BRIGHT FUTURES

Education Strategy 2026-2030 | Easy Read



Every learner thriving
Every school strong
Every community engaged

What is this document?

This is an easy read summary of Merthyr Tydfil's Bright Futures Education Strategy. It explains what we want to improve, what we will do and how we will know if the strategy is working.

Who is it for?

Children and young people, families, school staff, governors, partners and anyone who wants to understand our plans for education.

1. Our vision

What we want for Merthyr Tydfil

Our shared ambition

We want every child and young person in Merthyr Tydfil to have the best possible chances in learning and in life where:-

Every learner is thriving.

Every school is strong.

Every community is engaged.

Why this matters

Education can improve wellbeing, strengthen communities and help people develop the skills and confidence they need for the future.

2. The values that guide us

Four important ideas

1. Equity

Fairness does not always mean giving everyone the same thing. Some learners need more help or different support to succeed.

2. Excellence

We want high-quality teaching, strong leadership and a rich curriculum in every school.

3. Belonging

Learners should feel safe, respected, included and connected to their school and community.

4. Partnership

Schools, families, services and communities must work together. Improving education is a shared responsibility.

3. Why change is needed

Building on progress and responding to new challenges

- Some learners face barriers linked to poverty, health, wellbeing or additional learning needs.
- Attendance, engagement and achievement need to improve.
- Schools and services face financial and workforce pressures.
- Falling birth rates mean fewer pupils and more unused school places.
- Learners need strong literacy, numeracy and digital skills for a changing world.
- Families and communities want services to work together more effectively.

Our response

Bright Futures brings schools and partners together around four clear goals. The focus is on high-quality learning, inclusion, leadership and partnership.

4. Goal 1

Inspiring Teaching, Engaged Learners



What we want

Every learner should experience high-quality teaching and an interesting curriculum that helps them enjoy learning, attend regularly and achieve their potential.

- Improve teaching through professional learning, collaboration and evidence-informed practice.
- Support an ambitious curriculum linked to local life, Welsh language and culture, and future opportunities.
- Strengthen literacy, numeracy and digital skills, including safe and effective use of AI and new technology.

Success will look like

Learners are confident, motivated and making strong progress. Schools provide consistently good learning experiences and prepare young people for further education, training, work and life.

5. Goal 2

Inclusive Provision, Equitable Outcomes



What we want

Every learner should feel that they belong. Needs should be identified early and support should remove barriers to learning, attendance and participation.

- Make inclusion and equity central to the work of schools and services.
- Develop a skilled and confident workforce that can meet different learner needs.
- Improve attendance, participation and engagement by working with learners, families and partners.
- Provide early help and coordinated support when needs arise.

Success will look like

More learners attend regularly, feel safe and included, receive the right help at the right time and remain engaged in education. Exclusions and inequalities reduce.

6. Goal 3

Strong Leadership, Strong Schools



What we want

Every school should have confident leaders and governors who can focus on teaching, wellbeing, improvement and the best outcomes for learners.

- Develop strong leadership, governance and accountability.
- Use collaboration, shared responsibility and proportionate challenge and support to improve schools.
- Use money, buildings, staff and technology efficiently and sustainably.
- Plan for recruitment, retention, professional learning and future leaders.

Success will look like

Schools are well led, work together and keep improving. Staff feel supported. Resources and learning environments are used effectively to benefit learners.

7. Goal 4

Connected Partners, Thriving Learners



What we want

Schools should be connected to families, services, employers and communities so that learners receive joined-up support and wider opportunities.

- Strengthen partnership working and shared responsibility for wellbeing, attendance and outcomes.
- Create clearer routes into further education, training, employment and lifelong learning.
- Use community resources, cultural opportunities and learning spaces to strengthen belonging and participation.
- Help families access support and opportunities more easily.

Success will look like

Learners have richer experiences, stronger support and clearer future pathways. Families and communities are active partners in learning.

8. How the strategy will be delivered

Everyone has a part to play

The Local Authority

Sets the direction, coordinates services, supports and challenges schools, monitors progress and provides public accountability.

Schools

Put the strategy into practice through teaching, inclusion, leadership, improvement planning and community engagement.

Partners

Health, social care, youth services, employers, community and voluntary organisations work together around learners and families.

Learners and families

Share their experiences and help shape how the strategy is delivered and reviewed.

9. How we will check progress

Turning plans into results

A yearly delivery plan

The strategy will be supported by a delivery plan with clear actions, milestones, responsibilities and measures.

- Attendance and persistent absence.
- Learner progress and achievement.
- Exclusions, behaviour, wellbeing and inclusion.
- Sufficiency of local additional learning needs provision.
- Welsh-medium participation and progression.
- Leadership development, recruitment and retention.
- Family and community engagement.
- Progression into education, training and employment.

Listening as well as measuring

Data is important, but we will also listen to learners, families, schools, staff, governors and partners about their experiences.

10. What Bright Futures should mean

The difference people should see

- Learners enjoy learning, attend regularly and make strong progress.
- Children and young people feel safe, valued and included.
- Support is available early and is matched to need.
- Teaching, leadership and governance are consistently strong.
- Families have confidence in schools and can access help.
- Schools and partners work together instead of working in isolation.
- More young people move successfully into further education, training and employment.
- Welsh language and culture are promoted and celebrated.
- Learning environments are welcoming, inclusive and fit for the future.

The main message

Bright Futures is about improving life chances. By working together, we will help every learner in Merthyr Tydfil to thrive now and in the future.

Key words

A short guide

Equity

Giving people the support they need to have a fair chance.

Inclusion

Making sure everyone can take part and feels they belong.

ALN

Additional Learning Needs. Some learners need extra or different support to learn.

Curriculum

What learners are taught and the experiences they have in school.

Governance

How governors provide direction, support and challenge to a school.

Multi-agency

Different services and organisations working together.

Persistent absence

When a learner misses a significant amount of school.

EOTAS

Education Other Than At School.

NEET

Not in Education, Employment or Training.