

# → ABERTILLERY LEARNING COMMUNITY

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## OUR CURRICULUM



*Raising Aspirations – Realising Potential – Securing Futures*



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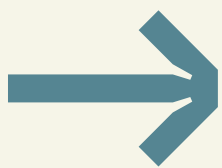
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Abertillery 3-16 - Our Curriculum

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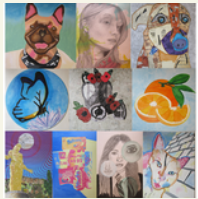
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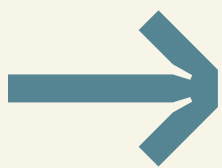
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Abertillery 3-16 - Our Curriculum

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# OUR VISION



Abertillery Learning Community consists of three primary campuses and a secondary campus. We are committed to supporting all learners to reach their full potential, achieve their goals and develop a range of skills that prepare them for life beyond school. Through raising their aspirations, they will realise their potential and secure a successful future.

Our visions and values are at the core of what we do. They underpin the teaching and learning and create a climate for learners to flourish and succeed as citizens of Wales and the World.

At our friendly, happy school everyone is treated fairly and we encourage our learners to be respectful citizens of their community, Wales, and the wider world. We encourage our learners to be independent and to embrace challenges that will prepare them for the future.

Abertillery Learning Community prides itself on providing a safe and nurturing environment. We foster a passion for learning through a broad, balanced, and engaging curriculum that draws on skills, knowledge, and experiences. We are passionate about using the rich history and culture of their hometown to as a basis for the wider national and international context.



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Abertillery Learning Community is an exciting and unique organisation. As a multi campus all through school we are afforded a wide range of opportunities for carefully coordinated cross phase working that supports learner's development. We believe that through the single school approach we can ensure our learners develop aspirations for themselves and for our community.

The Learning Community is comprised of a Secondary Campus and three Primary campuses, Six Bells, Roseheyworth Rd and Tillery St. We have approximately 1700 learners on roll across our phases

The school is located in the Ebbw Fach area of Blaenau Gwent. It serves the immediate area of Abertillery as well as homes in the wider community of Six Bells, Nantyglo, Blaina and Llanhilleth. The school also houses two local authority resource bases one on the Secondary Campus and one on the Six Bells Primary Campus, alongside a KS4 alternative curriculum provision

# OUR CAMPUSES

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## ROSEHEYWORTH ROAD



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## SIX BELLS



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## TILLERY STREET



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## SECONDARY





# The story behind TAITH



## WE ASKED THOSE WHO MATTER, WHAT MATTERS?

In designing our 'Taith' curriculum, we were keen to involve all stakeholders from the offset. We are aware that learning is a process that involves a network of people interacting with our children to provide a variety of knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Therefore, we needed to consider our community, parents and carers, our staff and most importantly, our learners in this process. Their voices have embodied the 'why' in our curriculum. All our stakeholders emphasised the importance on a focus on community and understanding of the ways in which we can contribute and impact positively to Abertillery.

We asked our community, staff learners and governors the following:

- What concepts do they feel the children of Abertillery should know about?
- What skills do they think were important?
- What experiences could help enrich our curriculum?

Using this information, we asked learners what they would like to learn. We then collated this information to inform our curriculum.



# The story behind TAITH



## STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

During stakeholder engagement sessions, we asked for input and ideas on the following to build our Curriculum:

What do you want learners to be able to do before they leave Lower School?  
What **skills** should they have?

- Social skills
- Life skills
- Literacy and Numeracy skills
- Confidence
- Independence
- Problem solving skills

What do you want learners to do before they leave Lower School? What **experiences** should learners have before they leave Lower School?

- Locality trips e.g. Guardian; library, Big Pit; Abertillery Museum; local sports clubs, parks.
- Social trips e.g. residential beyond Wales; beach
- Swimming
- Managing money
- Road safety
- First Aid
- Local sports facilities
- Cooking
- Visitors: Police, Firemen; local businesses
- World of Work



## THE FOUR PURPOSES AT ABERTILLERY LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Four Purposes are at the core of our curriculum at Abertillery Learning Community. All of the knowledge, skills, and experiences our learners acquire throughout their time at ALC have been chosen to aid learners in realising these Four Purposes. With the help of our curriculum planning and assessment strategies, our learners are confident in drawing connections between their learning, the Four Purposes, and their day-to-day experiences. During our authentic assessments at the end of each curriculum unit, learners' understanding, and achievements are assessed along with their progress in achieving an age-appropriate pathway towards achieving the Four Purposes. There is the highest importance on what this looks like in our Community, and staff and learners immerse themselves in the history and current community links that Abertillery has to offer.

