



PRIMARY SCHOOL CLUSTER

TRANSITION PLAN

2023 - 2026



PRIMARY TRANSITION

at Afon Tâf High School 2023-26

PONTIO

yn Ysgol Uwchradd Afon Tâf 2023-26



CONTEXT

In the present context this plan will address the needs of the children in our cluster as they move from KS2 to KS3 and the wider educational issues we are currently faced with as highlighted below:

- *Literacy*
- *Numeracy*
- *Closing the poverty gap*
- *Ensuring all learners achieve their potential*
- *Measuring the impact of this plan on learner outcomes*

Evaluation of Current Practice:

Managing Transition:

There are currently good procedures in place to ensure that the transition from Year 6 to 7 is as 'stress free' as possible for both our pupils and their parents / carers. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have many opportunities to visit Afon Tâf throughout the year for varied purposes, ranging from formal orientation visits to a disco and music events. These visits allow pupils to familiarise themselves with their new school, meet existing pupils and staff. There are also 2 formal opportunities for parents / carers to visit the school.

Further provision is made for identified individuals (vulnerable learners or those who may benefit from additional transition visits and support), to visit on a less formal basis. For those pupils with additional learning needs, individual transition plans are agreed with pupils and their families and bespoke arrangements are carefully managed to support their individual needs. For example, individual visits with parents, staggered break and lunch times for Year 7. Meetings are arranged between the primary school and Year 7 transition coordinator. These ensure valuable information is passed on about pupils. The primary school's mental health practitioner also has the opportunity to meet with Afon Tâf's Wellbeing Officer.



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The agreed aims for managing transition are:

Managing Transition

1. Continue to effectively manage the transition process for pupils and parents / carers
2. Provide relevant and suitable contact with pupils / parents, proving a bespoke transition plan for those who require it (e.g disengaged and vulnerable learners).

Assessment & Pupil Tracking

Pupil information around attainment and achievement is passed onto Afon Tâf. There are agreed assessments that each primary school will carry out and share. These include:

- *National Reading Test*
- *National Numeracy Test (Procedural)*
- *National Numeracy Test (Reasoning)*
- *Salford reading test (summer of Year 6)*
- *Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs – summer Year 6).*

The transfer of assessment information ensures key data is accessible to staff at Afon Tâf and is used to support all pupils.

In addition to the formal assessment information, valuable information / narratives on pupils is also shared. This may include a chronology of interventions, especially for pupils with additional learning needs, catch-up learning.

Assessment & Pupil Tracking

1. Provide agreed assessment information from Year 6 to Year 7.
2. Agree and exchange a school page transfer form (includes narrative and well-being information)



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Teaching & Learning

Collaborative working exists between primary and secondary schools. Recently, to address and discuss the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales, schools share information on teaching strategies, schools' priorities in relation to teaching and curriculum design. This has included how schools develop pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital competencies as well as their problem solving and creative skills.

There are planned opportunities for staff between primary and secondary to team plan and teach. This enables teachers to develop professionally as well as support learners, experiencing teaching styles between both sectors. The following team teaching opportunities exist:

- **Numeracy** – collaborative numeracy project. Session 1 takes place in Year 6 class and enables pupils to meet Afon Tâf Maths teachers in their own setting. This is followed by a session in Afon Tâf.
- **Literacy**– as above
- **Sports** – cluster sporting events exist to build and strengthen relationships between partner schools and their pupils.
- **Other** – each year additional curriculum areas may be included in the transition plan. These are often based on the priorities of the pupils in Year 6.

The agreed aims for Teaching & Learning are:

1. Share good practice in learning and teaching across the settings e.g. shared pedagogy, especially in literacy, numeracy and digital competencies
2. Develop strategies to improve teaching and learning of Welsh language development.
3. Provide a range of cluster sporting activities.



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Curriculum Planning

Afon Tâf leads a successful #Wednesday programme. This enables Year 5 pupils to attend a series of sessions on Wednesday afternoons. These sessions include a variety of enrichment activities across the various departments. #Wednesday provides worthwhile opportunities for pupils to visit Afon Tâf and become familiar with the surroundings, meet staff and pupils and engage in a variety of academic and non-academic learning activities, thus building their confidences and widening experiences.

