

A New Curriculum for Wales

The Curriculum for Wales is now fully in place across all schools. It is designed to support learners from **age 3 to 16**, with a strong emphasis on developing the skills, confidence and knowledge they need to thrive in life, learning and work.

At **Ysgol Cambrian**, we adapt the curriculum so it meets the needs of pupils aged **3–19** with a wide range of learning disabilities and complex learning needs. Our focus is always on meaningful progress, independence and wellbeing.

★ What is different about the new curriculum?

The Curriculum for Wales moves away from a content-heavy, subject-based model and focuses on developing pupils as individuals. It gives schools freedom to design learning that truly matches the needs, strengths and interests of their pupils.

At Ysgol Cambrian, this means:

- Learning is holistic, meaningful and linked to real life.
- Skills such as communication, independence, problem-solving, emotional regulation and developing relationships are prioritised.
- Learning experiences are planned around the child — not the other way around.
- All learning is accessible, differentiated and designed to support each pupil's developmental stage.

★ The Four Purposes

The Curriculum for Wales is built around **four core purposes** which describe the kind of learners we aim to help our pupils become.

These purposes guide everything we do at Ysgol Cambrian.

We support learners to become:

1. Ambitious, capable learners

Who enjoy learning, can apply their skills in real situations and make meaningful progress.

2. Enterprising, creative contributors

Who explore, express themselves and take part in activities that allow them to create, problem-solve and contribute.

3. Ethical, informed citizens

Who learn about Wales, the wider world, and how to make positive choices and contributions.

4. Healthy, confident individuals

Who can understand their emotions, develop independence, stay safe and build strong relationships.

★ How Families Can Get Involved

We value communication and partnership with families.

You can support your child's learning by:

- Talking with your child about their day
- Sharing successes, interests and challenges with school
- Encouraging communication in any form that works for your child
- Taking part in reviews and learning discussions
- Asking questions about the curriculum or IDPs at any time
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If you would like to know more about the Curriculum for Wales at Ysgol Cambrian, please speak to a member of the senior leadership team, or your child's class team

★ Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)

Learning is organised into six Areas of Learning and Experience, which allow subjects to connect and support holistic development.

Expressive Arts

Art, music, drama, dance, creative movement, digital media.

Health and Wellbeing

Emotional regulation, relationships and sexuality education (RSE), physical development, independence skills, healthy living, food preparation, safety, life skills.

Humanities

History, geography, religious education, culture, identity, the natural world, and learning about Wales.

Languages, Literacy and Communication

Speaking and listening, reading, writing, Welsh, English, symbols/signing/AAC, digital communication.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Number, shape, space, measure, money, problem-solving in real-life contexts.

Science and Technology

Science, design and technology, digital skills, computing, ICT, sensory exploration.

★ How We Adapt the Curriculum at Ysgol Cambrian

Because our pupils have a wide variety of learning needs, we personalise the curriculum through:

- Highly differentiated teaching
- Symbol-supported communication
- Multi-sensory approaches
- PBS-informed emotional and behavioural support
- Therapeutic input where appropriate
- Life-skills and independence teaching
- Community-based learning
- Personalised targets linked to Individual Development Plans (IDPs)

Our aim is to help every child develop the skills they need to lead happy, fulfilling and meaningful lives.

★ Cross-Curricular Skills

Across all Areas of Learning and Experience, pupils develop three essential skills:

1. Literacy

Communication, reading, writing and alternative communication systems.

2. Numeracy

Everyday number skills, reasoning, money, measuring, sequencing and patterns.

3. Digital Competence

Online safety, using technology, accessing communication tools, digital expression.

★ How Will Pupils Be Assessed?

Assessment in the Curriculum for Wales is supportive, ongoing and personalised.

There are no national levels or “tests” for most pupils.

Instead:

- Staff observe, discuss and work alongside pupils daily.
- Assessments focus on “where the learner is now” and “what matters next”.
- Progression is not tied to age — it is about each pupil’s individual developmental journey.
- Parents receive regular updates and reviews based on clear, meaningful progress.

This approach is ideal for special school settings as it allows staff to design bespoke pathways that reflect each pupil’s strengths, needs and pace of learning.

Our Ethos

Ysgol Cambrian is working towards being a Rights Respecting School and a Healthy School.

Rights Respecting School

We follow the UNCRC and ensure pupils learn about their rights and the rights of others.

Key articles include:

- Article 12: Every child has the right to be heard
- Article 28: Every child has the right to an education
- Article 29: Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities
- Article 42: Children have the right to know their rights

Healthy School

We promote physical, emotional and social wellbeing for pupils, families and staff

School contact:

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Parents/Carers’ Guide to Curriculum for Wales

“Growing Confidence, Celebrating
Differences, Becoming Our Best”

