



# St Martin's School Curriculum for Wales Summary September 2024

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*St Martin's School (CfW) summary for September 2023 outlines our implementation plans for the new curriculum. This is the beginning of an exciting new phase of our journey and with it comes many exciting opportunities for our learners to engage in. This short [video](#) provides an overarching explanation of Curriculum for Wales and what is changing in Welsh education.*

## Our Vision

Our vision for the curriculum at St Martin's is to provide bespoke provision for all students so that we:

- Realise the four purposes;
- Develop cross curricular skills in literacy, numeracy and digital competence;
- Develop in our students a sense of belonging in an inclusive and equitable environment that celebrates diversity;
- Enable all students to maximise their progress and achieve their aspirations;
- Ignite a passion for lifelong learning.

This includes the development of knowledge, skills and experiences for students both inside and outside of classroom learning.

At St Martin's we aim to :

- Engage with all aspects of our global community;
- Nurture and develop our students' sense of wellbeing through delivering outstanding support, care and guidance;
- Provide students with an inspirational learning environment in which all students can be successful and make a positive contribution to society;
- Design a flexible curriculum that is responsive to the needs of individual students and is planned with purpose.

Our curriculum design focuses on careful sequencing of learning within and across subject areas, led by students' needs.

All students leave St Martin's with a range of relevant qualifications so that they are prepared and able to thrive as part of society. We want all our students to 'be the best they can be' during their time with us, and for the rest of their lives. Our vision will be underpinned by the guiding pillars of excellent teaching as outlined in our teaching and learning policy.

## **Curriculum Development**

In developing our curriculum we have engaged with our learners, parents, carers, wider community, cluster and stakeholders to show how we are approaching learning progression and arrangements for assessment.

## **Our Curriculum Organisation**

Our curriculum for learners in Year 7 and Year 8 from September 2023 onwards will retain subject specific lessons which are organised into six areas of learning experience (AoLE):

<b>Expressive Arts</b> - Art, Drama & Music
<b>Health and Well-being</b> - Physical Education, Nutrition, Social and Mental Health
<b>Humanities</b> - Geography, History & Religion, Values & Ethics (RVE)
<b>Languages, Literacy and Communication</b> - English, Welsh, Spanish
<b>Mathematics and Numeracy</b> - Mathematics
<b>Science and Technology</b> - Science, Technology

Each AoLE has between three and six what matter statements which provide guidance on the content we need to address. At St Martin's Comprehensive School our curriculum offers wide ranging experiences in each area which focus on learning through exploration, refining skills and understanding, considering local and national perspectives in preparation for next steps and lifelong learning.

Developing students skills in Literacy, Numeracy and Digital technologies is the responsibility of all AOLEs. These skills are mapped and coordinated across all areas of the curriculum.

## **Skills & Cross Cutting Themes**

In creating our new curriculum we have clearly mapped how we are developing our learners skills; in literacy, numeracy and digital communication frameworks\*. Our Skill Leaders have identified skills that are explicitly developed through linked AoLE and those that are delivered through everyday learning experiences. In addition to developing skills across the curriculum, we run whole school strategies such as accelerated reading along with dedicated literacy and numeracy teaching assistants to give small group intervention sessions.

The four purposes are also underpinned by skills which should be developed within a wide range of learning and teaching. Our curriculum includes opportunities for learners to experience and develop:  
Integral Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Personal effectiveness
- Planning and organising

Cross Cutting Themes

- Relationships and sexuality education (RSE): statutory guidance\*
- Human rights

- Diversity
- Careers and work-related experiences
- Local, national and international contexts

\* Indicates mandatory elements of the new curriculum, this will be delivered in an age appropriate way

Our teachers and leaders, using our mapping templates, have already identified where these cross cutting themes occur naturally. As our curriculum develops we will refine this further and update our audit documentation. The breadth and depth of topics covered will increase over time as students mature and are ready to tackle more complex issues.

### **Assessment of the New Curriculum**

Within each AoLE '**what matter statements**', there are five '**progression steps**' that learners can achieve by the end of the key stage. Staff will use this document to monitor pupil progress and provide information on the next steps.

As a school, during summative data reports we will use the following language to determine where students are in terms of progression, Emerging, secure, exceeding

### **Reporting to Parents**

The school will inform parents and carers in a number of ways about their child's progress. For year 7 and 8 this will include:

1. Written feedback on summative assessments in/on learner work
2. A termly interim report to parents which will include information on their child's progress against the what matters statements and a brief summary on their wellbeing
3. An annual report to parents

### **Reviewing our Curriculum**

At St Martin's we will continually review the implementation of the CfW through using our on-going whole school self-evaluation and quality assurance for teaching and learning. Methods of evaluation will include learner voice, parental and teacher feedback and will be reviewed inline with our curriculum policy.

We will ensure that moderation of pupil work is completed regularly with our primary colleagues so that we have a common understanding of assessment using the progression steps.

In addition, the school undertakes regular evaluation against faculty and whole school improvement plans. Progress towards these priorities will be reported to the governing body through:

- Regular HT reports to the full governing body
- Link governor activities
- HT bulletins to parents
- Annual reports to parents

Through parental and carer engagement surveys , we shall ask for parental feedback on our CfW approaches and learning experiences of their child. As our curriculum design progresses we shall continue to work even closer with our primary cluster and our local community so that our curriculum reflects the wider community we serve.