

Ysgol Sant Curig - Prospectus

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Welcome

Choosing a school for your child is an all-important task.

Parents wish for their children to benefit from a good education in a happy and safe environment. I'm confident that we can offer all these qualities to your child. We take pride in the broad, balanced and comprehensive education that we provide throughout the school. In that same way, we also take pride in the friendly and caring environment that is always visible in the school.

Many visitors to the school often refer to the warm welcome, courtesy and maturity of our pupils. We hope this reflects the fact that we appreciate every pupil and strive to show them that they are valued, and that in turn their time spent at school should be valuable and satisfying. Should you choose to send your child to Ysgol Sant Curig, I am totally confident that you will have made the right choice. Come and visit the school to see for yourself; you'll get a very warm welcome. I look forward to meeting with you before long. Should you have any queries or concerns, please remember to feel free to get in touch with me at the school, at any time.



Where is Ysgol Sant Curig?

Ysgol Sant Curig is ideally situated in a splendid location with a wonderful view of the Severn Estuary in the centre of Barry.

We have a mixture of green fields and playing surfaces which contribute towards the excellent experiences the pupils' experience. The main green field is an excellent space for children to play freely as well as a good space to hold rugby, football, cricket and more.

The main play area is available for a number of activities such as hockey and netball as well as open air drama sessions. Our younger children (3 to 5 years) have their own open air spaces for learning. These areas are used for lessons as well as giving our children an opportunity to use their imaginations during free play sessions.

The school has a wild garden where the gardening club's activities take place. This gives our children the chance to grow flowers and vegetables and to plan attractive areas for their open air lessons.



School Moto

'Growing on our Journey' (Tyfwn ar ein taith)

We strongly believe in providing education of the highest quality possible to all our pupils so that they can develop to be successful lifelong learners.

We give each child the opportunity;

To succeed in a happy and safe environment
To realise the dream of bilingual citizenship in Wales.

Our children are renowned for being courteous and kind to each other and for their "outstanding behaviour" (Estyn Inspection Report 2008)

This stems from the fact that they are shown the same courtesy, love and respect by their teachers. Our children have every right to expect this from both parents and teachers. The above text was drafted by the pupils of 2007/2008 for every child who attends Ysgol Sant Curig. We encourage our pupils to be friendly and caring towards each other and we believe that co-operation, mutual understanding and trust between the school and the home is all-important. We consider our school to be a 'Healthy School'. We are proud to have received the Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Schools Network Trophy for the last three years. To achieve this, we formed a school council, and the children's leisure experiences were heightened by improving the school playground's resources. We place an emphasis on eating healthily and keeping fit, and we advise children to drink water during lessons. We also offer pupils fruit and milk during the day.



The Welsh Language in the School

The school's main linguistic aims are to ensure that the pupils

- Have the opportunity to learn to speak and use Welsh
- Develop the ability to communicate effectively in both languages.

Welsh is the main language of the school. We use Welsh in all aspects of school life. We develop a sense of pride towards the language in our children and an enjoyment of using it in every aspect of their lives. We nurture an awareness and respect towards Welshness and heritage as well as familiarising children with worldwide cultures and citizenship. We place a great emphasis on the history of Wales, its art and mythology. Children are introduced to a wealth of stories, myths and poetry.

The experience of attending Eisteddfods, residential courses in Llangrannog, as well as historical institutions is considered to be an important part of our pupils' heritage.



School Uniform

We thank our parents for their efforts over the years to ensure that the appearance of our school uniform is of the highest standard. Every pupil is encouraged to wear the full school uniform every day from the very beginning. This gives the children a sense of pride in their appearance as well as a feeling of belonging to the school and of being an important part of it.

Our uniform consists of:-

- School Sweatshirt / Cardigan
- School Check Shirt / White Polo Shirt
- Grey Trousers / Skirt / Pinafore
- Black Shoes

Please contact the school office for further details.

The Curriculum

The National Curriculum is taught fully to every pupil in our school.

Its areas include Welsh, Mathematics, Science, English (KS2) Music, Religious Education, Geography, History, Art, Technology, Information Communication Technology and Physical Education.

We regularly review the curriculum in order to ensure that our pupils receive the best possible education.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY (The Foundation Phase: 3-7 years)

During this period our pupils will be developing social skills and gaining opportunities to become independent, confident and swift of thought in an exciting atmosphere. We use the school's excellent fields as often as possible for all kinds of activities.



Supporting pupils with Additional Learning needs

Your child is an individual, and as such has individual needs. At times, during his or her school career, your child may need additional support. This could be educational, social, behavioural, emotional or physical. Ysgol Sant Curig has a full time additional educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) to co-ordinate the additional needs of our pupils. This means that we will provide support for you your child both in classroom settings and on a one to one basis in lessons. Should your child have any additional learning needs, we will invite you in to the school to discuss the best way of supporting him/her with their class teacher and the SENCO and we'll also look at ways of how you can help him/her at home as well. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time to discuss their children's needs. So please don't worry at home, please call in to discuss any issues with us, no matter how big or small the problem may be.

