

INTRODUCTION

This document is the product of detailed discussions and close co-operation between school heads, teachers, advisers and education officers.

Gwynedd Education Authority intends to use the statements and policies incorporated in this document to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of primary schools and to consider complaints regarding the curriculum, religious education and collective worship.

When declaring their curricular aims and objectives, every governing body is required to give careful consideration to the statements issued by the Education Authority, and to plan within the Authority's framework and general and specific objectives.

Every school is required to draw up and develop a comprehensive curriculum plan, based on the contents of this document and on any statements drawn up by the governing body. This plan will contain details of the curriculum and how it is to be organised and implemented.

The heads, with the co-operation of their teachers, are responsible for the organisation of the curriculum within the school and are expected to work within the policies of the Education Authority and the governing body, using the human and material resources available in the most effective and efficient manner.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure education of the highest possible quality for all the children and young people of Gwynedd, in accordance with their age, ability and aptitude, so that they grow to be complete personalities, develop and practise their talents and apply themselves to be responsible members of a bilingual and European society.

(Gwynedd Education Strategic Plan)

THE CURRICULUM

General Objectives

- To maintain and raise pupils' standards of achievement in every curricular area in accordance with the requirements of the national curriculum and religious education.
- To foster a civilised community that emphasises moral and humanitarian values and develops self-respect and tolerance towards others.
- In accordance with the Authority's Language Policy, to develop pupils' ability to be confidently bilingual so that they can become complete members of the bilingual society to which they belong.
- To lay foundations that ensure effective learning and teaching in the school.
- To ensure a broad, balanced, relevant and rich curriculum.
- To enable each individual to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills that are relevant to contemporary life, to take part in lifelong learning and make creative use of their spare time.
- To ensure equal opportunities and access to the complete curriculum.

Specific Objectives

- To ensure that each pupil feels part of a disciplined society that emphasises moral, spiritual and humanitarian values in its life and work.
- To foster respect and tolerance towards people of all backgrounds, beliefs and cultures, and ensure equal opportunities for all, whatever their race, religion, gender, sexuality, age or disability.
- To ensure that each pupil's ability to use Welsh and English as learning media is developed in accordance with the Education Department's Language Policy.
- To ensure that there is progression and development in the experiences and activities provided, and that a great proportion of those experiences reflect the nature of the pupils' lives and interests.
- To ensure that every subject pays attention to the Welsh Curriculum.
- To enable pupils to use their literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology skills in a variety of curricular contexts.

- To ensure that a high quality of learning and teaching methods are used, which will help pupils to develop inquisitive and active minds, to question and discuss logically, to solve real-life problems and work independently.
- To provide a broad variety of extra-curricular activities that will aid the pupils' personal, social and cultural development.
- To provide a broad curriculum that develops each pupil to his or her full potential.

- To encourage a link between schools and:
 - ◆ the home;
 - ◆ the community;
 - ◆ other schools [nursery, primary and secondary];
 - ◆ industry and commerce;
 - ◆ the Education Authority;
 - ◆ other relevant agencies.