The agreed aims for Curriculum Planning are:

1. Implement a cross-phase enrichment programme
2. Share and develop curriculum design in line with the Curriculum for Wales (pupil pledge)

Evaluation and Pupil Voice

The cluster uses a variety of methods to evaluate the effectiveness of transition plans and arrangements. These include:

- Pupil Voice – general feedback is gathered from Year 7 pupils during the autumn term. In addition to this, there is a cluster Pupil Improvement Group. Their role is to support the transition process and liaise with pupils to identify strengths and barriers to the cluster approach.
- Staff – the transition coordinators from each school meet annually to review and evaluate the transition processes and make any recommendations for improvements / change.
- Parents – parent meetings are held to support parents with the transition process / arrangements.
- Governors – the cluster Governor Improvement Group have opportunities throughout the year to gather information around the transition plan and processes. This enables them to act as a ‘critical friend’ and input into transition plans.
- Leaders – meet annually to review and agree future transition plans. They consider financial implications and engage with Community Engagement Officers to widen transition and community opportunities.

The agreed aims for Evaluation and Pupil Voice are:

1. Gather the views of all stakeholders, including pupils, parents / carers, staff, governors and professional agencies.
2. Consider the advice of external agencies / research.



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Annual Review

Transition Co-ordinators and Leaders from partner schools will undertake an annual review of the transition plan to identify strengths and areas to develop, informing future plans.



TRANSITION COORDINATOR

Mr Tomas Phillips

YEAR 7 - Director of Learning



WELLBEING OFFICER

Mrs Bev Thomas

Co-ordinators aim to:

- Effectively manage and implement the transition plan
- Support transition activities
- Regularly monitor and review the transition plan.

Other named Transition staff:

Mr Martin Mee
Mrs Tara Nicholls
Mr Huw Thomas
Mrs Clare Hext
Miss Sian Martin
Miss Jade Rowley

Troedyrhiw Community Primary School
Ynysowen Community Primary School
Abercanaid Community School
Bedlinog Community Primary School
Trelewis Primary School
Edwardsville Primary School

Other staff

Mrs Michelle Jones
Mrs Leanne Young

Primary Schools' Mental Health Practitioner
Community Family Engagement Manager
for Southern Cluster

Mr Phillips will initially lead the co-ordination of the transition process between Afon Tâf and primary schools.



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Appendix A: Calendar of Transition Events for 23-24

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 15 Cluster meeting - Edwardsville
- 20 Year 6 Transition Day
- 20 Year 6 Open Evening
- 28 Netball (7-a-side) 4-5pm

OCTOBER 2023

- ALN visits to Primaries
- 3 PIGs meeting 1
- 3 Cluster meeting
- 4 #Wednesday Year 5 session 1 starts. Edwardsville & Ynysowen
- 12 Running cluster
- 16 Transition Project visit 1 - Maths
- 17 GIG 1 – Ynysowen
- Presentation on transition plan

NOVEMBER 2023

- 9 Football cluster (7-a-side)
- 22 #Wednesday Year 5 session 1 ends
- 23 Rugby cluster (11-a-side, tag)

DECEMBER 2023

- Year 7 Progress Review
- 19 Year 6 Transition Day 2

JANUARY 2024

- 12 Cluster meeting. Abercanaid
- 16 PIGs meeting 2
- Merthyr Council Chambers
- 17 #Wednesday Year 5 Session 2 begins Abercanaid and Troedyrhiw

FEBRUARY 2024

- 1 Running cluster
- 2 Transition project visit
- 3 Year 7 Progress review
- 6 GIGs - Trelewis
- 22 Football cluster (7-a-side)

MARCH 2024

- 7 Netball cluster (7-a-side)
- 13 Year 5 #Wed cluster session 2 ends
- 21 Rugby cluster (11-a-side, tag)

