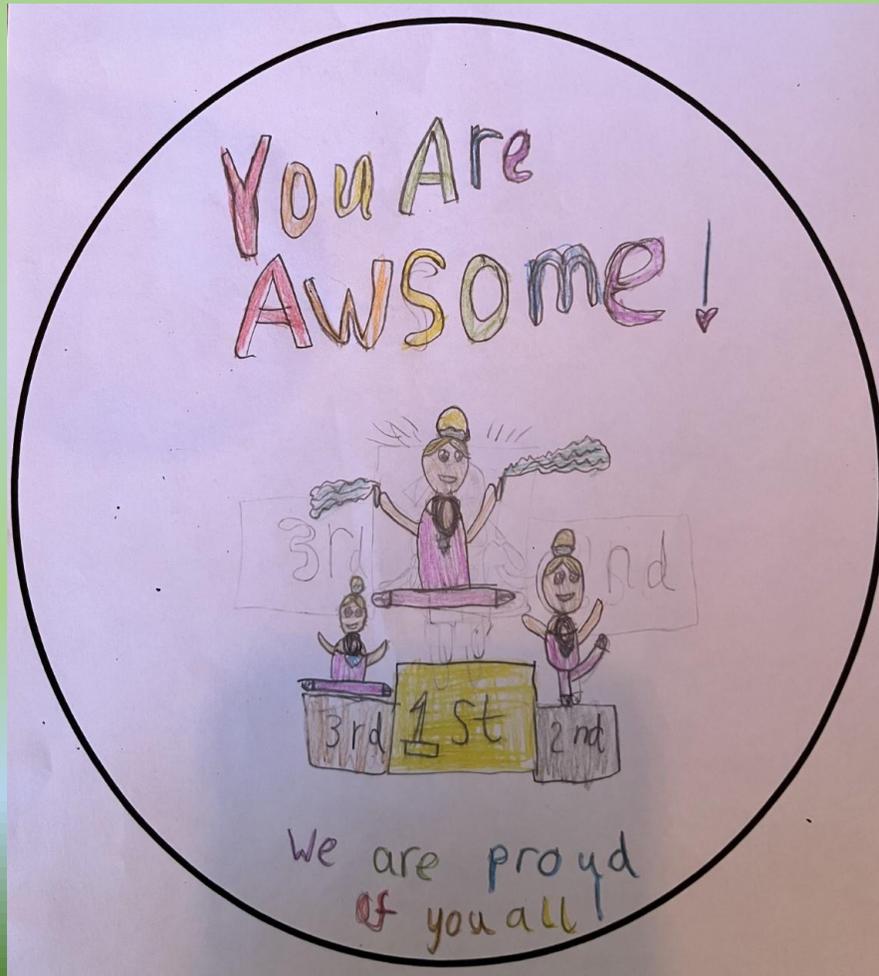
The 4 core purposes are:

Ambitious, capable learners ... who are ready to learn throughout their lives, and who:	Enterprising, creative contributors ... who willing to play a full part in life and work and who:	Ethical, informed citizens ... who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world, and who:	Healthy, confident individuals ... willing to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society, and who develop:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •set high standards for themselves •enjoy challenge and solve problems •develop knowledge and skills and apply them in different contexts •are able to discuss their learning confidently •Are able to communicate effectively in English and Welsh •use mathematics and numeracy and digital technologies effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •think creatively •apply their knowledge and skills to create, adapt and to solve problems •identify and grasp opportunities •Are confident to take risks •lead and work together in teams •express ideas and emotions in different ways •use their energy and skills for the benefit of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •make judgments and discuss issues based on their knowledge and values •understand and exercise their responsibilities human rights •understand and consider the impact of their actions •know about their culture and community, •know about society and the world in the present and past •respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society •see that they have a role to play to ensure the planet's sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •physical and mental health and safety, •relationships based on respect and trust •personal values •skills and independence to deal with everyday life •the ability to face and overcome challenges

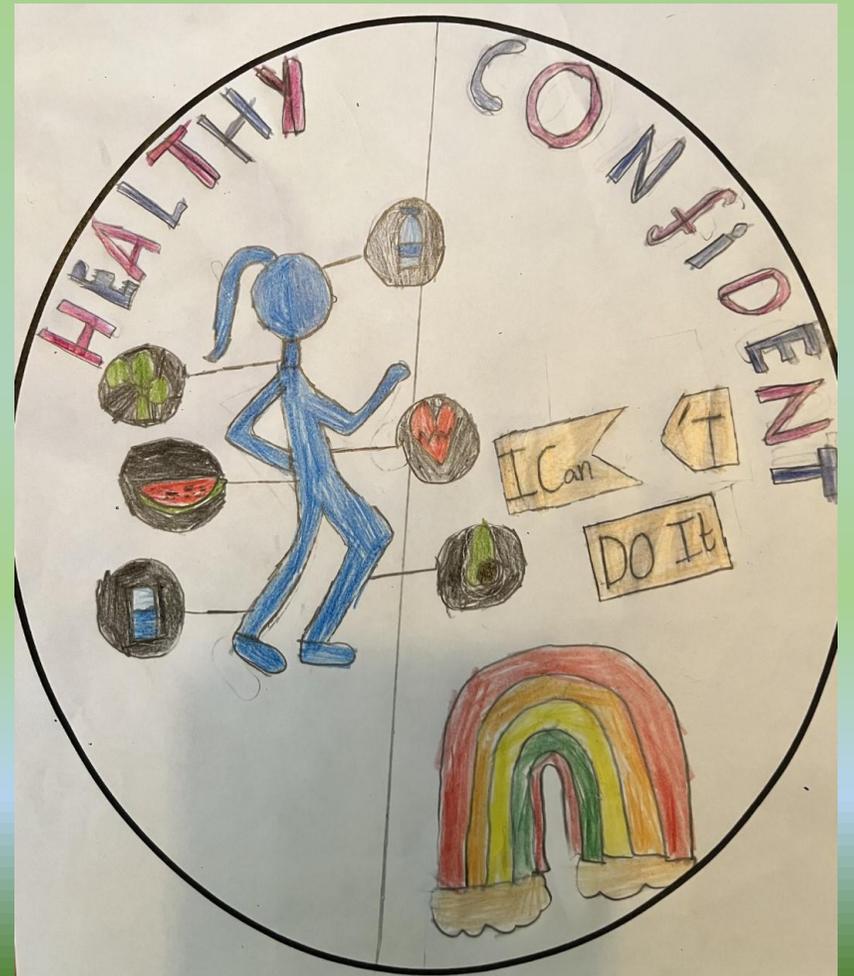
The 4 Purposes at Ysgol Estyn

The children of Ysgol Estyn designed the logos for each purpose of the Curriculum for Wales:

Ambitious, capable learners....



Healthy, confident individuals...



The 6 Areas of Learning and Experience:

The 6 Areas of Learning and Experience					
The Expressive Arts	Health and Wellbeing	Humanities	Mathematics and Numeracy	Languages, Literacy and Communication	Science and technology
<p><i>Disciplines developed in this school :</i></p> <p><i>Art, Music, Dance Drama Film and Digital Media</i></p>	<p><i>Disciplines developed in this school :</i></p> <p><i>Physical Health and development, mental health, emotional and social wellbeing</i></p>	<p><i>Disciplines developed in this school :</i></p> <p><i>Geography, History, Religion , Values and Ethics, Business Studies, Social Studies, Economics, Philosophy</i></p>	<p><i>Includes 5 interdisciplinary competences:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Conceptual Understanding</i> <i>2. Communication using symbols</i> <i>3. Fluency</i> <i>4. Logical reasoning</i> <i>5. Strategic competence</i> 	<p><i>Disciplines developed in this school :</i></p> <p><i>Welsh, English, International Languages, Literature</i></p>	<p><i>Disciplines developed in this school :</i></p> <p><i>Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Physics</i></p>
<p>Cross Curricular Skills</p> <p><i>We will plan for the development of the following cross-curricular skills within and across the Areas of Learning and Experience using the revised national frameworks</i></p>					
Literacy		Numeracy		Digital Competence	
<p>Cross-cutting themes</p> <p><i>We shall include and extend the themes below across the curriculum</i></p>					
Relationships and sexuality education	Human Rights education and the united Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC	Diversity	Careers and work-related experience	Local, National and International Context	

The What Matters Statements:

What Matters Statements for the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience					
Expressive Arts	Health and Wellbeing	Humanities	Mathematics and Numeracy	Languages, Literacy & Communication	Science and Technology
Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals	Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits	Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future	The number system is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities	Languages connect us	Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena
Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts	How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being	Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways	Algebra uses symbol systems to express the structure of mathematical relationships	Understanding languages is key to understanding the world around us	Design thinking and engineering offer technical and creative ways to meet society's needs and wants
Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination	Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our own lives and the lives of others	Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions	Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world	Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication	The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival
	How we engage with social influences shapes who we are, and affects our health and well-being	Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs	Statistics represent data, probability models chance, and both support informed inferences and decisions	Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity	Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives
	Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well-being	Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action			Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe
					Computation is the foundation for our digital world

Planning and Delivery: Laying Firm Foundations'

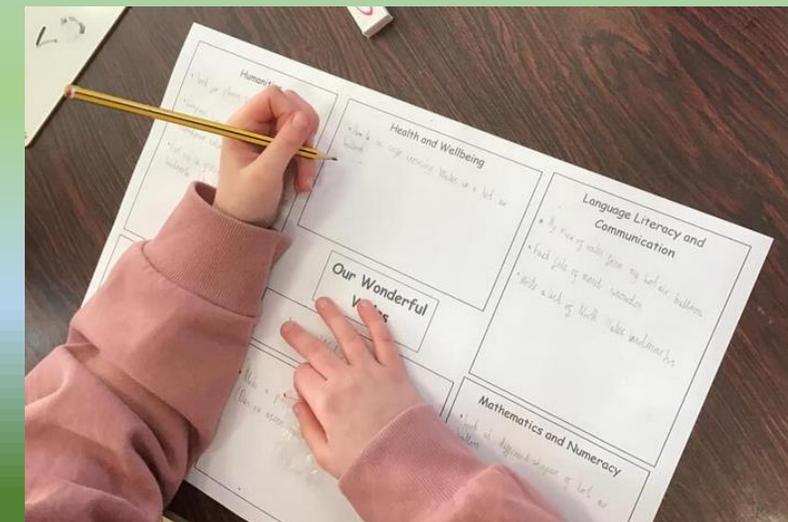
'Interesting and enjoyable ways to learn to keep the kids engaged makes Ysgol Estyn unique.' - Parents at Ysgol Estyn

When planning at Ysgol Estyn, emphasis is placed on offering our learners high quality learning experiences. This means giving learners the time to acquire, practice and apply knowledge and skills to embed their learning. This lays a solid foundation for the next stages and means that they build on their learning and progress throughout their time here. We believe in the importance of laying firm foundations on which to build on, especially in English and Maths. Our morning sessions are dedicated to introducing and practicing specific skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

A cross curricular approach is used in our Topics. The children are given opportunities to practice and apply skills in different context. E.g. *draw elements of Maths, Language, Digital Competence and Science & Technology when researching life cycles.*

Planning is very much a team effort here at Ysgol Estyn and we value the contribution of all involved - Teachers, teaching assistants, outside agencies and of course children. We understand that we all have individual specialisms, passions and knowledge and draw on this to create interesting Topics. All of our topics start with an interesting Hook or Big Question to capture the imagination of the children. We allow opportunities for pupil voice where all children feel a sense of ownership over what they are learning.

