



# About **ACT Schools**



**ACT is passionate about ensuring all young people are equipped to become successful adults with a wide range of skills and abilities.**

**Our Vision: Together we...**



**Belong**



**Grow**



**Learn**



**Achieve**

We believe that early intervention is needed to ensure all young people, especially those disengaged with education, are able to enter the world of work with the best possible chance of success. We're also passionate about reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

In 2012, ACT developed a specific, targeted Schools Programme admitting students with special educational needs primarily focused on social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. In March 2018, ACT Schools became a registered Independent School with the capacity to educate 150 pupils.

Since establishing our ACT Schools provision, we have been able offer an alternative Key Stage 4 education to young people across South Wales who have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion and those who are school phobic or are classed as vulnerable. Since September 2016 we have been providing a Key Stage 3 provision, expanding our targeted age range to 11-16.

**We offer a true alternative to mainstream learning, which is designed to engage young people and help them overcome their barriers to participation, preparing them for adulthood and the world of work.**

Our dynamic alternative curriculum and range of support packages truly encourages, motivates and nurtures young people to realise what they can achieve.

### **Our pupils are guaranteed:**



An individualised, person-centred programme that suits their needs



Daily support with behaviour and personal barriers



Regular progress and target setting



Access to our experienced learner support services including an outreach worker and school counsellor

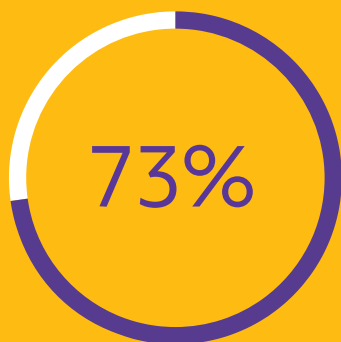


All the support they need to ensure successful transition to post-16 destinations

# Academic Year Outcomes 2022-23

## Attainment

During the 2022-23 academic year, 20 Year 11's completed their education at ACT Schools. The outcomes of those who completed the year can be summarised as follows:



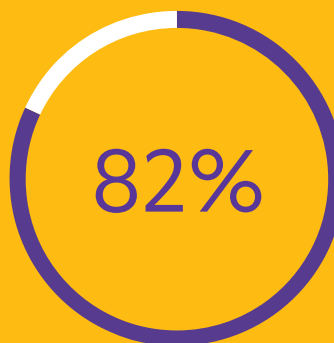
of pupils achieved at least 1 GCSE qualification



achieved 3 or more GCSE qualifications



of pupils accessing the full curriculum achieved a Level 1 threshold (5 GCSE's or more).



of our learners had positive destinations and were still engaged in the provisions in the Autumn term.

# Meet the Team



## A note from the Head of Education 11-16

"Welcome to ACT Schools! We are proud to offer a provision which supports young people to thrive academically and personally to become ambitious, capable young adults who are able to lead healthy and fulfilling lives as valued members of society. Our approach puts the same level of importance on academic achievement and wellbeing, with our outreach teams and delivery teams working in collaboration to provide supportive, safe and engaging environments for our young people."

**Kelly Rowlands**



**Antony Leach**  
Deputy Head  
of Education



**Kie Baldwin**  
Deputy Head  
of Education



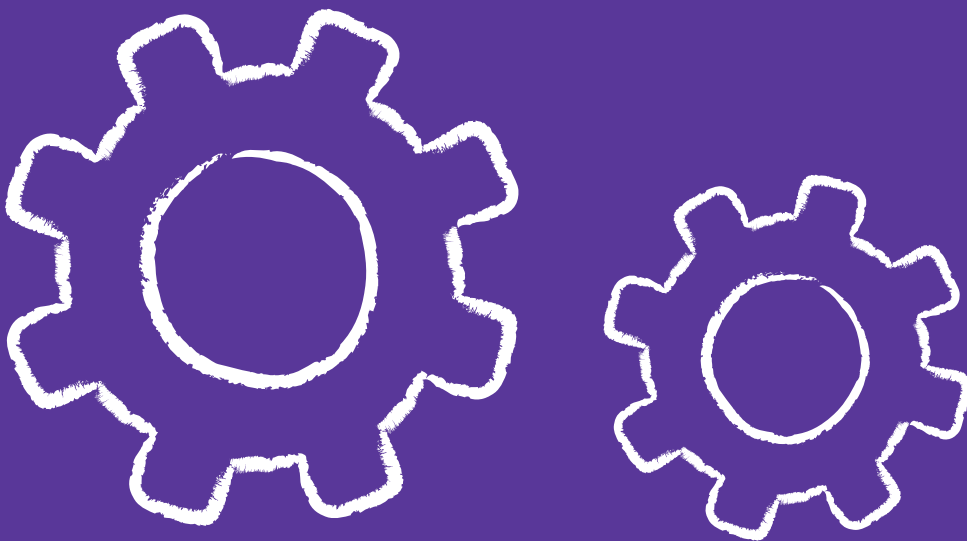
**Amanda Bishop**  
Deputy Head  
of Education

ACT Schools is supported by a fantastic delivery team made up of subject tutors, learning support and wider school support service staff who make sure we work to provide the best learning environment for our young people.

