

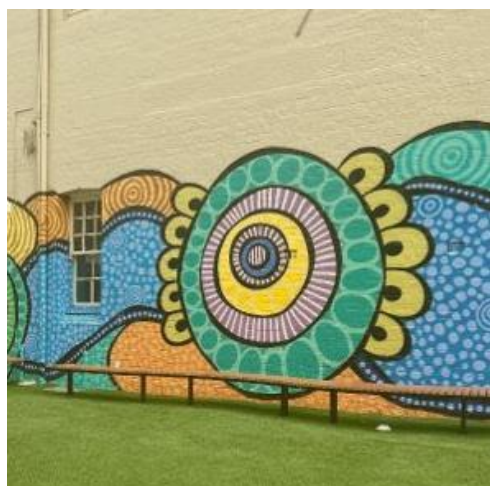
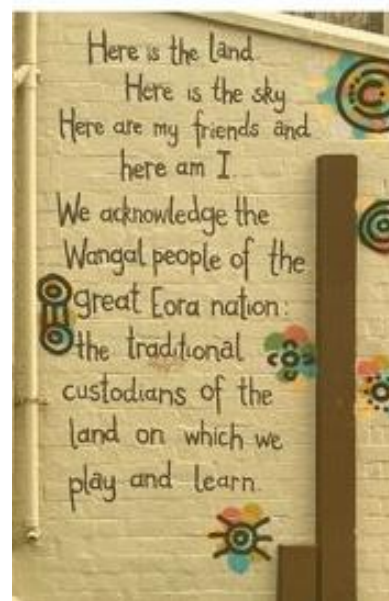
Last month I was privileged to attend a two week leadership course in Sydney Australia. This was fully funded by the Welsh Government, and brought together educational leaders from Wales and New South Wales to discuss, compare and share curriculum design.

As our new Curriculum for Wales is based upon meeting the needs of our learners, in a context that inspires and motivates pupils, it was heartwarming to share this similar philosophy with our Australian colleagues.

We were able to visit a number of schools and view their delivery of education first hand. There were many practices that could be brought back to our schools but we have decided to focus upon three main areas.

Firstly, through acknowledging the first nation people in Australia, a culture of respect for people past, present and future is clearly embedded in all schools. This was something we felt could be exploited in Llanrhidian. Gower boasts human bones dating back 22,000BC as well as its later inhabitants who left their mark on our land such as a Bronze Age burial mound and an Iron Age hill fort. These early people can be remembered and respected through an “acknowledgement” written by the pupils, just like we observed in each of the Sydney schools we visited.

Another practice observed was the outstanding independence their early learners showed when “re-setting” their environment. This was a time in the day when the pupils set the environment up for the next learners, ensuring resources are clean, and ready for use. This is definitely something that we will be doing to replace the traditional “tidy up” time.



Finally, we are delighted to introduce Ddysgwr Heddiw based on the Australian’s version of “Today’s Learner”. The chosen pupil will be given a time to present their learning to the class using photographs, or showing their work. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to reflect upon what they have learnt, understood and applied through the day.

We are now excited to be welcoming our Australian Principles here in Wales. I am sure they will also learn from our schools in the same way we have learnt from them.