APRIL 2024

- Year 7 Progress Review

MAY 2024

- #Wednesday Year 5 session 1 starts. Bedlinog and Trelewis
- Year 7 Progress Review
- Transition Annual Review
- 3 Cluster meeting - Troedyrhiw
- 9 Netball cluster
- 21 PIGs meeting 3. Welsh Assembly
- 23 Running cluster

JUNE 2024

- ALN/Transition Coordinator Face-2-Face visits
- Additional visits for vulnerable pupils to begin
- Transition Project visit
- 3 #Wednesday Year 5 Session ends
- 6 Thomas Bedford Cup (repeated for 3 weeks)
- 17 GIGS meeting - Troedyrhiw

JULY 2024

- 2 Transition review and pupil voice
- 2 School production - "Annie"
- Primaries invited to watch
- 4 Football cluster (7-a-side)
- 9 Year 6 Induction Day & Induction Evening.
- 15 Year 6 Induction Disco





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Managing Transition

1. to continue to address the pupils' and parents' concerns and ensure they feel supported during transition
2. to increase contact with parents/carers of ALN pupils
3. to continue to help Key Stage 2 pupils settle well into Year 7
4. to make greater use of the PASS survey to identify vulnerable pupils in need of extra support
5. to identify and support Year 6 pupils in danger of disengaging.

DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	INPUT	TIMESCALE
			[PEOPLE]	
<i>Continued improvement of transition arrangements to best support pupil wellbeing and attainment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Transition days and Sports Fun day 	Pupils feel familiar with the secondary school setting prior to transition	Transition Coordinator & HoD PE	September - July 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 #Wednesdays 			September 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal visits for Year 6 pupils and their parents / carers 	Transition day and Open Evening for Years 5 & 6	Transition Coordinator & HoDs	September 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 disco 	Year 6 Induction day and Evening	Transition Coordinator & BT	July 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas transition day for Year 6 			December 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition coordinator visits to primary school 	Face to face Meetings	Transition Coordinator	June 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALN transition visits begin earlier. 	ALNCO	ALNCO	October 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEN to visit primary schools during summer term to meet with relevant parents / carers 	Parents /carers of SEN pupils are better informed as to their child's needs and the provision available at secondary school prior to arrival	ALNCO from cluster and HS	Summer term 2024



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered break and lunchtimes for Year 7 pupils in first weeks 	Yr. 7 pupils settle in quickly to secondary school with a minimum of disruption to learning but with support if necessary.		Sept. 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face transfer to identify vulnerable pupils • Identification of pupils who have received Place-2-B support and information shared if permission is given by individual parents. 	Vulnerable pupils are identified and effectively supported through transition via Blue room and ALN room support Elsa and resilience groups. Exchange counselling's Window of Tolerance and anxiety group support. Colin ATHS's PAT dog	LRB co-ordinator ALNCO DoL Year 7 Wellbeing Manager Year 6 teachers	Summer term 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing outreach groups in Year 7 • Pupils in danger of disengaging to be identified in Year 6 and Year 7 via NEET data to receive support 	Sap transition sessions / Resilience groups, NEET data. Pupils do not disengage during transition	Transition coordinator Wellbeing Officer Wellbeing Manager	Summer term Autumn term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATHS to continue working towards Nurture UK accreditation with a whole school approach to nurture. • GIGs • PIGs 		Wellbeing Manager BT	Autumn/ Spring term. September 2023



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Assesment and Pupil Tracking

1. to continue to develop continuity of assessment across the Key Stages
2. to streamline the process of data transfer in order to...
3. ensure every child maintains appropriate academic progress during transition
4. to ensure that all relevant staff have access to and understanding of relevant pupil data

DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	INPUT [PEOPLE]	TIMESCALE
There is improved transfer and use of pupil data leading to improved standards of attainment especially in Literacy and Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re- start early moderation meetings to take place between secondary HoDs and primary coordinators 	Teachers across the cluster have a common understanding of the assessment framework in the core subjects and apply it consistently	Core HoDs Primary coordinators	TBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cluster portfolios to be re-established created and updated as necessary 	Possible use of Google Docs to enable the storing and sharing of work	Core HoDs Primary coordinators	Summer 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face to face meetings between transition coordinator, ALNCO's and Year 6 teachers to discuss academic needs of individual and groups of <u>pupils</u> 	There is a more streamlined, accurate and consistent means of data transfer from primary to secondary school	Transition coordinator, ALNCO and Year 6 teachers	October - June 2023-2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of SIMS tracker 		Headteacher's Office Local Authority	Summer term 2023



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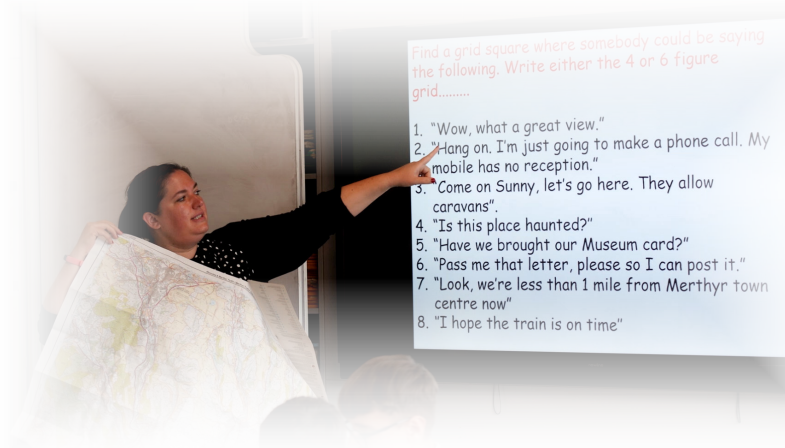


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Teaching and Learning

1. to continue to share good practice in learning and teaching across the Key Stages
2. to continue to develop shared pedagogies and approaches especially in the areas of literacy, numeracy and ICT
3. to continue to work closely on the development of the 'Fresh Start' and Accelerated Reading Programmes
4. to devise strategies for the improvement of standards in Welsh
5. to work closely in devising strategies for the development of numeracy
6. to begin to develop cross-phase MAT programmes

DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS		
			INPUT [PEOPLE]	TIMESCALE
There is greater consistency of pedagogical approach facilitating progression during the transition phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project based activities which are linked to the expectations for students under the new Curriculum for Wales. All facilities are available to the Cluster - three sessions of familiarisation and integration across the year. 	Improved pedagogical approach to teaching and progression for pupils.	New head of Literacy. Year 6 Teachers	October 2023 February 2024 July 2024



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Curriculum Planning

1. to develop a cross-phase approach to developing 'reading for meaning skills'
2. to develop a cross-phase enrichment programme
3. to develop pupils' ICT Coding skills
4. to continue to work co-operatively to develop compatible approaches to the delivery of the LNF

DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS		
			INPUT [PEOPLE]	TIMESCALE
Pupil attainment is facilitated via increased cross phase curricular links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative working to ensure compatible approaches to the delivery of the LNF ATHS and to provide Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme to Year 5 and Year 7 pupils across the Cluster Integrate the Reaching wider programme from the University of South Wales to raise aspirations and provide students with different opportunities and exposure to new technologies 	Pupils' progress through the LNF is not disrupted by Transition	New Head of Literacy and literacy coordinators	On-going joint training
		Increased pupil motivation and enjoyment. Improved school ethos at ATHS	TP, ATHS staff	



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Evaluation

1. to formalise procedures for the gathering of pupil and stakeholder voice
2. to make greater use of the PASS survey to evaluate the success of transition strategies

DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	INPUT [PEOPLE]	
Developments in Transition are informed by a more accurate understanding of pupils' and other stakeholders' views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All pupils to complete PASS survey at end of Autumn term in Year 7 Results to be used to inform review of Transition procedures 	The PASS Survey is used effectively as a means of evaluating the efficacy of Transition Procedures	Headteachers'	by Dec. 2023
			Behaviour Manager	by Jan. 2024
			Transition Coordinator and Headteachers'	