Our Pupil Support Policy Aims

- To ensure access for every pupil to a wide and balanced curriculum
- To provide a differentiated curriculum, that is suited to the individual's needs and abilities.
- To ensure early recognition of the pupil's needs as soon as possible in his/her school career.
- To ensure every pupil with ALN takes as full a part as possible in school activities.
- To ensure that the parents of pupils with SEN are fully informed of their child's development and achievement.
- To ensure that where practicable, additional learning needs pupils are involved where practicable in the decisions that will affect their future learning needs.

We recognise that a number of pupils will have special needs at some time. By implementing this policy, we believe pupils can be assisted to overcome their difficulties. Further details regarding the organisation of SEN are available in the school's teaching support policy. You are welcome to read this document in school.

School Eisteddfod

The Eisteddfods are a medium which builds confidence in children and allows them to express their musical, artistic, written and oral talents through the medium of Welsh.



Music Lessons

We encourage as many of our pupils as possible to receive instrumental lessons. Instrumental Lessons are offered to all our Pupils at key stage 2.

There is a choice of a wide variety of instruments including the Harp, Violin, Cello, Clarinet, Flute, Keyboards and Guitar.

Our pupils also given opportunities to show publicly what they have learned in their music lessons e.g. school and class assemblies, school concerts throughout the year, Christmas and St David's Day Services and Eisteddfods.

Sports Activities

We consider physical exercise to be very important in the development of our children's general well-being.

As a Healthy School, we encourage our pupils to eat healthily and keep fit. Our school has excellent grounds and we have a large field and a hard court. We take part in a wide variety of sporting activities throughout the year. Over the years, a number of teams from the school have competed and won on both a local and national level.

Any child who takes part represents the school and this is recognised as a privilege equal to academic or artistic achievement.

It also nurtures a team spirit and develops skills. We aim towards giving children of all abilities the opportunity of being able to take part in competitive activities. Children are expected to wear black short trousers, white t - shirt, and training shoes for PE.

All pupils receive swimming lessons during key stage 2.



Homework

We set homework in order to consolidate a skill learnt in the classroom. We consider that homework provides a good opportunity for children to share their learning experiences with their parents. It's important that parents discuss with their children as they go about doing their homework.

Try and read a little with your child every day. Five minutes is enough. If you should have any concerns, your child's teacher will always be prepared to discuss them.

Educational Visits

In order to enrich the education of our pupils, a number of visits are organised, for example, museums in London, Big Pit in Blaenavon, Camping in Llangrannog, as well as a variety of local visits.

A financial donation towards the cost of these visits is requested. However, any difficulty can be discussed privately with the Headteacher. Our aim is to offer an equal opportunity for every pupil.



Extra-Curricular Activities

A vast number of exciting and varied activities are offered to Key Stage 2 pupils (7-11 years of age) free of charge, after school from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. Children can join in the following activities in accordance to the timetable:

- Computers
- Art
- The Urdd
- Football
- Rugby
- Netball
- Gardening
- Dancing
- Gymnastics
- Cross Country
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Golf

A large number of staff as well as some parents give freely of their time in order to hold these activities. A timetable for all these activities is organised every term.



School Council

Members are elected from amongst our pupils to serve on the School Council. Regular meetings are held under the guidance of a teacher where matters of importance to all school pupils are discussed.

This gives pupils an excellent opportunity to voice their opinions in order to shape the sort of school they wish to see and to realise their aims. By expressing their opinions, the children also get an opportunity to develop their speaking talents and self-confidence.

The Complaints Procedure

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, the LEA has established a procedure for dealing with complaints regarding the school's curriculum.

Copies can be obtained from these documents by writing to the Head Teacher or Director of Education. It is recommended that the process of solving problems should be started by following the school's complaints procedure. Every effort is made to solve problems informally whilst it is possible.

The grievance steps

- Class teacher
- Head Teacher
- Chair of the governors
- LEA

Religious Education

We aim to develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world religions. Often visitors from different denominations and religions come to the school and pupils also visit places of worship such as mosques, synagogues, churches and chapels.

We hold a religious service at the beginning of every day. If you do not wish for your child(ren) to attend services, this can be discussed with the Headteacher.



Sex Education

The school's sex education programme that was agreed by the governing body, is linked to areas of the National Curriculum and also general social education. The main emphasis is placed on interrelationships and it will reflect the needs of the pupils as they develop over the key stages.

It is possible for parents to see the policy and discuss the educational materials used. Parents have the right to remove their children from sex education classes if they so wish.



Higher Education

At the end of their period at Ysgol Sant Curig, Year 6 pupils move up to Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Ysgol Sant Curig is a partner school of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and as such enjoys very strong links which ensures that the experience of moving from the primary to the secondary school is a happy one for both pupils and parents.

A very close relationship exists between the two schools and we work well together. Older pupils from Bro Morgannwg will often act as mentors and role models for the primary school children, helping them with after school activities such as the gardening club and on residential courses at Llangrannog.

