

RAISING ASPIRATIONS, RAISING STANDARDS  
CODI DYHEADAU, CODI SAFONAU



Success for every child  
Llwyddiant i bob plentyn

EDUCATION: PLAY YOUR PART  
ADDYSG: PAWB YN CYMRYD RHAN

Be the best that you can be  
Byddwch y gorau y gallwch

**SMT**

Safer Merthyr Tydfil  
Merthyr Tudful Mwy Diogel



Cynor Swyddogol Sêl  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

# Raising Aspirations and Raising Standards

Improving educational outcomes in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough 2021-2026

## Themes

### THEME ✓

#### PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Working together can help us to improve education and learning for children and young people in Merthyr Tydfil.

The education of children and young people is **everyone's business**, and everyone should help children and young people to be the best they can be.

Our vision and values in Merthyr Tydfil are:

'Success for every child'  
Llwyddiant I bob plentyn

By working 'together' we can help our children and young people to have a positive learning experience, raise their expectations and achieve more.

### THEME ✓

#### PANDEMIC RECOVERY

**Our aim is that...**

Successfully move forward from the pandemic and support our schools and the communities.

We will work with others to ensure good support for our learners and help them to succeed.

**This matters because...**

Children and young people have lost out during the COVID19 pandemic and it is important we recognise this; their mental health and wellbeing is very important to their success in life. There have been and may be further school closures because of the pandemic.

In spite of this, it is very important that we deliver a strong curriculum that supports the wellbeing, education and learning of our children and young people, so that they can be the best that they can be.

## Goals

### → GOAL

#### PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

##### Our aim is that...

Everyone involved who has contributed towards education in Merthyr Tydfil understands their role and are answerable for their actions.

- School governing bodies and others responsible for education fully understand the responsibility they have in providing good quality opportunities for our children and young people.
- The Council who are the main providers of education services, must provide strong leadership and support. They have a responsibility to make sure that the learning and standards are at least good in all education settings.
- Learning data will be shared to inform and develop opportunities for the future generation of learners in Merthyr Tydfil.
- The local authority will step in if concerns are raised about education and learning in any setting.

##### This matters because...

A strong education system, with all partners working together to meet a common goal, will improve the standards for all learners, to ensure that children and young people can be the best they can be.

### → GOAL

#### DEVELOPING THE EDUCATION WORKFORCE

##### Our aim is that...

All children and young people in Merthyr Tydfil are supported in their education by knowledgeable, enthusiastic, inspired and passionate staff.

##### This matters because...

It is very important that staff be given every opportunity to develop their skills and leadership so that young people receive the best support and education possible.

The fantastic staff encourage children and young people to be the 'best they can be' so that they can succeed in their education, wellbeing and future employment.

## Leadership

Why do we need high quality leaders? We need high quality leaders to have the best staff at all levels, including leadership, and training all staff necessary to be the best they can be, so our young people can be the best they can be.

# → GOAL

## SUPPORTING LEARNERS' HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Our aim is that...

All children and young people in Merthyr Tydfil can get support to improve their emotional mental and physical health. This will help them to take full advantage of their education.

### This matters because...

Before COVID-19, children and young people were becoming more vocal about the importance of wellbeing. This is now more important than 'ever' as we must help children and young people work through the challenges of growing up in a recovering world.

Although attendance in our schools has improved over recent years, it continues to need improvement.

Our Merthyr Tydfil Youth Cabinet has done some fantastic work to support mental wellbeing through toolkits, for both Primary and Secondary pupils, but more must be done to make pupil wellbeing important to academic success. We have a responsibility to listen to young people and improve our systems to allow them to succeed.

Making physical activity a habit for life will improve the health of our children and young people now and in the future, improve their self-confidence and social skills and reduce their anxiety.

## → GOAL

### IMPROVING ACHIEVEMENT & PROGRESSION

#### Our aim is that...

The curriculum offers all learners the opportunity to become ambitious, capable and to contribute in a creative and confident manner as healthy individuals.

- This exciting new curriculum will respond to the needs of all learners.
- It will make sure that all learners are able to read and write, understand numbers and be able to know and use the digital world.
- It will enable them to access and secure the highest level possible in education, employment and training.
- Children and young people will have the opportunity to engage in activities through the medium of Welsh.
- Transition from early years to primary schools and from primary to secondary schools will be a smooth move to support children and young people.

#### This matters because...

The COVID19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the way children and young people learn. A new way of learning, raising standards and engaging with parents and the wider community will help children and young people and encourage them into further education and learning.

## → GOAL

### DEVELOPING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

#### Our aim is that...

All children and young people have high quality teaching and learning environments.

All activities are delivered in safe inspirational environments both indoors and outdoors and the use of technology improves the opportunity to learn.

#### This matters because....

Any new buildings or upgrades to schools will be designed to assist in protecting our environment. Education buildings can and should be used more by the community.

We need to invest in improving the current technology so that more people can access it.