# Learner Support Services

The wellbeing of our pupils is central to the work we do at ACT Schools. A recent Estyn monitoring visit identified that the staff at our school know the pupils extremely well and provide them with valuable support inside and outside the classroom.

Over time, the majority of pupils develop strong relationships with our staff, helping them to engage positively with their learning, develop confidence in their abilities and make suitable progress.



## Our learner support team is led by the following roles:

### Learner Outreach

Our Learner Outreach workers are responsible for inducting new pupils. They manage learner wellbeing and refer to school counsellors when they feel further support is needed.

They support the reintegration of pupils back in to sessions and school, depending on the level of disengagement and work alongside the wider teams to support the enrichment curriculum through guest speakers and support agencies.

### Parent Outreach

The role of a Parent Outreach worker is to develop relationships with parents whilst promoting the work of ACT Schools. They are the main point of contact for parent and guardian communications and provide signposts and support for parents and guardians.

Our Parent Outreach staff also support the organisation of training sessions for parents helping them to upskill and support their child more effectively at home and throughout their education.

### ALNCo

Our ALNCo staff ensure all ALNET principles are adhered to within ACT Schools. As an ACT employee they also provide support to our Jobs Growth Wales+ and Apprenticeship provisions.

### Inclusion Officer

The role of an Inclusion Officer is to support the work of the ALNCo across all our schools centres. They work closely with Higher Level Teaching Assistants to manage target setting, Individual Development Plans and support the preparation of intervention work if a learner requires additional support. Our inclusion staff also promote learner voice activities in our schools, including surveys, forums and school council.

### School Counsellor

Our counselling team are responsible for supporting our pupils that need extra support. The team also provide professional learning opportunities for our Outreach Team, helping them support pupils who do not meet thresholds for counselling. As an ACT employee they provide support to our Jobs Growth Wales+ and Apprenticeship provision and dedicate 1 day a week to each school site.

### Admin and Attendance

Our Admin and Attendance Team are responsible for monitoring and following up on all attendance activities in line with our attendance policy. They organise, with the support of our Outreach Team, home visits to pupils not attending centre. Their responsibilities include carrying out admin duties across all our schools centres including the initial data upload and maintenance of our school systems for example, SIMS, Google Classroom, Provision Maps and MyConcern.

# What we do

At ACT Schools, we have developed a curriculum that focuses both on academic and vocational subjects. We offer pupils an opportunity to work towards achieving the same as their mainstream counterparts, in an environment that is more suitable for their needs.

Since achieving Independent School Status in April 2018, the school has improved our learner outcomes and progression. Our goal is to ensure young people have the opportunity to thrive both personally and academically.

At ACT Schools we provide a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum, that gives young people the platform they need to reach their full potential.

## How do we achieve this?

- By developing a curriculum that provides initial steps towards compliance for Curriculum for Wales.
- By creating a delivery structure that values education and wellbeing equally.
- By ensuring all of our practices are inclusive and pupils who require additional support to access education are engaged with our ALNCo and inclusion manager.
- By expanding upon our learner support services to ensure the support for our young people can be accessed by all those who need it.

## Our Curriculum

At ACT Schools, our teaching staff come from a range of educational backgrounds, from secondary and post-16 education to youth work. This means our delivery is both diverse and creative in its teaching style and we understand the importance of thinking outside of the box in order to best support our learner needs.

As such, from September 2023 we will be offering a brand-new curriculum, which aligns with the Curriculum for Wales, and will focus on the development of each individual at a speed appropriate to their personal goals. The exact pathway a pupil will follow will be determined during their enrolment but all will be built around supporting our pupils to become healthy, confident, ambitious, creative and well-informed individuals.



# To do this we will be splitting our days in to 3 key areas:

## Wellbeing Curriculum

For many of our pupils, we recognise the importance in providing a nurturing and supportive environment in order to foster their personal development. As such, our wellbeing curriculum is central to our daily delivery.

During these sessions, pupils are placed in a form group with their peers and are supported by an assigned tutor and Youth Learning Mentor who will remain with them for their time at ACT Schools. These sessions will focus on the Health and Wellbeing area of learning whilst also covering the key Relationship and Sexual Education mandatory curriculum and working towards a Level 1 qualification in Personal Growth and Wellbeing.

Pupils will have the opportunity within these sessions to develop a wider range of skills including literacy and numeracy alongside the other key curriculum areas of Creative Arts, Science and Technology.

