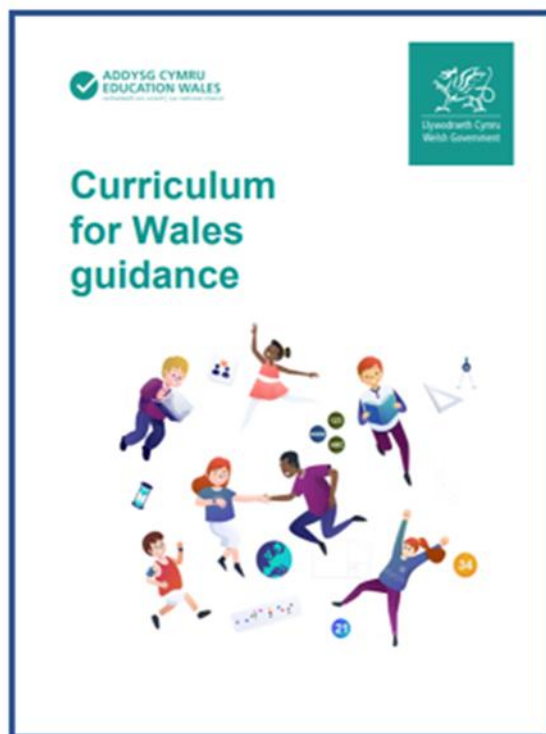


(Nov 2025)

# YEAR 8 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



## Humanities Curriculum Overview: Year 8

	HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	RVE
<b>Concepts Explored</b>	Power Monarchy Change Conflict  Challenge Colonisation & Empire Industrial Change Rights	People Processes Sustainability Change Enquiry	Belief Morality Authority Identity Community Remembrance
<b>Overview</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: The Tudors and the Reformation</b> Pupils explore how Tudor monarchs reshaped religious and political power, focusing on the Reformation and figures like Mary I. They examine religious conflict, shifts in authority, and how these changes affected people's rights and beliefs.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Empire, Colonisation, and Trade</b> This unit looks at how empires expanded through trade, exploration, and colonisation. Pupils study global connections, including Britain's empire in India, and assess the wide-ranging impacts of imperialism.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: The Industrial Revolution</b> Pupils investigate how industrialisation transformed Britain, especially cities like Cardiff. They explore social inequality, protest movements, and how industrial change affected power, rights, and everyday life.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Global Ecosystems and the Tropical Rainforest</b> Pupils study the tropical rainforest's climate, biodiversity, and structure. They explore deforestation, compare it to UK woodlands, and consider sustainable solutions and globalisation links.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Globalisation and Its Impacts</b> Pupils examine how globalisation connects countries and affects people and environments. They explore issues like sweatshops and deforestation, and assess solutions like fair trade.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Population and Migration</b> This unit looks at population patterns and migration, focusing on NICs like Brazil. Pupils explore causes, impacts, and policies, developing empathy through real-world case studies.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: Natural Hazards and Their Management</b> Pupils learn about earthquakes and hurricanes, their causes and effects, and how countries respond. They compare impacts in richer and poorer nations and assess sustainable management.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Christianity in Wales Today:</b> Pupils explore Christian beliefs, teachings, and practices, including the life of Jesus, the Bible, and key rituals like Baptism. They examine how Christian values shape identity, morality, and community life, particularly in the Welsh context.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Sikhism in Wales Today:</b> This unit introduces Sikh beliefs such as equality, service, and the teachings of the Gurus. Pupils learn about the Five Ks, the Guru Granth Sahib, and Sikh festivals, exploring how these shape identity, community, and moral action.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Islam in Wales Today:</b> Pupils study core Islamic beliefs, including Tawhid, the Qur'an, and the Five Pillars. They explore how these guide daily life, worship, and community, and reflect on the moral and spiritual significance of practices like prayer, fasting, and charity.</p>

## Science and Technology Curriculum Overview: Year 8

	SCIENCE	DIGITAL AND COMPUTING	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
<b>Concepts Explored</b>	Space Variety of Life Elements & Compounds Electricity Interactions of Life Chemical Reactions Magnetism Units of Life	Programming Digital citizenship & skills Using Software Data Handling	Iterative Design Materials Manufacturing Design Communication Sustainability
<b>Overview</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: Space:</b> Pupils learn about the Solar System, gravity, and how Earth's movements cause days, years, seasons, and Moon phases.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Variety of Life:</b> Focus on variation, inheritance, and adaptations that help organisms survive.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Elements and Compounds:</b> Introduction to atoms, elements, and compounds, including naming and testing simple substances.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: Electricity:</b> Covers how circuits work, including current, conductors, and safety features like fuses.</p> <p><b>Unit 5: Interactions of Life:</b> Explores food chains, food webs, and how ecosystems are affected by human activity.</p> <p><b>Unit 6: Chemical Reactions:</b> Pupils identify chemical changes, write word equations, and understand combustion.</p> <p><b>Unit 7: Magnetism:</b> Covers magnetic materials, fields, and how electromagnets are used and strengthened.</p> <p><b>Unit 8: Units of Life:</b> Focus on organ systems in humans and plants, healthy diets, and life processes like digestion and respiration.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Programming:</b> Pupils move from block-based coding (like Scratch) to text-based programming using Python. They learn to use variables, loops, and conditional statements, and apply these skills to real-world projects using Micro:bits. By the end of the unit, they can write and debug structured code that interacts with hardware.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Digital Citizenship &amp; Skills:</b> This unit deepens pupils' understanding of online safety and digital responsibility. They explore topics like phishing, cyberbullying, and data protection, and learn how to use tools like two-factor authentication. Pupils also create digital content (e.g. posters or infographics) to promote safe and ethical online behaviour.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Using Software:</b> Pupils enhance their skills in creative and productivity software, using tools like Adobe Creative Cloud and Google Suite. They apply design principles (e.g. layout, typography, colour theory) to create professional-quality digital content such as posters, animations, and website mock-ups.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: Data Handling:</b> Pupils build on their spreadsheet skills to manage and analyse larger datasets. They use advanced functions like IF statements and VLOOKUP, apply conditional formatting, and create charts and dashboards. The unit also introduces data ethics, including privacy and bias in data use.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Material Matters: Tools, Techniques &amp; Making:</b> In this unit, pupils design and make a lap joint picture frame with a layered card insert to create a 3D visual effect. They develop practical skills in measuring, cutting, joining, and finishing wood, while learning about material properties, sustainability, and presentation techniques.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Designing for Users:</b> In this unit, pupils explore user-centred design by investigating existing products through reverse engineering and designing their own layered acoustic amplifier. They develop CAD skills using 2D Design, apply manufacturing techniques using hand tools, and assemble their final product using MDF, dowel joints, and painted finishes.</p>

## Expressive Arts Curriculum Overview: Year 8

	MUSIC	ART
<b>Concepts Explored</b>	<p><b>Core:</b> Duration / Pitch</p> <p><b>Supporting:</b> Expression / Structure/ Timbre/ Texture / Articulation</p>	<p>FORMAL ELEMENTS</p> <p>CRITICAL ANALYSIS</p> <p>CREATIVITY</p>
<b>Overview</b>	<p><b>Unit: 1 Arriba: Rhythm Metre and Tempo in the music of Latin America:</b> This unit develops Rhythm Metre &amp; Tempo. Pupils will explore the features of Latin American Music by listening and playing. The main activity of the unit will be to compose a Ternary Form Melodic Composition which illustrates the musical traits of Latin American Music. Rhythms are integral to melody. The unit will also explore the wider cultural and creative contexts of Carnival Music and the Rio Carnivals.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Slojazz Performance Unit:</b> This unit focuses on pitch, melody, scales, chords, and harmony through whole-class ensemble performance. Pupils develop their understanding of melodic and harmonic relationships while building ensemble skills such as timing, coordination, and musical expression</p> <p><b>Unit: 3 DANUEL:</b> This unit is designed to draw together musical skills and knowledge from the two previous units and to teach learners how to collaborate effectively as creative musicians. Pupils will perform and compose on the theme of the spiritual Danuel and will then develop their team-work skills by piecing together group arrangements for final performance in a class concert. There will be a specific focus on Ensemble skills and on supporting concepts: Structure, Texture and Timbre.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Ceramics – Natural Forms</b></p> <p>Pupils explore the formal elements of line, tone, and form through observational drawing and ceramic work inspired by artists like Kate Malone. They design and construct decorative clay vessels based on natural forms (e.g. fruit and vegetables), learning techniques such as pinch pots and slabbing. Pupils also use digital tools like Procreate to create posters promoting their work, while developing skills in composition, texture, and self-evaluation.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Printmaking &amp; Digital Art: Endangered Animals</b></p> <p>This unit combines ethical awareness with creative expression. Pupils research endangered species and use printmaking techniques, such as monoprinting, reduction printing, and collagraphy, to create layered, expressive artworks. Inspired by artists like Dean Russo, they explore how colour, pattern, and typography can communicate powerful messages. Final outcomes include a digital poster created in Procreate to raise awareness of their chosen animal.</p>

## Health and Wellbeing Curriculum Overview: Year 8

	Health and Wellbeing	Food and Nutrition	Physical Education Practical	Physical Education Theory
<b>Concepts Explored</b>	Community Resilience Organisation Stress	Empathy Risk Ambition Respect	Nutrition Independence Sustainability Culture	Performance Participation Health Safety
<b>Overview</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: Careers and Future Planning:</b> Pupils begin to explore their strengths and interests, understand the difference between jobs and careers, and start thinking about their future through practical goal-setting activities.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Understanding and Celebrating Diversity:</b> Pupils learn to value individual differences, recognise the impact of discrimination, and understand how their school promotes inclusion and equality.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Connected and Protected:</b> Pupils explore healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviours, learn to set boundaries, and critically assess media influences. They also examine the legal and emotional consequences of online actions.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: Exploring Emotions:</b> Pupils develop emotional awareness and regulation skills, learning how to stay calm under pressure and appreciate different perspectives to build empathy and respect.</p>	<p><b>Food for Life: Skills, Health &amp; Well-being:</b></p> <p>In this unit, pupils <b>explore the essential role food plays</b> in our lives. From preparing nutritious meals to understanding how food choices affect our health, well-being, and the world around us.</p> <p>Through <b>hands-on cooking</b> lessons, pupils develop practical kitchen skills, learn about nutrition and food safety, and reflect on the social, cultural, and environmental impact of what we eat.</p> <p>By the end of the unit, pupils will be confident in preparing simple dishes, evaluating their outcomes, and making <b>informed, healthy, and sustainable food choices</b>.</p>	<p><b>Netball:</b> Pupils refine footwork, dodging, and shooting, with a focus on tactical play in both attack and defence.</p> <p><b>Hockey:</b> Builds on core skills like passing and dribbling, introducing tackling, positioning, and set plays.</p> <p><b>Football:</b> Emphasises ball control, space awareness, and tactical decision-making in both attack and defence.</p> <p><b>Dance:</b> Pupils explore expressive movement and group choreography using techniques like canon and mirroring.</p> <p><b>Basketball:</b> Focus on passing, dribbling, and shooting under pressure, with development of team strategies.</p> <p><b>Athletics:</b> Pupils improve running, jumping, and throwing techniques, learning event-specific skills like hurdles and baton exchange.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Exploring Health: Physical, Mental, and Social Wellbeing:</b> Pupils explore how physical activity supports all aspects of health. They learn about the physical and mental benefits of exercise, practise coping strategies, and reflect on body image and self-perception, building emotional literacy and confidence.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Health Through Diet and Lifestyle:</b> Pupils examine how nutrition, sleep, and lifestyle choices affect health and performance. They learn about macronutrients, energy balance, and hydration, applying this knowledge to real-life scenarios and developing informed decision-making skills.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Sport for All: Promoting Equality and Wellbeing:</b> Pupils investigate how identity and inclusion affect access to sport. They explore barriers faced by underrepresented groups and learn how to promote equality through empathy, allyship, and inclusive practices.</p>

## Languages, Literacy and Communication Curriculum Overview: Year 8

	English	Welsh	French
<b>Concepts Explored</b>	Metaphor Story Argument Pattern Grammar Context	The Welsh Language Welsh Culture	Meaning Spelling Sound
<b>Overview</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet:</b> Pupils will study Romeo and Juliet as a Renaissance tragedy, exploring its themes, characters, and tragic conventions within the Elizabethan context. They will analyse Shakespeare’s use of structure and pattern in drama and poetry, including his sonnets, to deepen their understanding of storytelling techniques.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: The Romantics:</b> Pupils will explore key themes and techniques in Romantic poetry, focusing on how authorial intent shapes meaning. They will analyse and compare texts, examining devices like extended metaphor and allusion, and apply these techniques in their own creative writing.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Gothic Literature:</b> Pupils will investigate how Gothic writers use language and structure to build tension and suspense. They will study literary devices such as allusion and metonymy, while also refining their use of punctuation and sentence construction in both analytical and creative writing.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Gwyliau (Holidays):</b> Pupils develop fluency in the past and imperfect tenses, learning to describe holiday experiences in detail. They practise forming questions, using time phrases, and giving extended opinions, building on Year 7 foundations.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Teulu (Family):</b> This unit reinforces sentence patterns and introduces vocabulary related to family. Pupils refine their use of mutations, masculine/feminine forms, and numbers, while describing people using a range of tenses and expressions, including the third person.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Trefn Ddyddiol (Daily Routine):</b> Pupils consolidate time phrases and past tense structures while being introduced to the future and continuous present tenses. They apply familiar patterns to everyday contexts, using adverbs and time markers to enhance fluency.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: Diwylliant Cymraeg (Welsh Culture):</b> Pupils explore Welsh identity through history, literature, and performance. They research events like Patagonia and Capel Celyn, study figures such as Eileen Beasley, and engage with poetry, songs, and novels to deepen cultural understanding and language skills.</p>	<p><b>Unit 1: Au collège :</b> This unit introduces and builds on vocabulary related to school subjects, enabling pupils to express and justify their opinions using familiar and new adjectives. It reinforces present tense verb forms, particularly -er verbs like aimer and détester, and introduces new verbs relevant to school life. Pupils also learn to talk about food at the canteen using partitive articles and develop fluency through structured speaking and writing, supported by phonics, time phrases, and connectives.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Là où j’habite:</b> Pupils learn to say where they and others live using the verb habiter with appropriate prepositions and country/town names. The unit expands their ability to express opinions about their local area and future intentions using verb + infinitive structures. It also introduces vocabulary for places in town, the use of où to extend sentences, and negative constructions. Listening and reading strategies are developed through scaffolded tasks that build confidence in processing unfamiliar language.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: La famille et l’amitié :</b> This unit focuses on describing family members and friends using gendered articles, possessive pronouns, and a wide range of adjectives. Pupils learn to compare people using comparative structures and indirect object pronouns. The unit strengthens grammatical accuracy and fluency through structured production, spontaneous speaking, and translation tasks. Listening and reading skills are deepened through narrow input tasks, helping pupils decode meaning and build resilience with unfamiliar language.</p>

## Mathematics and Numeracy Curriculum Overview: Year 8

Maths	
<b>Concepts Explored</b>	Number Geometry Fractions Statistics Algebra
These concepts will all be taught through the 5 mathematical proficiencies	
<b>Overview</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: Number:</b> Pupils consolidate key number skills, including factors, multiples, primes, and negative numbers. They learn to calculate HCF and LCM using listing and Venn diagrams, and explore prime factorisation. The unit also covers rounding to significant figures, estimation, and operations with decimals. Pupils apply number sense to check calculations and solve problems involving time zones. This unit builds fluency and prepares pupils for algebraic reasoning and real-world numerical applications.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Geometry:</b> This unit develops pupils' understanding of 2D and 3D shapes. They calculate the area and circumference of circles, explore angle relationships on parallel lines, and learn to measure and draw bearings. Pupils identify and describe 3D shapes, calculate surface area and volume, and convert between metric and imperial units. They also work with nets and properties of prisms. The unit strengthens spatial reasoning and links geometry to real-life contexts like navigation and design.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Fractions, Decimals, Percentages &amp; Ratio:</b> Pupils deepen their understanding of fractions, decimals, and percentages, learning to convert between forms and perform all four operations, including with mixed numbers. They calculate percentage change, including reverse percentages, and solve ratio and proportion problems using bar modelling. The unit emphasises logical reasoning and efficient methods, helping pupils apply these skills to real-world problems such as scaling, sharing quantities, and financial calculations.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: Statistics:</b> Pupils learn to collect, present, and interpret data using pie charts, scatter graphs, and conversion graphs. They explore correlation, averages from frequency tables, and appropriate data presentation methods. The unit builds analytical and critical thinking skills, enabling pupils to draw conclusions, make predictions, and evaluate data reliability. These skills are essential for informed decision-making and are applied across subjects like science and geography.</p> <p><b>Unit 5: Algebra:</b> Pupils build on their prior algebra knowledge by expanding and factorising expressions, solving linear equations, and substituting into formulae. They use digital tools - such as Google Sheets - to explore patterns and linear sequences, supporting their understanding of how to find nth terms. Pupils also plot straight-line graphs from equations and identify gradients and y-intercepts. This unit develops abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills, links algebra to real-world contexts, and prepares pupils for more advanced algebraic concepts in Year 9.</p>