



Disadvantage / Poverty Proofing Policy

Reviewed by Governors: February 2026

Every policy is reviewed annually in a Governors' Sub-Committee meeting and then ratified in the Full Governing Body meeting. The Clerk to the Governors keeps a record of all reviewing processes and dates.

Disadvantage / Poverty Proofing Policy

Introduction

At Ysgol Dyffryn Aman, we are committed to ensuring that no student is disadvantaged due to financial hardship. Support is available discretely and confidentially to all families in need.

Identification and Confidentiality

Educational disadvantage can be described as the impediments to education arising from social or economic disadvantages that prevent students from deriving appropriate benefit from education.¹

Disadvantages can occur in many guises including ²

- financial
- social and cultural
- emotional

eFSM pupils are identified confidentially on BromCom, where all staff, but no pupils have access to the information.

19% of children living in poverty ³ are not eligible for FSMs, where and when appropriate these pupils will be given support commensurate with their needs.

Additional confidential information that can be accessed by SLT and HoY is available on Provision Map. Where and when deemed necessary and appropriate to support a pupil's wellbeing, this information may be shared with relevant teaching and support staff.

¹ <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/livinglearning/school/overview/educationreformact1988/>

² <https://www.teachingtimes.com/the-disadvantage-gap-must-be-addressed-in-classrooms/>

³ <https://cpag.org.uk/news/behind-numbers-free-school-meals>

Uniform

Eligible pupils are directed to the support that is available to purchase the school uniform through the school website, social media, Carmarthenshire County Council and information provided during parent's evenings and transition days.

A supply of nearly new uniform is kept in school for pupils to access when needed.

A supply of PE kit is available to borrow from the PE department. Toggs and spikes are provided for pupils, when needed, to enable nearly all pupils to participate in sporting activities.

When representing the school at a sporting event the PE uniform is worn by pupils. If vests or kit are required these are provided and washed by the PE department for all pupils.

Within the community there is support available with uniform exchange, that is free of charge. ⁴

Curriculum Access

No pupil will be disadvantaged or discouraged from subjects areas of the curriculum due to financial constraints.

Where a pupil shows an aptitude for or interest in learning a musical instrument, lessons will be offered at a reduced or no cost, depending on their individual financial circumstances.

No pupil will be prevented from taking part in a food and nutrition practical lesson if they are unable to pay for ingredients to cook. All pupils will be able to take the nutritious meals and snacks they have prepared home for their families.

All pupils will be able to participate in the practical element of design and technology lessons, a voluntary contribution may be asked for but is not a requirement. This voluntary contribution on parent pay will be removed from the accounts of eFSM pupils.

All necessary equipment will be provided free of charge for all college courses, this includes PPE for construction and motor vehicles and overalls and equipment for land management and hair and beauty.

⁴ <https://black-mountain.org.uk/>

GCSE English and Welsh pupils are able to purchase set texts at reduced cost when ordered through the school due to bulk buying. eFSM pupils are provided with required reading free of charge.

All pupils at KS3 have a class set of novels that have been provided through grant funding, in addition each child has had a book to take home and keep.

All pupils in year 10 have the opportunity to complete a period of work experience. One outcome is to raise the aspirations of deprived pupils of post 16/18 possibilities, transport where necessary, is provided at no cost to the pupils.

Teaching and Learning

Link to school teaching and learning policy- <https://www.dyffrynaman.org/Policies/>

Trips and Visits

Ensure that there are equitable numbers of low cost/ accessible trips as well as larger trips.

Ensure that there is adequate notice for installments to be paid for more costly trips.

Make parents aware in the letters for school trips that more than 4 payments can be made for larger trips on parent pay (even though parent pay only states 4 - more than this can be made)

Pre- trip letters for visits to be sent out via parent pay before payment is asked for so that it is not a first come first served if you can pay on the day.

Pastoral Support

All girls to be made aware that there are sanitary products available free of charge in school.

Signage to be placed in girls PE changing rooms to increase awareness of period poverty and support that is available.

Specific messages to be sent home to eFSM pupils explaining the period poverty support that is available.

Transition Support

Information transfer from and between primary schools to target the needs of eFSM and deprived learners through support sequences and regular updates from cluster primaries.

Liaise with cluster primaries to make preloved items of uniform available in their year 6 parents evening and summer fair.

Sixth Form

At the start of each term a focal point of one assembly is how to apply for and complete the EMA grant. Discrete support is provided to students to support them with completing the form.⁵

Seren project / summer school - opportunities available to low income families

Senedd Ysgol

Senedd Ysgol representatives to be chosen using a combination of student voting and staff selection to raise the aspirations of deprived learners.

Poverty proofing representatives on the 6th form prefect team.

PDG Grant

The Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) is allocated to schools with pupils who come from low-income families and are currently known to be eligible for free school meals (e-FSM) and pupils who have been looked after continuously for more than six months (LAC).

As a school we have agreed on the following three steps:

- a. To identify the target group of pupils who would benefit from additional support
- b. To plan interventions which make the most effective use of resources
- c. To monitor and evaluate the impact of resources

⁵ <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/further-education-funding/education-maintenance-allowance/eligibility/>

In 2026-7 Ysgol Dyffryn Aman will be provided with a PDG allocation of £361,605.97
The funding will be used to:

- enhance teaching and learning by providing a programme of support for literacy and numeracy.
- provide specific intervention and support programmes to meet the needs of individual pupils and vulnerable learners which positively impact on pupil outcomes, including Hwb Uchelgais, Hwb Llwyddo and Hwb Gofal
- implement and use data tracking systems to identify learners' needs, target interventions and monitor impact.
- for attendance officers (Phil Jones and Rhian Loynton Smith) track and monitor groups of learners and work internally with Heads of Progress and Wellbeing and specialist agencies to effectively support and improve pupil attendance at school.
- support learners and their families by organising and facilitating learning opportunities beyond the school day by providing a late bus service so that pupils can attend such activities as Ownzone, after school clubs and sports training.
- provide a free breakfast (buttered brown toast) for learners and pastoral support for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners throughout the school day.
- to maximise opportunities and pathways suitable to all groups of learners.

Governing Body

Link governor for deprivation is Mr. R Davies.