

# Ysgol Bro Gwaun



## ESDGC Policy

Approved – Governor's Committee October 2016

Review every 3 years

Next Review: October 2019

**Signed:**

Headteacher: Michael

Governor: W. S. Raymond

Parent: K.A.

Pupil: Nathan Phillips

# Ysgol Bro Gwaun

## Policy for Education for Sustainable Development

### Introduction

As a school community we believe that 'sustainable development' is a challenge that all societies face during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By endorsing sustainable development we commit ourselves to improving the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future. Our pupils are entitled to an education that equips them with knowledge, values and skills that:

*'should develop their awareness and understanding of, and commitment to sustainable development at a personal, local, national and global level.'*

The National Curriculum (1999)

Education for sustainable development (ESD) goes beyond the boundaries of formal education. Fieldwork, collaborating with members of the local community, links with local businesses, and working with voluntary agencies all have a vital part to play in our pupils' entitlement.

### **The distinctive contribution of Education for Sustainable Development to the school curriculum**

#### **Aims**

Through our formal and informal curriculum, we aim to provide ESD that:

- ◆ enables our pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills to engage effectively and enthusiastically with issues of sustainable development (i.e. environmental, economic and social issues);
- ◆ encourages them to examine and interpret the environment, both locally and globally, from a variety of perspectives;
- ◆ arouses our pupils' curiosity about the environment, society and economy in which they live;
- ◆ encourages them to participate actively in resolving problems associated with sustainable development in our locality and the development of our school as a sustainable community;
- ◆ gives pupils 'first-hand' experiences within the environment - our school grounds, our immediate locality and other visits within the region and beyond;
- ◆ helps pupils to develop an informed concern about the environment and the planet;
- ◆ involves them in finding practical ways of ensuring the caring use of the environment and its resources, now and in the future;

- ◆ allows pupils to participate in the school decision-making processes; and
- ◆ gives them opportunities to express their views through discussion and debate.

### **Implementation of our ESD policy**

At Ysgol Bro Gwaun, ESD is taught as a cross-curricular theme through some subjects. Medium term plans outline the contribution that is made to the broadening of our pupils' understanding of 'sustainable development'. In some subjects, such as science, geography and PSE the Programmes of Study ensure that teaching about environmental matters and sustainable development takes place. Teaching about education for sustainable development also takes place across the curriculum. Where possible, teachers link sustainable development awareness in the curriculum with practical actions to improve the environmental, social and economic effectiveness and efficiency of the school. Group work is an important part of our provision for ESD. Our teachers use personal and social education to develop pupils' listening and speaking skills. Progressively through the school opportunities are given during lessons for pupils to develop skills of questioning, setting up agendas, chairing meetings and taking minutes. (This is further developed through our School Council).

### **Extra-curricular and out of school opportunities**

Our extra-curricular provision allows our pupils to broaden their understanding of sustainable development. We participate in the Healthy Schools Initiative and have a School Council that provides a forum for pupils to express their views, plan action campaigns and feedback to governors. We participate in National Park's Tree scheme and Ogam Project in the development of the Ogam Garden "Gorwellion". The Youth Worker plans additional sustainable development activities.

### **Staffing Issues (teaching and non-teaching; staff development needs)**

We have had a staff development day, held at the National Botanic Gardens, on education for sustainable development, to raise awareness in all subject areas.

### **The role of parents and carers and the rest of our community**

We encourage parents to be involved in all aspects of our school. We have a home-school partnership agreement and seek parents' views on the school's progress and how to move forward.

### **Leadership and management roles and responsibilities**

A governor has a responsibility for ESD and is the first point of reference for ESD on the Governing Body.

### **Health and safety**

Parental permission is sought for all work off site. We fully comply with the statutory requirements and recommendations laid out in *Health and safety of pupils on educational visits* DfEE (1998).