Teachers plan pupil-led activities well. They include beneficial opportunities for pupils to investigate the world around them. - Estyn



An Example of our Topic Webs

We also plan to use Taith 360 as a planning and assessment tool to ensure coverage of the Curriculum for Wales as well as ensuring progression through the Progression Steps.



Literacy and Communication

- 'Missing' poster including details about Kermit and possibly his family 'Lost in the woods'
- To write a letter/postcard to Kermit.
- Instructions - How to care for tadpoles.
- Information text about the rainforest - Create a 'Rainforest Facts' booklet.
- Script writing.
- Answer questions to aid the police try to help find Kermit.
- To write invitations/posters for Kermit's party.
- To write lists of things needed for the party.

Expressive Arts

- To draw pictures of Kermit and his family.
- DCF - Use iPads to take photographs of forests, edit their photographs.
- DCF - To create a Pic Collage presentation using the forest photographs.
- DCF - Use garage band on the ipad to make music for Kermit's Dad - Possibly banjo?
- DCF - Use Keynote to make a presentation about the life cycle of a frog.
- To make forest sounds.
- To perform a 'Deforestation - Save the Rainforest' advert.

Mathematics and Numeracy

- Compass skills - Children to answer compass questions.
- Children to make their own compass - Reinforce North, East, South, West.
- To draw a map of forest schools and to use a key.
- Measuring to nearest metre and half metre.
- Estimating height of trees.

Humanities

- To learn about different forests/habitats including rainforest.
- Where are rainforests in the world?
- Deforestation - Can we save the forest? To write a script about how we can save the rainforest. To perform the script.

Forests

Hook: Kermit has decided to leave Year 2 to find his family in the **forest**, he's written a letter to the children explaining why he has left and also some of his concerns. Can the children help Kermit find his family? Will Kermit ever find his family? When will Kermit come home?

Health and Wellbeing

- What healthy foods grow or are produced in the forest? (bananas, coconuts.)
- What is available to drink in the forest?
- Discuss or relationship with Kermit and how we miss him. Discuss our feelings linked to Rainbow Droplets. (Linked to letter writing)
- To discuss what Kermit might need whilst in the rainforest.
- To plan a 'Welcome Home' party for when Kermit returns.

Possible visits/Places to learn.

- Trip to Chester Zoo to learn more about rainforests.
- Trip to Park in the past to explore local forests.
- Walk to Hope Mountain/castle.
- Learn in Forest Schools.

Science and Technology

- To design and build a shelter for Kermit.
- DCF - Use iPads to find out about different forests.
- DCF - Can we email Kermit? Discuss internet safety and passwords.
- Footprints in the forest.
- What do frogs eat? Flies, ants, what animals eat frogs? <https://www.frog-life-cycle.com/what-frogs-eat.html>
- http://www.frog-shots.com/The_Food_Chain.html
- Investigate the pond - any signs of frog life? Life cycle - collect frog spawn.

Assessment and Progress

‘Nearly all pupils make good progress during their time at the school’ – Estyn

The Curriculum for Wales gives us the opportunity to ensure that learners' progress is the primary purpose of assessment and not an accountability exercise. At Ysgol Estyn, we develop a holistic picture of each learner's development, with wellbeing being at its core. We emphasise the importance of good health and well being and believe that this lays the foundations for progress in all other areas.

The school will fulfil the **Curriculum's Assessment Purposes** as follows:

1. Support individual learners on a daily basis:

Formative assessment of consistently high quality in the day-to-day classroom provides learners and practitioners with a clear picture of attainment and next steps.

2. Identifying, capturing and reflecting on individual learner progress over time:

Each term discussion meetings are held between class teacher, Senior Management Team and Additional Learning Needs Coordinator to discuss individual pupil progress and next steps in learning.

3. Understanding group progress in order to reflect on practice:

Teachers and TAs are given time to discuss the progress and needs of children through professional dialogue, in order to plan for further progress. Such discussions will also facilitate any transfer and transition between classes and schools.

Formative use is made of national and standardised tests.

Regular discussions are held with children and their parents / carers to discuss progress involving external agencies when necessary.