# FOUR Purposes







# THE AREAS OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT ABERTILLERY LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Languages, Literacy and Communication:** Within ALC, our learners will be provided with learning experiences, through high-quality teaching, that will enable them to achieve their potential within literacy. Our learners will experience a sense of pride and achievement as they decode, blend, and build words to read, discover different language strategies, and apply their skills independently through authentic contexts. Our learners will gain a deep understanding of the subject, explored through a range of concepts/contexts, which ensures they fully understand and engage with what they are learning, and develop as literate individuals, able to apply their skills in their everyday lives. Our older learners will also have the opportunity to learn a Modern Foreign language such as Spanish. Here they will look at language patterns and similarities in forming sentence structures to that in Welsh and English.



**Science and Technology:** Our learners will be provided with learning experiences, that will enable them to recognise their importance as global citizens and take responsibility for their environment and the wider world; developing their understanding of organic and inorganic science. They will apply experience, skills, and knowledge to develop ideas independently. Authentic contexts will fuel their curiosity and provide opportunities to question, observe, challenge, and create solutions to problems. As individuals, our learners will foster a respect for emerging technologies; relating them to their everyday lives. Through the various areas explored, learners will combine their skills and understanding to achieve their potential. Our learners are supported through our links with local businesses in the area in developing skills in all aspects of STEM.



**Mathematics and Numeracy:** At ALC, our learners will be provided with learning experiences, through high-quality teaching, that will enable them to achieve their potential with their mathematics and numeracy skills. Our learners will experience a sense of pride and achievement as they solve a problem, discover different solutions and strategies, and apply their skills independently through authentic contexts. Our learners will gain a deep understanding of the subject, explored through a range of concepts/contexts, which ensures they fully understand and engage with what they are learning, and develop as confident numerate individuals, able to apply their skills in their everyday lives. Our learners are encouraged to take risks and learn from their mistakes; therefore developing their resilience.



# AoLEs

*Raising Aspirations – Realising Potential – Securing Futures*



# THE AREAS OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT ABERTILLERY LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Humanities:

Our learners will be provided with learning experiences, through high-quality teaching, that will enable them to develop and extend their interest in the Humanities, as active global citizens. Through authentic contexts, and from their own experiences, learners will develop and apply their problem-solving skills in order to achieve their potential; beginning with an appreciation of their own identity before exploring their relationship with the locality of Abertillery, Wales, and the wider world. Through developing their independence, learners will embrace and celebrate individuality in order to promote a sense of belonging; enabling them to appreciate the diversity of the world experienced in their everyday lives. Learners will embrace their History and recognise the challenges that we face in the modern world. Through this AoLE, learners will learn how they can boldly contribute to society.



## Expressive Arts:

At ALC, our learners will be provided with learning experiences, through high-quality teaching, that will enable them to nurture their individuality to achieve their potential, showcasing their personalities and talents. They will appreciate the diversity that expressive arts provide and become creative individuals, inspired by a wide range of authentic, artistic experiences. Learners will have opportunities to engage with a wide range of creative platforms, appreciating how the arts contribute to their role as global citizens; and become confident, independent learners; applying their creative skills to other aspects of their everyday lives. Through this AoLE learners will develop passion, creativity, individuality, and most importantly their confidence.



## Health and Wellbeing:

At ALC, our learners will be provided with learning experiences, through high-quality teaching, that will enable them to become healthy, resilient, and independent individuals, able to achieve their full potential. Learners will understand the physical and mental benefits of a healthy lifestyle, and engage in regular opportunities to promote their emotional and physical wellbeing. Learners will develop skills that allow them to be active members of society; taking an interest in their own community of Abertillery. Through various authentic experiences, learners will appreciate the importance of being a global citizen. At ALC our learners will focus on a curriculum shaped around 'Make, Move, Mind' which encompasses all elements of Health and Wellbeing. From creating healthy nutritional meals, regular physical activity, and taking time out to prioritise mental wellbeing.



# AoLEs

*Raising Aspirations – Realising Potential – Securing Futures*

# Our CURRICULUM



At Abertillery Learning Community, we have been on our journey to the Curriculum for Wales, where we have reviewed what was already working and what we need to develop. We established 'everything that learners experience in pursuit of the Four Purposes'. Following on from this, we identified our main next steps for our TAITH Curriculum. These were:

- To provide authentic contexts for learning
- To develop learner independence in learning
- To increase engagement in learning activities
- To have a purpose-led curriculum.

Therefore, we have made a move to develop a shared understanding with all stakeholder's involvement, where children become active participants in their learning. As we move from a skill-driven curriculum, we move from 'content to concept' style learning.



Concept	AOLE Foci	4 Core Purpose Foci	What Matters Focus
Algebra and addition	Reasoning Health and Wellbeing	Health, Careless Individuals	Health & Wellbeing
...	...	...	...

## BREAK THE MOULD

Learn more about... Create a fashion idea to... Break the Mould Architects... Go on a beach clean up... On a sponsored letter pick...

AOLE	What Matters	Activity	Core expected level	As expected level	Better expected level
W10	Health and Wellbeing	Learn more about... Create a fashion idea to... Break the Mould Architects... Go on a beach clean up... On a sponsored letter pick...	...	...	...

## 1 Concepts and learning contexts

Key concepts are identified from statements of What Matters. The contexts chosen show progressive depth of context e.g Local to global.

## 3 Pupil Voice

Learners will influence the direction of the concept, with a focus on Four Purposes and identified AOLES

## 5 Authentic Assessment

Understanding of concepts are assessed using an authentic assessment that is age related and relevant to learning context.

## 2 Immersion Experience

Learners will experience an Abertillery day to explore and immerse themselves in the new concepts.

## 4 Authentic Learning

Throughout our TAITH Curriculum, there will be authentic learning experiences where learners are able to apply skills across AOLES.



# KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES



By reflecting on the guidance provided by the Welsh Government, we have defined knowledge, skills and experiences as the following:

**Knowledge:** Familiarity, awareness, or understanding of someone or something, such as facts, information, descriptions.

**Skills:** Tools that provide the pupil with ways in which they can transfer their learning.

**Experiences:** The opportunities we provide learners to apply the knowledge and skills learnt across the curriculum.



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## What does this look like at Abertillery Learning Community?

Cross Curricular Opportunities Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency are the cross curricular responsibilities within the Curriculum or Wales. However, at ALC we also have a developing understanding of the following cross-cutting themes:

### RSE

#### JIGSAW



Jigsaw is an integrated scheme of learning, for personal, social and health education, with particular emphasis on emotional literacy, mental health, social, moral, cultural and spiritual development as well as Relationships and Sexuality Education. The expectations set out in the Health and Wellbeing AoLE are comprehensively covered through Jigsaw's spiral curriculum, ensuring that pupils have every chance to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

### RIGHTS

#### Rights Respecting



Together learners and the school community learn about children's rights, putting them into practice every day to work towards awards. The awards are not just about what children do but also, importantly, what adults do. In Rights Respecting Schools children's rights are promoted and realised, adults and children work towards this goal together.

There are four key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting school; wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem.

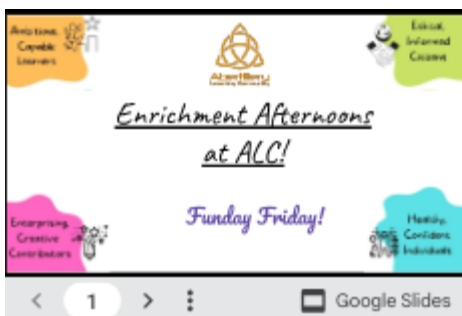
### CAREERS & WORLD OF WORK

#### Enrichment Opportunities



Gyrfa Cymru  
Careers Wales

This is developed across the Curriculum for learners to explore and understand the world of work in developmentally appropriate contexts. It provides real-world learning and experiences that develop skills and allow them to apply their knowledge. At ALC, we provide authentic experiences, which is vital to learners' understanding of their career choices as the progress through our school and beyond. Learners have regular visits to colleges, careers advisors, and local company visitors that will immerse our learners in the vast array of career opportunities that can be afforded to them. This particular cross-cutting theme is throughout all AoLEs and is something that we use to raise the aspirations of our learners.



# CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

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# What does this look like at Abertillery Learning Community?



At Abertillery Learning Community learners are provided with opportunities to contribute. Learners are able to gather examples of their learning, articulate their own progress and achievements, and convey their aspirations and views on the next steps in their learning. This is a three-way communication process between the learner, their parents/carers and practitioners.

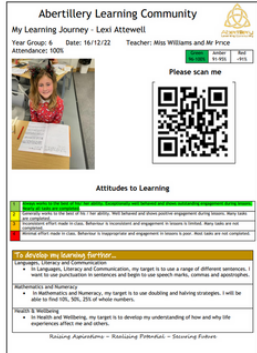
## AUTUMN TERM

### Curriculum Open Evening

Opportunity to informally visit the classroom, view books, and chat with the teacher. 'Meet the teacher' leaflets are given out at this time. Virtual Parents' Evenings are held on the Secondary campus whereby progress and attitude to learning is a key focus.

### Digital Summary

A digital summary is sent home in December. It will include a QR code and with a short recording of your child talking about their term. It will include attitudes to learning which best describes the child's effort/attitude over the term. The last box sets out the child's next steps in their learning.



## SPRING TERM

### Learner Reviews

In the Spring term you and your child will discuss how the year is going with the teacher. The form on the left will be used as a structure for the discussion. There will also be an opportunity for you or your child to bring up any issues.

Abertillery Learning Community

Abertillery Learning Community  
Sharing my learning

#### Spring Term Learner Reviews

In accordance with Welsh Government guidance, we will be **changing the way** that we communicate with parents/carers about the progress that their children are making.

This term will use the **Introduction of Learner Reviews** where teacher, child and parents/carers will meet together to discuss how learning is going. We will share **progress, aspirations for the future, general well-being at school and next steps** in the learning process. This will be a lovely opportunity for the children to begin to take ownership over their own learning journey.

To make this as easy a process as possible we will be conducting these meetings virtually using **Zoom**. Your child's class teacher will send links via email and give you an allocated date and time to log in. Your child and your child's teacher will be waiting to greet you to chat about the learning that has been taking place. The meeting will last no longer than **10 minutes** and we hope that you can make every effort to attend.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Learner Review Appointment**

Your child \_\_\_\_\_ and their teacher would love to see you on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ for their learner review.

*We look forward to seeing you!*

Name:	
Your Group:	Year:
<b>My learning review – Progress and next steps</b>	
<b>Points for discussion</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
A piece of work that I am most proud of and why	
Language, Library and Communication – Progress I have made and my achievements	
Mathematics and Numeracy – Progress I have made and my achievements	
My aspirations/ what I really enjoy (if I)	
My next steps in my learning	
How my learning can be supported outside of the school environment	
My general wellbeing in school	

## SUMMER TERM

### End of Year Report to Parents

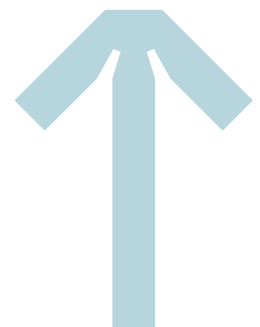
A detailed Written summary sent home in July. This links to the 6 AoLEs, It includes Learner Voice in what they feel has gone well, and what they would like to work on in the future.



### End of Year Open Evening

Opportunity to visit the classroom and look at books with the learner. Teacher available to answer questions/chat to discuss how their year has been.

# REPORTING TO PARENTS



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# ASSESSMENT



Learners' progress across all AoLEs is assessed throughout the two year curriculum cycle. The yearly assessment calendar identifies specific opportunities throughout the year for each year group. This provides opportunities to gather baseline information to track and monitor learner progress.

Teachers use this information to set end of year targets for each learner in Literacy and Mathematics. Termly data captures, monitors learners' progress towards targets.

This information is revisited termly in Pupil Progress Dialogue meetings to review progress and identify and support individuals to ensure targets will be met.

To establish consistency across all Lower School campuses, teachers work closely together in year group teams to plan authentic assessment opportunities and confirm accuracy of assessment.

## PARENTS:

In line with Curriculum for Wales and ALC's assessment approach, the language that we use to discuss learner outcomes has changed. Instead of the previously used curriculum levels, we now use the following:

- Working below age-related expectations
- Working at age-related expectations
- Working above age-related expectations



**Community Businesses Page**  
 Welcome to our community business page. As you can see, there are...  
[abertillery3-16.co.uk](http://abertillery3-16.co.uk)

BLAENAU GWENT  
 STEM PROJECT

School of the Month  
 ALC- Primaries

Abertillery Learning Community

Congratulations on achieving the highest number of STEM points in September!

Blaenau Gwent

Llywodraeth Cymru  
 Welsh Government

# COMMUNITY LINKS

The Learning Community has developed strong links with the LA's regeneration team and council members to create a sustainable connection with the community and businesses. There has been significant engagement with the businesses in the local community working to encourage our community to shop locally. We signpost parents to our website where we promote a range of local businesses. There are close links with Ebenezer Food Cupboard with support for food and school uniform donations. ALC is working closely with Ffrindiau Abertylleri on plans for Winterfest and future community events. Business links with Tai Calon, BG STEM British Gas, Blackwood Engineering, Thales, and EnCon are evolving. We have regular PACT sessions with parents. We have strong links with Aneurin Leisure who support our work with local sports clubs. Our learners on the Secondary campus are involved with local counsellors in establishing strong community links through charitable work,



NDEC & ResilientWorks Campus @ThalesNDEC - Jul 23

We are delighted to announce our collaboration with @abertillery3\_16 further demonstrating our commitment to develop the cyber skills of the future in the local area #Education #thales #welshvalleys #cyberskills