The advantage of having such a close relationship with this excellent school means that every child's needs are discussed fully with the year 7 tutor at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and preparations are made in advance to ensure the smoothest transition possible for your child.

To find out more about the school where your child will be attending, please feel free to contact Mr Hywel Price, the Headteacher at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg on 01446 450280 to arrange a visit.

Accepting Children

Children who are three years of age and older and who live within the catchment area are accepted to our nursery classes on the first term following their third birthday. Children start the school in small groups over a few days. Coffee mornings and afternoons are held to welcome new parents along with current ones.

We keep a waiting list of children and encourage parents to register as soon as possible. Application forms for a place can be obtained directly from the school. A warm welcome awaits all prospective parents who wish to visit the school before coming to a decision. Please feel free to call the school on 01446 744222 to organise this.

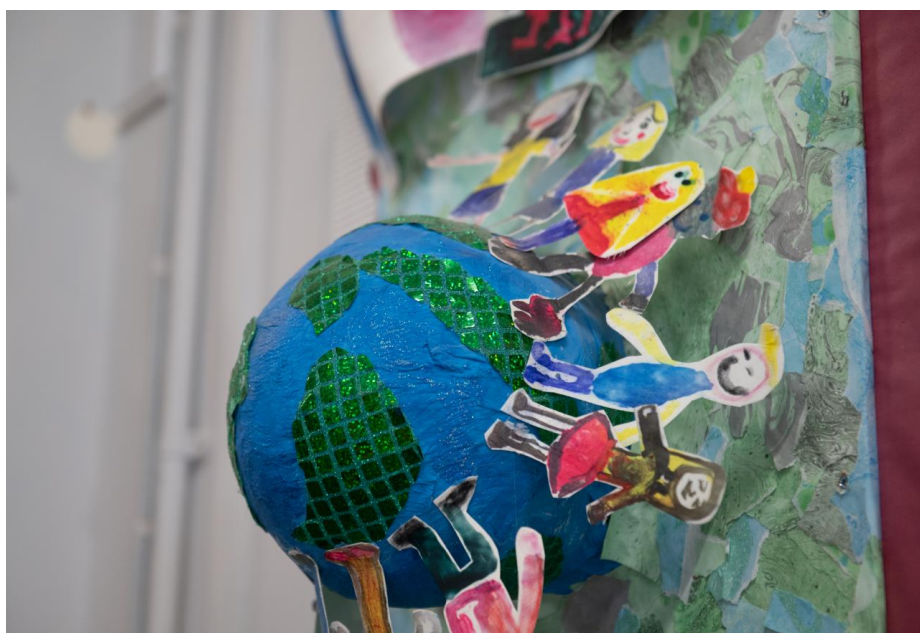


Attendance

Your child can only make constant progress in his/her work by attending school regularly. In the event of absence the school should be contacted immediately.

The school day begins at five minutes to nine (except for the nursery which starts at 9:00am) and we encourage every pupil to be present by then. We place a great emphasis on punctuality in order to give your child fair play and to avoid the accompanying difficulties and stress that are a consequence of arriving late.

We monitor the attendance of all the school's pupils constantly and act in accordance with the LEA's attendance policy.



Equal Opportunities

We believe that every child is special and we are eager to pay attention to every individual pupil's needs in order to ensure that they may have an equal opportunity to enjoy and succeed within the school.

Differences of all kinds are respected, including personal, physical, religious, ethnic and cultural ones. We appreciate and encourage the wealth of experience that is gained from the introduction of diverse backgrounds to the school.

Every child therefore, has the right to gain access to the full curriculum and this is reflected in our equal opportunities policy for all. Our governors are aware of their commitments in implementing an equal opportunities policy. Building works inside and outside the school has ensured that there is adequate provision for pupils with disabilities.

In accordance with our commitment to equal opportunities, we do not want pupils to be disadvantaged as a result of their disability and we monitor this regularly. The Equal Opportunities Policy is kept in the Headteacher's Office. It is available for parents to read if they so wish.

SAFETY

We consider the safety of our pupils to be of fundamental importance. In order to ensure the highest safety standards –

1. We implement the health and safety policy of the LEA.
2. The safety of our site is assessed on a daily basis by a caretaker.
3. No transport is allowed without permission on the site.
4. A closed circuit system is in operation as well as secure entrances.
5. Pupils may not leave the school unless parents have made prior arrangements.
6. We encourage parents to meet their children at the end of the school day.



The Parent Teacher Association

Every parent is automatically a member of the Parent Teacher Association. Our school has a very supportive, lively and active Parent Teacher Association. Every parent is welcomed to all meetings that are arranged.

A variety of events are arranged such as Christmas and Summer Fairs, social evenings and quizzes and discos for the children. The money raised is used to buy additional resources which will support the curriculum and will be of benefit to every child in the school.

As well as this, the association is also a good way for everyone to get to know each other in a relaxed, social atmosphere.

Everyone is welcome to join in the events.