



Curriculum Policy 2023-24

Reviewed by: V. Evans

Agreed by governing body: 12.7.23

Date for review: July 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline the curriculum arrangements for Cardiff West Community High School, which have been approved by the governing body and headteacher. It details the objectives, extent, and framework that will enable Cardiff West CHS to attain high standards and achieve future prospects effectively

2. Curriculum design and development

2.1 Cardiff West CHS has created its own curriculum by considering information about the pupils and the local area, while also drawing inspiration from regional, national, and international sources to ensure our educational offerings are based on evidence. We have actively sought input from students, parents, governors, and staff to identify the key priorities within our curriculum. To achieve these goals, we will:

- Design, develop, and implement a curriculum that meets the specific needs of our learners.
- Align the curriculum at all levels with the four purposes outlined in Successful Futures, promoting student development.
- Utilise an assessment framework to ensure that all students make at least good progress, incorporating a set of core standards that aim for most students to be on track with their age group by the end of each academic year.
- Collaboratively shape the curriculum with stakeholders from the initial design phase onward, ensuring it is engaging, integrated, and tailored to individual needs.
- Foster a learning organisation approach to support professional growth among all staff members.
- Maintain an ongoing focus on enhancing teaching and learning, incorporating concepts, inquiry, skills, dispositions, and attitudes to learning.

3. Curriculum statement

3.1 The curriculum at Cardiff West CHS is designed with a strong foundation in knowledge-rich subject disciplines. We prioritise the acquisition of subject knowledge while also ensuring that cross-curricular skills are taught purposefully to complement and support this knowledge. Integral skills will be explicitly taught and assessed, consistently reinforced through the lens of subject disciplines. Additionally, cross-cutting themes will be seamlessly integrated within subject disciplines to further enhance and reinforce subject knowledge. Pupils will have the opportunity to assess their own progress in relation to the four core purposes, ensuring a holistic and comprehensive educational experience.

3. Development of the four purposes

At Cardiff West CHS, the curriculum is aligned with the four purposes outlined in Successful Futures to promote high levels of achievement. The pupils of Cardiff West CHS will be:

- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Creative, enterprising contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

To ensure pupils' comprehensive development, teaching, learning, and experiences at our school will involve challenging and supportive measures. This will be reflected in self-evaluation and improvement planning at all levels. Our staff will continuously update their subject knowledge and teaching practices, adapting their provision accordingly. Over time, the curriculum will increasingly align with the evolving needs of our pupils, allowing flexibility to address individual learning requirements. From 2023, year 7 and 8 will understand and demonstrate their progression towards the four purposes explicitly through their 'Mini-Bac' challenges in addition to wider curriculum areas. In all lessons, pupils will know both the objective of the lesson and the purpose of the wider learning.

4. Scope of the curriculum

4.1 The curriculum mandates the inclusion of twelve subjects in Progression Step 3-4. However, as we transition to a purpose-driven curriculum, there is an opportunity to expand the scope of our offerings. It is important to note that the following list should be seen as an extended scope for subject areas, but it is not exhaustive. While our subject areas may not align perfectly with the Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) outlined in the Curriculum for Wales, we do ensure that the AoLE are represented across our departments.

English and literacy	English language, English literature, media studies
Mathematics and numeracy	Mathematics, numeracy, economics, enterprise, finance
Science and I.T	Biology, chemistry, physics, digital competence, computer science, medical science, business studies
Technology	Design technology, engineering, construction, catering, food and nutrition
Humanities	Religion, values and ethics, humanities, history, geography, sociology, equality and diversity
Health and wellbeing	P.E. games, sport, health and wellbeing, relationship and sex education, health and social care, skills challenge certificate, 'mini-bac', SWEET
Expressive arts	Music, drama, performing arts, production arts, art, photography, graphics, dance
Languages	Welsh, Spanish, French, Arabic

4.2 For every area of learning and experience, there are specific "what matters" statements that guide our staff in designing and organising pupils' learning. These statements, along with the underlying concepts, serve as a framework for planning and shaping the educational journey of each pupil. By integrating these statements into the curriculum, we aim to facilitate pupils' progress and ensure they acquire valuable knowledge and skills throughout years 7 to 13.

4.3 In our curriculum, we prioritise the inclusion of various foci to promote a comprehensive education for our pupils. This encompasses learning about diversity, human rights, the rights of the child, relationships and sexuality education (RSE), Welsh language and culture, as well as religion, values, and ethics (RVE). RSE is taught explicitly through lessons delivered by the 'Health and Wellbeing' area and is further supported by guest speakers, and wider areas. Equally, RVE is taught explicitly through lessons delivered by the 'Humanities' team and further supported in other subject areas.

4.4 Throughout the entirety of the curriculum, our students will acquire skills and knowledge in essential areas such as literacy (including oracy, reading, and writing), numeracy (including reasoning), and digital competence. These foundational competencies will be fostered across all subject areas, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience for our pupils.

5. GCSE options

In years 9 to year 11, pupils will study a core curriculum and opt for further subjects to study.

Core curriculum subjects	Optional subjects (year 9 to 11)
English language English literature Mathematics Mathematics-Numeracy Sciences Languages - Welsh Well-being physical Well-being personal development Religion, values and ethics	These will be determined through a straw poll to inform option blocks while pupils are in year 8. Over the past three years, these have included: Art Business studies Drama Engineering Food and nutrition Geography Health and social care History Information technology Media studies Music Performing arts Photography Physical education Production arts Sociology Spanish Sport

	*This list is not exhaustive and will change to meet the needs of any given cohort.
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6. AS and A-Level options

In years 12 and 13 pupils can refine their study further with specific interests and/or careers in mind. In 2023-24, the following subjects are able to be studied in Cardiff West CHS:

- Art
- Business studies
- Computing
- Criminology
- English literature
- ICT
- Law
- Maths
- Performing arts
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Welsh Baccalaureate

7. Monitoring

7.1 Assessment will be integrated into our daily teaching and learning practices at Cardiff West CHS, with both pupils and teachers utilising a variety of information to plan the next steps in each pupil's individual learning journey. As part of this process, pupils will actively engage with feedback provided by teachers, enabling them to gauge their progress and identify areas for improvement. Regular review of each pupil's progress throughout the year will inform personalised plans for individuals and groups, ensuring that all students make at least good progress and receive appropriate support. We will provide regular progress reports to students and parents, offering insights into their academic advancement and approach to learning.

7.2 At Cardiff West CHS, our curriculum will undergo continuous evaluation and development to ensure that all students receive the highest quality of education we can offer. We will collaborate with various stakeholders, including students, parents, and teachers, to gather diverse information from a wide range of activities. This input will inform our evaluations and guide our planning for further improvements. These evaluations will form an integral part of our rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts.

This policy is to be used in conjunction with:

- Assessment recording and reporting policy
- RSE policy
- Teaching, learning and experience policy
- Feedback and marking policy
- Literacy policy
- Numeracy policy
- Digital competence policy

Appendix I: Curriculum summary statement for publication

Vision

The curriculum vision at Cardiff West CHS is grounded in our core values of "Ambition, Resilience, Trust". It considers the unique characteristics and needs of our pupil population, equipping them to effectively navigate the challenges of our rapidly evolving world while fostering responsibility and respect. This vision is informed by our local, regional, national, and global context, ensuring a comprehensive educational experience. The Cardiff West CHS curriculum prioritises the acquisition of knowledge and skills through a diverse range of learning experiences. This approach facilitates pupils' progress from year 7 to year 13, preparing them for success in their chosen paths beyond school.

Our curriculum

The curriculum at Cardiff West CHS is designed to cater to the diverse needs of all pupil, offering a comprehensive range of experiences. We acknowledge that each pupil is an individual, and their engagement with the curriculum may vary. Our curriculum is continuously evolving and provides opportunities for pupils to actively participate and lead their own learning. It fosters meaningful learning experiences, promoting self-reflection, empathy, and an understanding of one's role within the local community and the wider world.

The Cardiff West CHS curriculum encourages students to ask their own questions, fostering the development of knowledge and skills through a variety of learning experiences. Our dedicated staff listen attentively to our pupils, ensuring that their thoughts, perspectives, and needs shape their learning journey.

Through collaboration with pupils, parents, staff, and governors, we have identified specific needs that our curriculum places increased emphasis on:

- Forming positive relationships based on trust and mutual respect
- Nurturing mental and emotional well-being
- Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Understanding responsibilities and rights
- Developing effective communication skills
- Setting goals and working towards them
- Expressing ideas and emotions effectively through various means
- Building and applying knowledge
- Cultivating creative problem-solving skills

Four purposes

Our curriculum design, development, and delivery will prioritise the integration of the four purposes, placing them at the core of our educational approach. This ensures that students are equipped to become:

- 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.
- Health, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Areas of learning and experience

Our curriculum will offer a breadth of learning opportunities that cover six areas of learning and experience. These are:

- Language, literacy and communication
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Expressive arts
- Humanities
- Health and well-being
- Science and technology

In our curriculum, every area of learning and experience is accompanied by a collection of "what matters" statements. Our staff utilise these statements and the underlying concepts to shape and prepare pupil learning. These statements serve as a guide to help pupils make significant progress by fostering the development of knowledge and skills acquired through their educational experiences from year 7 to year 13.

Additionally, our curriculum ensures that pupils receive instruction on various topics, including diversity, human rights and the rights of the child, relationships and sexuality education (RSE), Welsh language and culture, as well as religion, values, and ethics (RVE).

Cross-curricular

Throughout the curriculum, our pupils will acquire skills and knowledge encompassing literacy (including oracy, reading, and writing), numeracy (including reasoning abilities), and digital competence. These foundational proficiencies will be cultivated across all subject areas, ensuring a comprehensive development of these essential skills among our pupils.

Design

The design of our curriculum has been shaped by the valuable input of our pupils, parents, governors, community members, staff, as well as our cluster schools and external partners. Our primary focus has been to create an inclusive and forward-thinking curriculum that caters to the unique needs of our pupils. Our aim is to provide them with the best possible educational experience, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in the various opportunities and challenges they will encounter throughout their lives.

Assessment

Assessment will remain an integral part of our daily teaching and learning at Cardiff West CHS, as both pupils and teachers utilise information gathered to determine the next steps in each pupil's learning journey. In this process, pupils will actively engage with feedback provided by teachers, enabling them to gauge their progress, identify areas for improvement, and advance their learning. Cardiff West CHS will regularly review the progress of each individual pupil throughout the year, utilising this information to tailor plans for individuals and groups, ensuring that everyone makes at least good progress and receives appropriate support. We will provide regular progress reports to pupils and parents/carers, offering insights into their academic advancement and approach to learning at designated intervals throughout the year.

Review

At Cardiff West CHS, our curriculum will undergo continuous evaluation and development to ensure that all students receive the highest quality of education we can offer. We will collaborate with various stakeholders, including students, parents, and teachers, to gather diverse information from a wide range of activities. This input will inform our evaluations and guide our planning for further improvements. These evaluations will form an integral part of our rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts.