



Thornwell Primary School & Nursery Unit Curriculum for Wales Summary

Our curriculum has been designed with the support of our stakeholders, drawing on a wide range of education research. It is subject to constant review, and refinements will continue to be made in response to our ongoing evaluations.

Our Vision



Our vision is for Thornwell to be a safe place where success follows happiness. A place that children love attending because learning is challenging, modern and fun. The school will welcome and nurture everyone, with equity and without prejudice. At Thornwell, children will learn about their place within Wales and the world, and the importance of their role in looking after it.

The Thornwell Way

We are ...

Respectful
Responsible
Ready

To enable our learners to realise the Four Purposes, we provide rich, authentic opportunities for pupils to engage with the What Matters Statements within the 6 Areas of Learning and Experiences while developing and applying their cross-cutting skills of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency through ...

1 Whole School Topics



Our team plans exciting and memorable experiences for and with our children. Cynefin is achieved through consultation with parents so that children's learning is rooted in their unique, local context.

2 High quality 'skills acquisition' teaching of Literacy & Numeracy



Maths Mastery, Read Write Inc. and the First Steps approach to writing genre's through Big Write sessions.

3 Forest School & Outdoor Learning



Play-based exploration of our outdoor learning environment and the woods beyond. Fostering teamwork, respect and a love for the environment.

4 Immersion Weeks



Themed weeks enrich the curriculum, broaden pupils' experiences and ignite a love of learning.

5 Amazing Trips & Visits



To support pupils' knowledge and understanding of their immediate locality and take it into the world beyond.

6 Developing Bilingualism



We are currently working towards our Silver Cymraeg Campus award.

7 TSI



Developed through consultation with our pupils, parents and governors, these are the 51 things that every child will experience while at Thornwell.

8 Fferm Fach Thornwell



All children spend an hour a week accessing this incredible learning resource, growing crops and tending our livestock.

9 Pupil Committees & Responsibilities



All of our children are represented by their democratically appointed peers in our School Council and Eco-Team. In addition to this, pupils take on other responsibilities as lunchtime helpers, librarians, office helpers and lots more besides.

Pedagogy



Leaning heavily on the work of Kath Murdoch and based on her Learning Enquiry Cycle we have developed our Thornwheel of Learning. Used with increasing complexity to support progressively deeper learning - the Thornwheel supports learners to engage with the integral skills which underpin the 4 purposes and provides children and grown-ups with a shared language of learning. The 12 pedagogical principles described in 'Successful Futures' are selected depending on the learning intention and chosen carefully to suit children's learning styles.

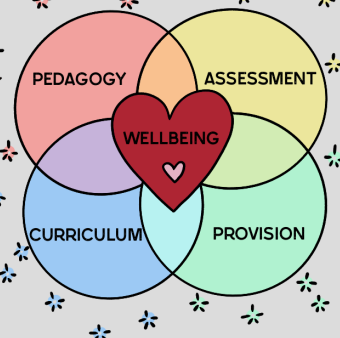
Assessment & Progression



The main focus of assessment at Thornwell is on moving learning forward by understanding the learning which has already taken place and using this to ensure that each learner is challenged and supported appropriately, according to their individual learning needs. Nearly all of our assessment at Thornwell is assessment for learning. Other assessments include standardised assessments in English, Maths and Reading which help us to ensure children make good progress acquiring skills.

Wellbeing

Our school follows the Gwent Whole School Approach to wellbeing. We have a 3 phased support model for wellbeing starting with universal provision at phase 1 and moving on to targeted support and then specific interventions. Thornwell follows A Children's Rights Approach and learners are supported to develop knowledge about human rights primarily through the Humanities and Health and Wellbeing Areas of Learning and Experience, and can be practised across other Areas.



Cross-Cutting Themes

As children engage in their whole school topics they develop their skills and gain a progressively deeper (age appropriate) understanding of:

