Ysgol
MELYD

Happiness leads to success
Gyda hapusrwydd daw llwyddiant



Developing Our Outdoor Learning Provision

Who Are We?

We are a County Primary School, located in the village of Meliden, on the North Wales Coast near Prestatyn. The school opened on the current site in 1969 and is maintained by Denbighshire County Council. We are a small school at the heart of our community working in close partnership with parents, carers and other organisations to promote the academic achievements of our learners, whilst also ensuring that their social and emotional wellbeing is kept at the heart of all that we do. At Ysgol Melyd we care.

Our professional and dedicated staff cherish the time we have with our children, broadening their horizons, nurturing their talents and building their resilience so that they are able to work towards their potential, safe in the knowledge that we will work alongside their families to support and protect them through their personal learning adventure. We aim to inspire a love of learning, ambition to improve and the confidence to 'give it a go'. We offer a balance of challenge and support, expecting all to play their part in helping our school community to thrive. Ysgol Melyd is an ambitious learning community.

We believe that we are more than the sum of our parts, so each and every individual is a vital member of our community, sharing their own talents and abilities for the benefit of all. Whether a child is academically gifted or their strengths lie elsewhere, we aim to allow them to find their valued place in the Ysgol Melyd 'family'. Ysgol Melyd is diverse and welcoming of difference.

Our Aim!

Happiness Leads To Success



At Ysgol Melyd our aim is to create an engaging, supportive and caring learning environment which helps all children achieve the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales. Helping them to realise their individual potential to become:

- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world

Our Strategy

At Ysgol Melyd we are careful to make the improvement journey a positive, honest one to approach our practise, allowing us to celebrate our successes whilst working on areas we need to develop.

As a learning community we are determined to challenge ourselves to improve in all that we do. We understand that we must react to National policy changes whilst at the same time not losing sight of our own local priorities and the needs of our individual learners. We also recognise that we must work collaboratively to achieve our goals, and therefore all of our actions identified in this plan will take place within a climate of collaboration, openness to change and a willingness to learn or lead – attitudes and behaviours which we, as a learning organisation, need to model for our own learners.

The development of high-quality, teaching and learning is, of course, at the heart of what we do at Ysgol Melyd. We are keen to share our strengths, as well as improve our areas of weakness, and continually strive for highly effective teaching, well-developed learning behaviours and building a climate of innovation, trust and excitement about learning. To achieve this, all members of our community will become competent at choosing, and safely using, appropriate technologies to enhance their lives and complement other available resources. We are a school rooted in our community and proud to develop the Welsh language and Welsh culture throughout the school, increasingly using Cymraeg as a common language of communication at all ages, and ensuring that all members of our school community have a strong sense of their place in the World and their role as global citizens.

Improving the academic outcomes of learners

Through consideration of our current curriculum offer we have identified that despite having extensive school-grounds, we need to further develop our outdoor learning provision over the course of the next few years. In the first instance we will work in partnership with external organisations to build staff confidence and competence, including using award schemes to provide a structure, followed by a phase of experimentation where staff weave outdoor learning activities into their routine curriculum offer, sharing their successes and failures with colleagues in a supportive and open environment.

Positive Impact!

With improved outdoor learning provision, we expect greater levels of engagement, more effective embedding of knowledge, skills and understanding, and subsequent improvement in academic outcomes as well as levels of self-esteem and social behaviours. There are also a number of learners who find it difficult to concentrate in the classroom. Opening their classroom to the outdoors would not only improve their academic opportunities, it would also improve their overall mental health and well-being.

We Need Your HELP!



Story Bowl

Project Story Bowl

Story Bowl AKA the Nature Reserve, currently not used to its potential due to unsustainable grounds.



Kitchen Garden

Kitchen Garden AKA The Veg Garden, attempts have been made to reinvigorate the area but unsustainable due to 20 years of use and in desperate need of a well desevered revamp.

Project Kitchen Garden

Help

Awareness

The first step towards living in a more sustainable way is to be aware of what you currently do. That awareness will, in turn, make you more conscious of the choices you make in the future.





Broaden Their Horizons

Children experience a range of outdoor learning experiences.

Collaborate

Source partners to collaborate with Ysgol Melyd to help with the improvements.



The Vision...



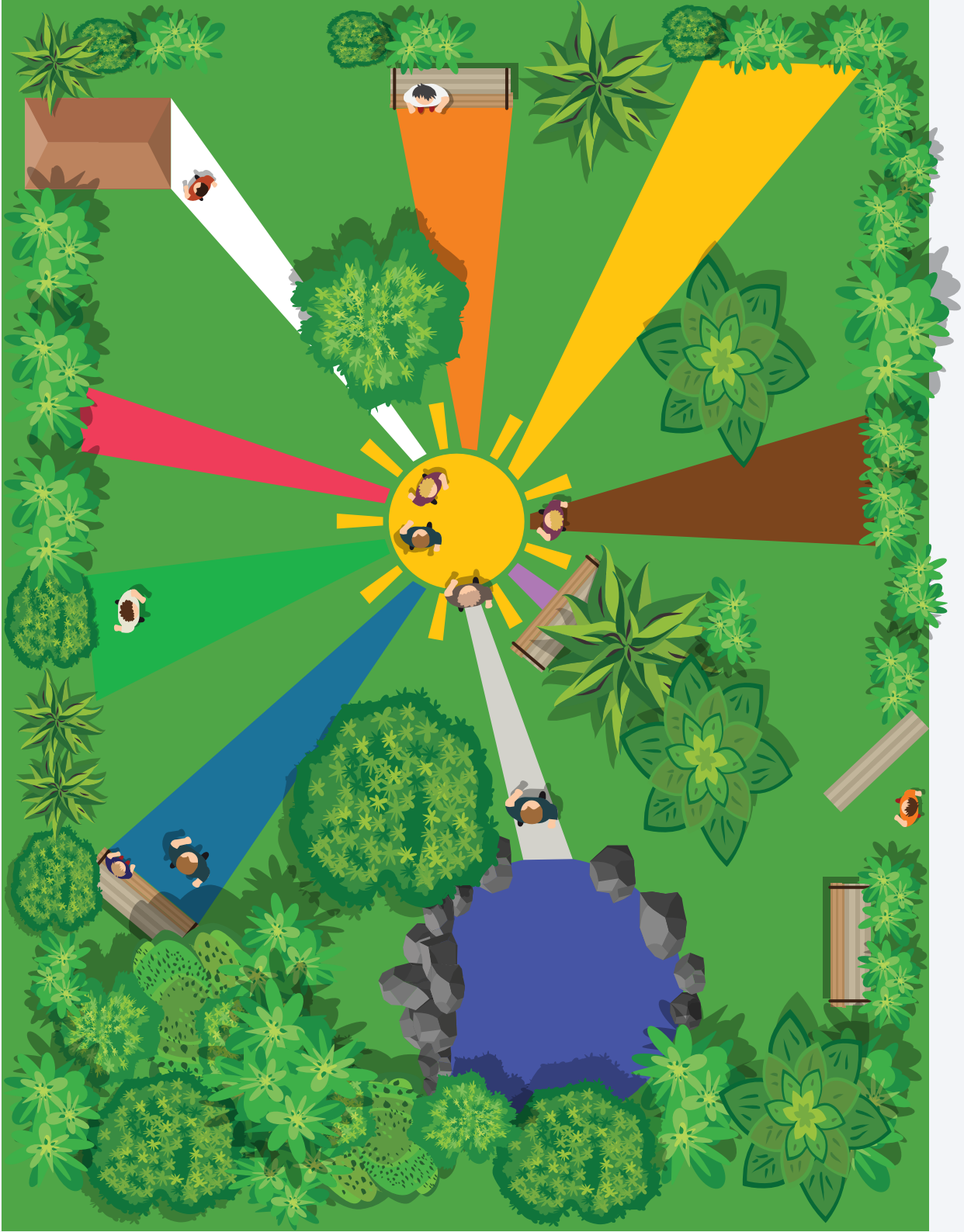


Happiness Leads To Success

Prospective Kitchen Garden



Whilst utilising our current space, including the already positioned shed, green house and fruit trees. Our aim is to enhance the area by using recycled timber boxes for planters whilst creating a safe, sustainable, all year round area using materials such as artificial grass making it accessible and providing opportunies for everyone to learn life skills throughout the seasons whilst growing a range of produce for our cooking sessions and also donate to the local food bank.



Prospective Story Bowl

We're looking to create a nature trail with a difference, that will include a central location with several paths designed and sponsored by various parties which forms the shape of a sun leading to all the different areas for the ultimate learning experience and perfect location for our outdoor activities which include research for projects focusing on habitats, orienteering tasks, scavenger hunts, identifying plants, den building and much more.

How Can You Help?!

We recognise that we must work collaboratively to achieve our goals, with that said, we are looking for several third parties to get involved with our projects to help with labour, materials and/or funding. We have already secured funding from a local contractor who sub contracts to a local housing association and together we're hoping to create a community benefit scheme for the good of the school.

Our Commiment...

Along with staff and governors commitment to support the projects, collaborators will receive recognition plaques located in the project areas, viewed by school visitors and parents daily and some will be offered the chance to design one of the paths in the Story Bowl area and feature in our press releases..

Ysgol Melyd have prepared a "Let's Go Wild" programme for pupils to raise initial funds via sponsorship, pupils are tasked with walking as many miles as they can throughout June/July for the Wildlife Trusts Annual Nature Challenge with prizes to be won including designing one of the paths in the Story Bowl.

We recognise that the summer holidays for some children is tough going, so we plan to put together a summer camp to be run in holidays whereby children can spend time outdoors helping with the projects detailed.

Get Involved!

If you would like to be involved in helping us create this vision for our school or would like further information, please contact Mr Herd or Mr Cimelli.

HerdT10@hwbcymru.net or CimelliM5@hwbcymru.net



Thank You!