## Core Curriculum

We appreciate that all of our learners come to us at different starting points and all have different end targets. As such, for our core curriculum which focuses on English and Maths development, pupils are grouped with peers of a similar ability. This allows us to provide more bespoke support for the group, assisting learners in making the best progress possible. For those who require additional guidance, our intervention worker is on hand to provide targeted one to one support.

Our core curriculum delivers Maths and English in its standard form as well as taking the skills that have been developed and applying them to our termly topic. Within these sessions we will allow pupils to work towards English and Maths qualifications appropriate to their needs e.g GCSE English or Essential skills literacy.

## Enrichment

At ACT Schools we believe learning should not be restricted to the classroom therefore we are incredibly proud of our enrichment offer which provides our pupils the opportunity to engage in a range of activities, giving them memorable and meaningful experiences to further their development.

Our enrichment opportunities allow for pupils to explore their own pathway in education, giving them the choice of what they want to engage in. Options will include; long term full academic year courses which will focus on qualification attainment for those with specific areas of interest; medium term short courses giving pupils an introduction in to certain areas; and short-term day options which will focus on engagement and positive exploration of new experiences. All pupils will need to select at least one medium and long-term option to complement their curriculum.



# Recent enrichment experiences

**We are excited to expand our enrichment offer over the next academic year but here are some great examples of what our learners have taken part in this year.**

## **Skateboard Academy UK**

We took part in 6 workshops with Skateboard Academy UK. Our pupils gained a recognised Youth Achievement Award through a fun, engaging and confidence-boosting skateboarding experience.

These sessions were delivered by skateboarding professionals who taught our pupils how to skateboard safely; teaching them the tricks and techniques they need to become skilled boarders. Opportunities like this support our pupils personal and educational development, keeping them focused on overcoming challenges and improving their problem-solving skills.



### **Techniquest**

Pupils took part in a series of workshops with Techniquest Science Museum. These sessions gave our pupils the opportunity to engage in chemistry workshops where the end goal was to create their own bath bombs. Over the course of 6 weeks, pupils were able to achieve the bronze CREST award with Techniquest through a combination of written work and hands-on experiments.

### **Welsh Diving School**

In a series of 6 scuba diving sessions, with The Welsh Diving School, pupils learnt how to scuba dive and how to navigate and communicate under water. The sessions included using scientific skills and basic physics, learning about marine life and the underwater world.

Pupils used their numeracy skills to read air monitors and gauges, working as a team to safely undertake each task. After completing this course, 2 of our school's pupils are going on to complete their PADI, open water qualification, to become certified divers.

### **Jamie's Farm**

Pupils took part in a 5-day residential at Jamie's Farm. Jamie's Farm acts as a catalyst for change, enabling disadvantaged young people to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

The unique combination of farming, family and therapy, with a focus on giving pupils time and space to reflect, allows them to renew and determine new paths for themselves. They do this by creating an environment where pupils feel respected, and are given opportunities to display their talents and show responsibility.

# Vocational Provision

Our ACT Schools vocational offer aims to provide a platform for educational attainment that relates to real life situations with industry recognised standards. We aim to equip our pupils with the skills they need for further education and employment.

All of our programmes are initially offered as 1 day per week placements over a full academic year. Upon successful completion of the first year, pupils can progress on to the second year, completing more advanced qualifications in their subject area.

## Routes we offer:



### Animal Care and Land-based Studies

#### City & Guilds Level 1 Award/Certificate

Pupils will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Handling animals
- Habitat and accommodation management
- Feeding and watering
- Identifying breeds and species of small mammals, reptiles and farm animals
- Animal behaviour
- Animal first aid



## Beauty and Theatrical Makeup

### City & Guilds Level 1 Award/Certificate

Pupils will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Presenting a professional image in the salon
- Skincare
- Basic makeup application
- Themed face painting
- Manicures & pedicures
- FX makeup
- Jewellery design



## Construction

### City & Guilds Level 1 Award/Certificate

Pupils will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Brickwork
- Tiling
- Moulding
- Plastering
- Carpentry
- Painting & decorating
- Additional project work including wilderness construction and entrepreneurship
- Health & safety





## **Hairdressing**

### **City & Guilds Level 1 Award/Certificate**

Pupils will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Presenting a professional image in the salon
- Styling women's hair
- Colouring hair using temporary colour
- Plaiting & twisting
- DIY hair accessory design and craft



## **Motor Vehicle\***

Pupils will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Brake systems
- Wheels, tyres & systems
- Engine operating systems
- Basic repairs
- Impact of green technologies on the industry

\*Qualification: TBC depending on needs of the group.

**\*The routes we offer are subject to availability and may change.**

# Interested?

Head to our website  
to find out more:

 [actschools.org.uk](https://actschools.org.uk)

...and follow us on  
social media here:

 @actschools

 @act\_schools

 ACT Schools



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## **Caerphilly**

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## **Vocational**

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