

## School Development Plan Summary 2023 – 2024

### Whitestone Primary School



#### We celebrate ...

A clear vision and well-being focus for staff and pupil. Our school motto is “Giving our Best to Achieve our Best”

Teachers and school leaders set high expectations for all pupils, regardless of their background or circumstance

Beneficial partnerships with various stakeholders, staff, pupils, governors, parents, and the wider community, in shaping our curriculum, policy and practice.

Collaboration with other schools to share our good practice eg ALN, Professional Enquiry and Curriculum Development, in particular Digital Computation.

Ambitious professional learning ensures all staff are highly trained and well-informed. Development of comprehensive school improvement plans that outline our goals, strategies, and actions for continuous improvement.

Well-being is a priority.

Established systematic self-evaluation processes in place to assess our performance, strengths, weaknesses, and to ensure continuous school improvement. Our curriculum design includes local and community-related content, enabling pupils to connect their learning to the world around them. Pupil voice is highly valued and a range of leadership groups support this work including School Council, Eco-committee, Criw Cymraeg and Digital Leaders.

We have established a strong culture of being a learning school, through high quality self-evaluation, which enables us to continually reflect on our provision and strengthen teaching and learning. We ensure the voices of the children are the primary driver in all school improvement activities.

The school’s provision for learning is good. We provide access to a wide range of authentic, purposeful and relevant learning experiences, which develop their basic skills effectively. However, pupils’ ability to speak and listen in Welsh is limited. Most pupils come into the school with a wide range of life skills; as a result, early year’s provision is highly focussed on nurturing the whole child, particularly strengthening their social and emotional skills alongside their basic skills. The school’s philosophy is to develop pupils’ independent learning skills, which it does well.

Most pupils behave very well in school and are keen to become ambitious, independent learners. Many pupils seize the opportunities to engage in a rich, authentic and dynamic curriculum, including extra-curricular activities. Most pupils make good progress in their learning and they value and respond to feedback from teachers and their peers well.

The school makes effective provision for pupils with ALN and utilises partnerships with external agencies effectively to ensure all pupils make good progress. The school’s STF is exceptional at ensuring pupils are included in mainstream provision where opportunities arise to strengthen their sense of belonging. Leaders set high expectations for staff and pupils and ensure that staff and pupils alike reflect on their learning to set appropriate targets for personal improvement.

The principles of Schools as Learning Organisations underpin the school’s strategic vision and ensure that all stakeholders are continually involved in self-evaluation, planning for improvement and engaging in bespoke, high quality professional development to best meet the needs of the community we serve.

#### We need to work on ...

Continue to develop our curriculum; ensuring “pupil voice” continues to underpin our strategic direction.

Work **collaboratively with our cluster** in the curriculum design process whilst balancing two goals – coherence and subsidiarity.

Strengthen attitudes to learning, particularly in **attendance** and embed a whole school approach to supporting the health and well-being of pupils and staff.

Continue implementing the **ALN reform** agenda and engaging parents and carers in this process. In addition, the school needs to develop a tool for addressing and monitoring ALP.

Develop systems to ensure pupil progress is tracked through effective **assessment processes** allowing us to capture a holistic picture of individual pupils and develop a shared understanding of progression.

Further develop pupil and peers assessment for learning techniques to further enhance independent learning styles.

To **strengthen the basic skills** of every pupil in the school.

## Last year we achieved ...

- ✓ Pupil involvement in curriculum design through the use of Big Questions'
- ✓ Further curriculum development through the adoption of the LA syllabus for RVE and RSE and the subsequent use of the Jigsaw scheme.
- ✓ Curriculum Planning and design continued to develop to ensure relevant, authentic and purposeful learning experiences are offered to all pupils
- ✓ We are progressing well along the "ALN Reform" timeline

## This year we aim to ...

- Raise standards in pupils' extended writing skills
- Raise the skills level and standards of all pupils in Welsh Oracy
- Develop Pupils' numeracy and digital computation skills so that they are able to apply these consistently in real-life situations
- Ensure equity of access to consistently high quality outdoor learning environments for all pupils across the school in order to further enhance and develop the curriculum at Whitestone.
- Continue to embed a bespoke Curriculum
- Develop a shared understanding of progression that improves pupil outcomes
- Use effective assessment approaches to enable all learners to make progress.

## This is how we will achieve our aims and who will help us ...

Develop a focused SIP which we will review half termly to highlight progress and areas requiring further input.

Continue to support pupil and staff emotional and mental wellbeing

Parent engagement sessions supported by Local Authority

Through focused self-evaluation, involving multiple stakeholders, of our progress against the agreed outcomes of the strategic steps within the SDP.

Local authority and national training opportunities for staff

Collaborative working with other cluster schools on curriculum design

Work alongside Partneriaeth as a case study for DC curriculum design

Develop the enquiry process to effect school improvement