



School Development Plan

Published Summary

2024-25

School self-evaluation: summary

Strengths:

- Pupils of all abilities make good progress across the school from their various starting points.
- Pupils enjoy their lessons and show positive attitudes towards learning.
- There is a wide range of opportunities for pupils to contribute to school life through different pupil voice groups.
- The pupils say that they feel safe and happy at school.
- Staff know pupils very well.
- There is a very strong professional relationship between pupils and staff.
- Classrooms are productive, active and engaging learning environments.
- The lessons are well planned and build subsequently on pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Staff consider what pupils want to learn about and their interests influence school themes.
- The school is a very happy and diverse school community.
- The school has a very caring and inclusive ethos.
- The school works successfully with a wide variety of external agencies to support all children and their families.
- Transition arrangements are strong with Ysgol Rhydywaun.
- The school has a strong focus on developing staff expertise and involvement in professional learning; this helps staff to reflect on their teaching and work together to improve their practice.
- The governors have a good awareness of the school's work and they support the school effectively.
- There is a clear vision and values in place which closely align with the principles of Curriculum for Wales; this has been well developed with pupils, parents / carers and governors.
- Regular and robust monitoring and self-evaluation activities continue.
- With staffing and leadership changes, there is clarity regarding the role and responsibilities of middle leaders, and the impact is developing through distributed leadership.

Areas for development:

- Developing pupils' Numeracy skills
- Developing pupils' assessment within learning

EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023/24

Priority	Progress evaluation
<p>1. Continue to develop and refine Curriculum for Wales by focusing on assessing and tracking progress with the emphasis on further developing independence, ensuring involvement, developing plans that ensure an achievable challenge and dedicated resources and planning the long-term learning journey.</p>	<p>The Areas of Learning and Experience teams (AoLE) worked effectively in the school and a little in conjunction with cluster schools to develop whole school themes and subsequent curriculum.</p> <p>Effective use was made of Taith 360 , assessment weeks and Learning Reviews in order to track, assess and judge the progress of each group of pupils within the school.</p>
<p>2. Develop and embed 12 Principles of Pedagogy across the school, with a focus on developing independent learners who are ambitious, use skillful thinking skills to solve problems and can discuss their own progress and guide their learning.</p>	<p>We received training on Excellent Teaching from Nick Jones which had a very successful effect on pedagogical practices across the school. Meetings were held to discuss attitudes and good practice was shared following investigations by staff. The pupils were seen to respond well to differentiated, challenging questioning and our pupils' independence was developed across the school.</p>
<p>3. Literacy - Improving pupils' oral skills to raise pupils' writing standards and understanding of text</p>	<p>There are further developments to the provision for oral work through Llais 21 to feed reading and writing which has led to a positive effect on pupils' progress and in particular the focus year groups who benefited from more support through the Language Immersion Work. We began to see the positive effect of pupils using more Welsh socially.</p> <p>Pupils' ability to respond appropriately to the differentiated and challenging questioning of staff was developed during the year.</p>
<p>4. Raising the standards of Digital Competence skills of the majority of pupils across the school.</p>	<p>An action plan was completed by the school which included training, trialling and sharing practice across the school. A development was seen in the confidence of the staff as a result of the training and opportunities to trial various programmes. New vocabulary was introduced and used effectively with the pupils. There was very positive feedback from the school's pupils on the developments. We will continue to develop coding elements across the school following investment in new tools and hardware.</p>

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRIORITIES 2022/25

Priority	Key Steps	Support
<p>1. Continue to develop and refine Curriculum for Wales plans: -focus on assessing and tracking progress - ensuring an achievable challenge and dedicated resources to support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review the effectiveness of teacher planning processes and investigations. ● Stages of Progress and Areas of Learning and Experience teams to continue to meet regularly to plan, evaluate and adapt plans ● Review the comment on the statements of what is important, skills and experiences. ● Ensuring progression in the skills taught throughout the educational journey of pupils in the primary ● Develop pupils' ability to assess in learning, identify and respond to their next learning steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central South Consortium AoLE Network Meetings ● CCD's professional learning programme. ● The Cluster's CfW Learning Community ● Cluster AoLE leaders meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December Milestones ● Links with school governors and parents to share the latest news and developments. ● Termly class reviews completed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (USA) for each class. ● All Progression teams meet regularly. ● Review the skills taught in last year's themes, self-evaluation and adapt to the next 2-year cycle. 	<p>March Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many classes have implemented a purposeful investigation method well. ● Learners influence class planning and investigation well in all classes. ● A termly review of the comment on the statements completed as part of impact reports. ● Cam Cynnydd and MDaph teams meet regularly. ● Create a bespoke demonstrator to accompany Curriculum for Wales projects and monitor through learning trips ● Develop tracking and assessment to include pupils as part of the process ● All staff to attend and act on Gareth Coombes' 'Assessment in Learning' training. 	<p>July Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Almost all learners show good progress across the Curriculum ● Review of planning processes and attention to the statements of what is important completed and adjustments made in consultation with staff ● Most of the pupils use evaluation stations more and more independently and are able to discuss their progress with more detail.

<p>2. Develop the school's leadership. Refine systems in order to develop leadership roles across the school, increase accountability and ownership following further changes in the school's leadership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that the professional learning programme has a positive impact on the quality of leadership. ● Identify middle leaders to participate in a professional learning pathway. ● Regular middle leadership meetings arranged. ● Senior and Middle leaders to receive regular training sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cluster working on a strategy for developing distributed leadership ● Leaders attend appropriate network sessions to share practice. ● CCD support to develop skills with clear development across the school. ● The school's staff have received external training to develop as leaders and increase accountability.
<p>December Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put appropriate staffing structures in place identifying line managers ● All middle leaders have leadership objectives as part of the US Procedures and Expectations process. ● All middle leaders to complete a monitoring activity with a US member. ● Regular leadership meetings with clear expectations and accountability ● Deputy Head joins the Merthyrshire Deputies forum ● New US leaders receive intensive training on CIG Leadership and Senior Leadership 	<p>March Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All teaching staff attending and acting on Nick Jones' effective Self-evaluation training. ● Assistant staff attending and acting on CCD Consortium training on the Role of the Assistant ● All middle leaders have received regular training sessions with a US coach. ● All middle leaders to lead monitoring activity with the US member. ● Self-evaluation of the Governing Body completed. ● Make use of the governors' skills audit to determine responsibilities per period/MDaPh. 	<p>July Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middle leaders to be monitored by a member of the USA when leading a monitoring activity. ● Middle Leaders identified for a Leader Development Programme ● Using Continwa Teaching to enable teachers and assistants to self-evaluate, set and review individual specific targets for improvement
<p>3. Raising the standards of pupils' mathematics and numeracy in order to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff to attend professional learning and action on a new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional learning for all staff and

<p>have a positive effect on their ability to apply their skills and knowledge</p>	<p>Mathematics and numeracy scheme by Ceri Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emphasis on practical numeracy work to deepen pupils' understanding ● Model lessons displayed on effective Numeracy strategies and collaboration on them. ● Sharing good practice and learners' work. ● 	<p>extended support from the CSC Numeracy team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school's Numeracy leaders lead on effective Numeracy teaching and learning strategies.
<p>December Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All teachers have had access to high quality professional learning about speaking, reading and writing. ● Writing 'expectations' have been identified. ● Learners have access to high quality writing lessons. ● Working on pupils' understanding of a text through Darlenco and a daily reading carousel ● The learners' progress has been reviewed. 	<p>March Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All teachers have shared practice with each other and colleagues from other schools. ● Learners write extensively in a variety of contexts and for different purposes. ● Writing prompts reflect diversity, inclusion, Welsh identity, and culture. ● 'Authors' have shared their experiences with learners. ● The learners' progress has been reviewed. 	<p>July Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional discussion, sharing of practice continued. ● Learners write extensively in a variety of contexts and in pupil-led areas/tasks. ● Learners have taken part in literacy themed days and/or community events. ● Learners' progress has been reviewed through learning reviews following assessment weeks.
<p>4. Develop the school's community relations in order to build strong and effective relationships and partnerships between the school and its community which are beneficial to all stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A stable and efficient Parents and Friends Association. ● An increase in the level of community engagement. ● Establishing Ysgol Rhyd y Grug as the 'Heart of the Community'. ● Establishing Ysgol Rhyd y Grug as a community school in order to tackle poverty, attendance, behaviour, equity, attainment and learning. ● Improving the mental health of young people in our school and community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership of local committees e.g. Invest Local ● Collaborate with schools and businesses in the community ● Links, Leadership and CCD Consortium training on 'Reducing the impact of poverty'

December Milestones	March Milestones	July Milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marketing the school - new website, pamphlets, film ● Developing a new Parents and Friends Association and establishing the association as a charity. ● Establish Ysgol Rhyd y Grug as the 'Heart of the Community' and try for bronze and silver awards. ● Establish contact with 'Invest Local' and attend meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communities of Practice ● 'Young minds' webinars for parents ● Workshops/groups for parents. Using the response of the 'Young Minds' questionnaire to plan such workshops. E.g. ● -Multiply (Claudia Meyrick) ● - Pippin ● Collaborate with local schools on Welsh projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intergenerational learning - creating a link with an elderly home ● Developing partnerships with local businesses and schools ● Develop the school's community guard for the community's use. ● Evaluating the success of Welsh and English projects with local schools