



Prospectus

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Ysgol y Ddraig



Croeso/Welcome

I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of Ysgol y Ddraig and lead a team of committed and enthusiastic staff, who always put the needs of children first. Choosing the right school is an important decision for all families as we all want our children to have the very best of learning experiences. Ysgol y Ddraig is a two form entry English medium primary school, situated in the heart of the historic town of Llantwit Major. Since we opened our school in 2015, we are dedicated to ensuring that all of our children are able to *Achieve, Challenge & Enjoy* (ACE) their learning.

- **Achieve** through high aspirations, high expectations and respect for all
- **Challenge** through a curriculum that is inclusive, relevant and engaging
- **Enjoy** learning together, in becoming independent, mindful and active citizens

We are fortunate enough to have a purpose built 21st Century school site, which is part of the Llantwit Learning Community. Ysgol y Ddraig is a forward thinking, welcoming and caring school where children are nurtured and inspired to reach their full potential. Our 'ACE' Curriculum ensures that children have the opportunity to grow their knowledge, skills and experiences as they work towards becoming ambitious, capable learners; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical and informed citizens; and healthy, confident individuals.

With the help of our families and the wider community, we aim to instil a love of learning. As a team, we are dedicated to our own professional development so that we are always able to prepare children for the ever changing world in which we live.

We hope that you find this prospectus useful in getting to know our school a little better.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a visit, please contact me at any time.

Diolch yn fawr iawn

Rebecca Cadman

Headteacher/Pennaeth

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Ham Lane East Email/E-bost: ddraig@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Llantwit Major Website/Gwefan: HYPERLINK "<http://www.ysgolyddraig.co.uk>" www.ysgolyddraig.co.uk
Vale of Glamorgan Twitter: @ysgolyddraig
CF61 1TQ

Introduction

Ysgol y Ddraig is an English medium primary school that serves the children of Llantwit Major and began as an amalgamated school in September 2015. In November 2016 we successfully moved onto one site; into our brand new purpose built premises and took our place as part of the Llantwit Learning Community. Our school currently has eleven classes; including a Nursery, and approximately 300 children on roll.

The school caters for children between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Children may enter the Nursery at the beginning of the term after their 3rd birthday. Children start in the Reception Class, in the September prior to their 5th birthday. In the September following their 11th birthday they transfer to secondary school. We are situated alongside our local secondary school, Llantwit school, as part of the Llantwit Learning Community. Enquiries about admissions can be made directly to the school or through the Admissions team at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Our mission is simple...

Achieve, Challenge, Enjoy (ACE)

Our Vision and Principles (Our Why) aim to:

- **Achieve** through high aspirations, high expectations and respect for all
- **Challenge** through a curriculum that is inclusive, relevant and engaging
- **Enjoy** learning together, in becoming independent, mindful and active citizens

Local Authority:

Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF62 4RU

Putting our Vision Principles into Practice (Our How) -

Working together, providing opportunities and experiences to

1. Build upon our high expectations of all children's learning and behaviour.
2. Ensure well-being is at the forefront of developing resilient, responsible, empathetic and respectful children - who feel valued, listened-to, respected and appreciated.
3. Provide an inclusive learning environment, which is happy, safe, secure and supportive.
4. Ensure that children develop their understanding of the UNC Rights of the Child, alongside opportunities to put this into practice.
5. Provide independent and critical thinking opportunities to support children as inquiring and reflective learners, with increasing agency.
6. Enable our children to become literate, numerate and digitally competent lifelong learners.
7. Appreciate, maintain and strengthen the value of positive relationships between children, staff, families and our community.
8. Encourage a climate of success by celebrating the perseverance, efforts and achievements of all children both inside and outside school.
9. Promote the positive social, emotional, moral and spiritual development of children, preparing

them for time in our school and beyond.

10. Celebrate our heritage and culture - locally and nationally - whilst developing greater understanding and respect towards all others.

At Ysgol Y Ddraig we are designing and developing our ACE curriculum within the framework of our new *Curriculum for Wales*. It is a dynamic and inclusive curriculum that is driven by the Four Purposes

- ❖ Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- ❖ Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ❖ Ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world, ready to be citizens of Wales and the world;
- ❖ Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

*The above Four Purposes form part of the Curriculum Reform in Wales,
'Our National Mission, Welsh Government.*

Headteacher

Miss Rebecca Cadman

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Sarah Brooks

Teachers

Miss K Bale ~ ALNCo/SLT	Miss S Grafton
Mrs E Baylis	Mrs K Holloway ~ SLT
Mrs K Birmingham	Mrs R McCarthy ~ SLT
Miss N Cogbill ~ SLT	Mr G Richards
Mrs S Crowe	Miss F Tanner
Mrs L Crowther	Mr D Oldfield
Mrs J Davies	Miss L Whelan ~ SLT
Mrs S Ewings	

HLTA

Mrs H Edwards

Miss R Rose

School Business Manager

Mrs L Jones

Assistant School Administrator

Mrs A Rees

LSAs

Miss C Berkeley

Mrs D Beynon

Mrs J Cairns

Mrs H Caffery

Mrs K Cox

Mrs Lightfoot-Paine

Mrs K John

Mrs P Pulido-Padilla

Mrs J Roberts

Mr C Sultana

Mid Day Supervisors

Miss C Berkeley

Mrs A Daw

Mrs G Finch

Mrs C Heap

Miss R Higgins

Mrs L Helyer-Evans

Mrs S McGinn

Mrs P Pulido Padilla

Mrs Tara Rosewell

Mrs H Wilkinson

Cleaners

A & R Cleaners

School Kitchen Staff

Mrs R Hodgson ~ Cook

Mrs V Rees ~ Kitchen Assistant

Caretaker

Mr J Caffery

“Staff roles and responsibilities are clear and leaders model professional values and behaviours effectively. There is a strong sense of teamwork and shared commitment to ensuring that all pupils matter. “

Estyn Report May 2022

Ysgol y Ddraig Governing Body

The Governing Body has a statutory duty to support and challenge the school with an aim to promoting high standards of educational achievement. The responsibilities include:

- Setting strategic direction, objectives, targets and policies.
- Reviewing progress against the budget, plans and targets.
- Approving the school budget.
- Taking general responsibility for the conduct of the school.
- Making sure that the curriculum is balanced and broadly based.
- Participating in the appointment of senior staff and regulating staff conduct and discipline.

The Governing Body works in partnership with the Headteacher and other staff to achieve these aims. The day to day management of the school remains the responsibility of the Headteacher.

The Governing Body comprises members of the local community, parents, staff and representatives of the Local Education Authority. This helps to ensure that the Governing Body has a sufficient diversity of views and experience, but does not mean that Governors of a particular category "represent" that group on the Governing Body. All Governors are voluntary and are elected for a 4 year term of office.

Chairperson

Mr Dave Thomas

Headteacher

Miss Rebecca Cadman

Parent Governors

Mr Shaun Chadwick
Mr David Berrey (Vice-Chairperson)
Mrs Nicola John
Mrs Sian James
Mrs Claire Wensley

Local Authority Governors

Mr Dave Thomas
Mr John Durrant
Mr David Powell
Mrs Rebecca Lloyd-James

Community Governors

Father Edwin Counsell
Rev. Phil Hibbert

Teacher Representatives

Miss Nicole Cogbill
Mrs Jodie Davies

Local Authority Representative

Mrs Sally Hanks

Non-Teaching Staff Representative

Mrs Julie Roberts

Clerk

Mrs Abigail Rees

"The school's governing body bring a wide range of relevant skills and expertise to their roles. They have a good understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development and are aware of current standards of performance. They hold the school to account, challenge performance and provide support when required."

Estyn Report May 2022

School Organisation

Progression Step 1	3 – 5 yrs
Progression Step 2	5 - 8 yrs
Progression Step 3	8 - 11 yrs

Class Organisation

COL-HUW Nursery	D Beynon	COCH Year 3	S Grafton
HENSOL Reception	E Baylis	TAF Year 3&4	F Tanner
OGWR Year 1	G Richards	CAERNARFON Year 4	L Crowther
FONMON Year 1&2	K Birmingham	TEIFI Year 5	D Oldfield
RHEIDOL Year 2	L Whelan	CAERFFILI Year 5&6	R McCarthy & S Crowe
PPA Cover	S Ewings S Brooks	HAFREN Year 6	J Davies

Our classes were named after Welsh rivers and castles following consultation with our School Council in Autumn 2015.

The School Day

School hours are as follows:

9.00am – 11.30am	Morning Nursery Session
8.50am – 11.50am	Morning Session for Reception, Years 1 & 2
8.50am – 12.20pm	Morning Session for Years 3 - 6
12.40pm – 3.05pm	Afternoon Session for Reception, Years 1 & 2
1.10pm - 3.15pm	Afternoon Session for Years 3 - 6

A member of staff is on duty in school from 8.40am, but please note that we are not responsible for the supervision of children prior to this time. We ask that all children arrive at school in time to start the morning session promptly.

Progression Step 1 & 2 (Nu - Y3) children must **always** be handed over to an appropriate member of staff and collected by a responsible adult, known to school staff. If you make alternative collection arrangements for your child, please inform the school via the class teacher or main office as we do not allow children to be collected by adults we do not know. The safety of your children is our primary concern and your co-operation in this matter would be much appreciated.

Children are not allowed to leave the premises during the school day or lunch time unless collected by an adult and signed out at the reception. In the event that Progression Step 3 children find their parents/guardians are not there to meet them at home time, they are asked to return immediately to their class teacher. However, Progression Step 3 (Years 4 - 6) children are permitted to walk home with written parental permission.

If you are unable to collect your child for any reason or are likely to be late, please inform the school on (01446) 792368.

Lunch Arrangements

Children may have school meals which comply with nutritional guidelines provided by the National Assembly Government, or bring their own packed lunch. School meals must be paid for in advance via the online ParentPay service.

From September 2022 children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 in this school will automatically get free school meals.

By 2024 all primary school children in state schools in Wales will get free school meals.

You won't need to inform the school if you want your child to receive a meal, your child can order a meal daily themselves through the cashless catering system in place at school. Your child will order their meal through an interactive board in class during registration, this will then automatically be sent to the kitchen.

If you receive any of the benefits outlined below, you should still register for a free school meal through your school or Local Authority as you may be entitled to grants such as school uniform and PE kits.

If you register, we may also get additional money which can be spent on supporting learning in our school.

Qualifying benefits include:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit

(provided not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

How to register

If you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed above, you can register for free school meals by requesting a form from the school office and emailing it to benefits@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

If you have an older child in primary school who already receives a free school meal, they will continue to do so.

If parents believe that their children may qualify for free school meals, they can make enquiries direct to the Vale of Glamorgan council or at the school office.

School menus are available to download from the **Vale of Glamorgan website:**

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/school_meals/School-Meals.aspx

Admissions

The entry of children into primary school is controlled and administered by the Admissions Department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Authority's aim is to ensure that, as far as possible, every pupil is given a place in a primary school within a reasonable distance of home.

Once parents have registered their children at the local authority, they will be able to attend our Nursery in the term following their 3rd birthday. The academic year runs from 1st September to 31st August. Please contact the Vale of Glamorgan Admissions Department for further details at admissions@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is essential that all children have good attendance at school and we encourage families to work with us to ensure that children have their full right to an education.

All absences, including half-days, must be accounted for as the school has to keep very detailed records for each child.

If your child is to be absent from school due to illness, please contact the school via telephone or email, with a brief reason for absence; when possible we ask that prior notice is given to the school of any medical appointments etc. If a reason for absence has not been provided to the school then we will contact families.

If the school has a concern regarding attendance, we will always contact you in the first instance. In some cases we may refer to the Inclusion Service, who will directly make contact with Parents/Carers.

Good attendance is encouraged. We aim to work together with families to support attendance.

If your child is ill or has an injury in school, you will be contacted immediately on your home or emergency telephone number. **With this in mind it is very important that the school is informed if there are any changes in home, work or mobile telephone numbers in order that we may contact parents quickly should the need arise.**

School Uniform

At Ysgol y Ddraig, we feel that uniform contributes to a sense of belonging to the school community and generates a feeling of pride in our school.

The uniform for Ysgol y Ddraig is: -

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan
- White or Navy polo shirt
- Grey/Black trousers or 'uniform style' shorts
- Grey/Black skirt
- Grey pinafore dress
- Navy, grey or red tights/socks

- Navy or Red Summer gingham dresses

Footwear must be safe and suitable for the range of activities that children participate in during the school day.

If parents would like to purchase uniform bearing our school logo along and / or drawstring PE bags and book bags, these may be purchased or ordered from **Point Ink Print & Embroidery, Llantwit Major, Mob: 07852590105, Email: pointinkembroidery@hotmail.com**. However, providing the colour is correct, uniform without the logo may be purchased from any retailer. **Please ensure that all items of clothing, including PE kit are clearly marked with your child's name.** We would like to request parents' support in avoiding children's names being embroidered on to a visible part of the uniform, as this has the potential to raise safeguarding concerns. It is recognised as best practice not to have photos of the children themselves alongside their name whether it is online or face-to-face. This is, on rare occasions, difficult to avoid (e.g. local press articles) but we would like to take every opportunity to reduce any risk by asking for your full support in this matter. If you feel it is vital to have some way of marking the uniform in a visible area we would request that you please consider using only children's initials.

N.B. The wearing of jewellery is not allowed in school due to the risks associated with accidents and loss. If your child has pierced ears then they may wear small, plain stud style earrings.

Physical Education and PE Kit

In line with the Curriculum for Wales all children take part in a physical education programme. Children learn to develop physical skills in gymnastics, ball games, team games, dance, outside sports activities and physical literacy and numeracy sessions.

Children are able to wear a PE kit on designated days to school every week.

PE kit will consist of:-

- a plain white or navy blue t-shirt
- dark plain shorts or jogging bottoms
- sensible sporting footwear.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Extra-curricular clubs are organised throughout the year and details of how to enrol in clubs are shared with children and parents. Extra-curricular clubs will not run on the first and last week of each full term. We also offer a range of music tuition which is reviewed termly based upon the demands and needs of those who want to participate.

Learning and the Curriculum

A guide to the new Curriculum for Wales

At Ysgol y Ddraig we ensure that our curriculum provides the necessary knowledge, skills and experiences as determined by *Curriculum for Wales*. Within the Curriculum for Wales, the ambition for all learners can be seen in the Four Purposes and the What Matters Statements. The Four Purposes encompass the key characteristics that we want not only for education, but for their lives beyond school.

The Four Purposes of our curriculum are

1. Ambitious, capable learners.
2. Healthy, confident individuals.
3. Ethical informed citizens.
4. Enterprising and creative contributors.

The What Matters Statements identify the important learning that children will work towards between the ages of 3 and 16. The curriculum now consists of 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE), where subjects are grouped together in order to support schools when planning and making links between learning. The 6 AoLE that organise learning in *Curriculum for Wales* are

- Expressive Arts
- Health & Wellbeing
- Humanities
- Language Literacy & Communication
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- Science & Technology

The personal and social development of our children is at the forefront of all we do; we endeavour to provide a broad and balanced education, focussing upon both wellbeing and learning. As our children move through the school, we look to build upon their learning and support their wellbeing. We look to incorporate the cross-curricular skills of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence through all of our learning. We do this through curriculum and additional experiences, which include Forest Schools, Weekly Enrichment Days, health & wellbeing holiday programmes, extra curricular clubs and residential visits.

Within the new arrangements of Curriculum for Wales, the learning continuum runs age 3 - 16 and is divided into 5 Progression Steps. In primary school, these progression steps replace the existing Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 curriculum. The Progression Steps in primary schools are

Progression Step 1 - Nursery & Reception

Progression Step 2 - Year 1 - 3

Progression Step 3 - Year 4 - 6

Children across the Progression Steps engage in learning through different topics as a means of developing knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. Whilst Religious Education was previously taught discretely, from September 2022, it will be integrated into our curriculum. Mathematics, Language (English, Welsh Language and BSL) and Physical Education will be taught as discrete subjects.

At Ysgol y Ddraig, a variety of teaching groupings are used, and at various times during the week, children are taught:

- As a whole class or year group.
- In groups, using an integrated approach across the curriculum.
- As individuals, where instruction is given on a one to one basis.

Within each class, the children are primarily grouped into mixed ability groups. However, within Progression Step 1 & 2 phonics and reading learning, children do work in small groups which reflect their stage of development. All learning is differentiated to a learner's ability, with learners in Y3-6 regularly self-evaluating their learning and working with an adult to reflect upon their learning, determine the level of challenge and understand their next steps..

Our published curriculum is available to view on our school website:

[https://www.ysgolyddraig.co.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/ace%20curriculum%20design%20\(july%202022\)%20published%20summary.pdf](https://www.ysgolyddraig.co.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/ace%20curriculum%20design%20(july%202022)%20published%20summary.pdf)

“The ‘ACE’ curriculum, (Achieve, Challenge, Enjoy) meets the needs and interests of its pupils and provides staff with a clear focus to aim for when planning lessons and activities.”

Estyn Report May 2022

Curriculum Enrichment

A variety of visits, visitors and in-school activities are planned throughout the year to enhance class based learning. We make visits within the locality e.g. to the library, local churches and our local beach. Consent is provided for such visits when completing admission forms on entry to our school. We follow the Local Authority guidelines for all out of school trips.

Learner Action Groups ~ Y Senedd

At Ysgol y Ddraig we firmly believe that children should be encouraged to contribute to the ongoing improvement and development of our school and we seek their ideas through a range of Pupil Action groups that include:

Eco Warriors
Digi-Dragons
Relationship Ambassadors
Playground Pals
Enterprise Troopers
Healthy Heroes
Criw Cymraeg

“Overall, pupils are proud to belong to the school and many play an important role, alongside school leaders in deciding school policy and influencing change.”

Estyn Report May 2022

Positive Relationships

We consistently ask our children the three questions that form the basis for our school rules:

- Is it safe?
- Is it responsible?
- Is it respectful?

Positive behaviour is encouraged through positive recognition, rewards and relationships. The School's Behaviour and Discipline policy is available on the school website and on request from the main office.

When the school has any concerns regarding behaviour, these will be discussed with parents in the first instance. Any negative behaviour is dealt with promptly. Agreed school procedures are followed and appropriate consequences put into place. The school does everything it can to determine and address the causes of behaviour challenges, working constructively with children and parents. Every member of our school is assigned to a team across the school and points are given to recognise positive behaviour and contributions. Our school teams are as follows:

Tîm Herio – Team Achieve
Tîm Cyflawni – Team Challenge
Tîm Mywnhau – Team Enjoy
Tîm Gilydd – Team Together

We very much like to take every opportunity to celebrate and recognise children's achievements both in and out of school. Children are invited to bring in awards, medals and certificates for us to share with classes.



“The level of care, support and guidance provided for pupils and their families is highly effective. The school maintains a continual focus on inclusion and improving all aspects of pupils’ welfare.”

Estyn Report May 2022

The Welsh Language & Cynefin

Welsh is taught throughout the school providing progression for children developing Welsh as a Second Language. Welsh features as part of the Language, Literacy and Communication Skills Area of Learning and Experience.. The scheme of work for Welsh is structured to allow children to speak Welsh as much as possible to reinforce the idea that Welsh is a living language. Welsh is also taught as part of school life on an incidental basis, in the format of greetings and commands etc.

We actively promote an awareness and pride in our Welsh culture and our heritage in order to establish a genuine sense of Cynefin, through our curriculum and community experiences.

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)

The new Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and is mandatory for all pupils from 3 -16. It has evolved to reflect the ambitions and four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.

The most important points about planning for and teaching RVE are:

- Planning for this new approach to RVE should follow the curriculum design requirements of the Curriculum for Wales Framework on Hwb.
- Schools must have regard to the locally agreed syllabus for RVE when designing their curriculum.
- It must be pluralistic, reflecting the fact that religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales
- It must also reflect the fact that a number of non-religious philosophical convictions are also held in Wales.
- It must be provided in an objective and critical way. Teachers must take an impartial approach to teaching RVE that does not require or encourage learners to be religious or non-religious, or to accept a prescribed viewpoint.
- Parents and carers cannot withdraw their child(ren) from RVE.

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

Above link to Guide for parents & carers

The Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Code provides detail for schools and settings on what must be taught and when. The RSE Code provides clarity about what children will learn and when.

It is a statutory requirement that we should encourage children to have such education due to moral considerations and the value of family life. These lessons help learners to move with confidence through childhood and into adolescence.

We have a programme of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), with each year group having appropriate content.

These lessons are an opportunity for children to learn about important topics using age appropriate messages and resources. Teachers will deliver these lessons in a sensitive and professional manner.

Lesson plans and teaching materials are available on request for parents to view and class teachers are happy to discuss the lessons and answer questions related to the scheme of work.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is held every day. Across the week, children participate in themed assemblies, worship through song and a celebration assembly, 'Star of the Week'. Children are helped to consider spiritual and moral issues. We aim to promote a common ethos and shared values whilst reinforcing positive attitudes.

The aim of assemblies is to bring children together to encourage a sense of belonging to the school, and where values such as understanding, care and tolerance are openly endorsed. Emphasis is also placed on qualities of character and human achievement.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from attendance at collective worship.

Assessment & Progression

We strongly believe that children need to be taught as individuals. To be able to do this, children's learning progress is assessed against progression within our ACE curriculum, throughout their time in school. Teachers and LSAs work with children and parents to identify specific strengths and areas for development.

Teachers provide feedback on children's work in a positive way with comments which will either offer encouragement, or set targets for future work. Children are actively supported to achieve these targets and to continually evaluate their work and progress.

In addition, we use the Foundation Phase Profile for new entrants in Foundation Phase. For children in Year 2 to Year 6 children participate in statutory National Reading and Numeracy tests during the year. The administration of assessment works within the normal working routine of the school day. By maintaining, as far as possible, a normal working atmosphere in the classroom the activities are carried out in a positive, familiar and reassuring manner.

All children's progress is carefully tracked and monitored during an academic year. We provide termly reports on children's wellbeing, motivation, learning characteristics and learning progress.

"The school makes good use of assessment procedures to track pupil progress in learning as they journey through the school. There are regular pupil progress meetings that include leaders, class teachers and the additional needs co-ordinator in reviewing the progress and well-being of individual pupils. They consider whether provision needs to be adapted to support further progress and improvement."

Estyn Report May 2022

Additional Learning Needs

The Welsh Government has passed new legislation, called the Additional Learning Needs (Wales) Act, and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code, which will replace all of the legislation and guidance about special educational needs.

As part of the Additional Learning Needs Educational Tribunal (ALNET) (Wales) Act 2018 the Welsh Government has replaced the term 'special educational needs' (SEN) with 'additional learning needs' (ALN).

ALN will cover those who:

- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age
- have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream maintained school or Further Education Institution.

There are four main areas of ALN:

Cognition and Learning
Sensory and Physical
Communication Interaction
Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

At Ysgol y Ddraig, we believe that every child has specific needs and because of this every child is treated as an individual.

Our Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) is Miss Karen Bale.

If a child has a learning difficulty, which calls for differentiation or specific education provision to be made, it is our aim to:

- recognise that additional Learning needs must be addressed
- recognise that where there is a continuation of needs, provision will have to be made accordingly
- give children with special educational needs the greatest possible access to a broad and balanced curriculum within mainstream classes
- ensure a close liaison between parents of children with special educational needs and the agencies involved in the process i.e. the ALN Coordinator, teachers and other agencies.

If your child is identified as having an Additional Learning Need, you will be informed and will be invited into school to discuss how your child will be helped at school and how you can help at home. In the first instance of any concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We have and utilise a wide range of resources to support all children's needs. The involvement of Parents/Carers is crucial to supporting children's needs in partnership with our school. Consent will be sought should an outside agency need to become involved. Children with specific needs are taught in mainstream, with programmes of study and Individual Education Plans designed specifically for them.

Detailed information on the school's Additional Learning Needs Policy is available on request. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time to discuss issues relating to the provision of education.

“Provision for additional learning needs is very effective across the school. There is a clear and well thought out plan for a smooth transition to the new arrangements to support pupils with additional learning needs. A culture of inclusion is clearly evident and this is a strength of the school.”

Estyn Report May 2022

Health and Safety

Ysgol y Ddraig has a Health and Safety Policy and is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all pupils, visitors and staff. The Governing Body holds regular meetings of its Health and Safety-Sub Committee. Risk Assessments are undertaken for all activities. Emergency procedures and plans are regularly reviewed and practised.

Safeguarding and School Security

The school **Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)** is:
Miss Rebecca Cadman (HT)

The **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person/s (DDSP/s)** are:
Mrs Sarah Brooks (DHT) and Miss Karen Bale (ALNCo)

Please share any concerns or information concerning child protection with Miss Cadman in the first instance, or in her absence, Mrs Brooks or Miss Bale.

Designated Governor for Safeguarding is:
Mrs Rebecca Lloyd-James

Vale of Glamorgan Learning and Skills Safeguarding Officers are: Jason Redrup and Sarah Collier.

Our Senedd has devised a Safeguarding Charter that is discussed and referred to regularly with children in their classes.

Each morning, after classes have entered our school doors and all necessary gates are locked, entry to and exit from school is only possible through the main entrance during the school day. The school gates are opened again in time for the end of the school day. Entrance may be gained to the school building during the day via an electronically operated system at the main office. All visitors must sign in and out of school and wear an appropriate visitors badge. Adult visitors either wait in our main entrance to be collected by the member of staff they are visiting, or are escorted to that member of staff.

All staff wear their school ID badge and carry their safeguarding briefing cards at all times.

The school policy related to this is available on request and published on our school website.

Equal Opportunities and Disability

Everyone at school is valued as an individual; this includes children, parents, staff and visitors. Personal, physical, ethnic and cultural characteristics and differences are respected and valued for the contribution they make to the life of the school and community. Every child is entitled to full access to the curriculum and our Equal Opportunities Policy reflects this.

Governors are aware of their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act. We will endeavour to accommodate every child.

The school has a Strategic Equality Plan that is updated annually.

Health Matters

At Ysgol y Ddraig, we have a firm commitment to being a 'Healthy School' and we are proud to have been awarded the National Quality Award for Healthy Schools and renewed in October 2019. To achieve this, we have to meet criteria under seven themes:

- Food and Fitness
- Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Personal Development and Relationships
- Substance Misuse
- Environment
- Safety
- Hygiene



We encourage children to drink water throughout the day and allow the children to buy fruit as a snack at playtime. In Nursery and Reception, we ask for a contribution of £1 per week towards snacks. Children are encouraged to try a variety of healthy snacks and foods related to learning activities. All children in Progression Step 1/2 have milk daily, the cost of which is subsidised by the Welsh Government. Our next steps include using the Healthy Schools Framework in 2022 as a means of identifying what we do well and areas for improvement.

Other health related issues

The School Nurse carries out routine checks on children's vision, hearing and physical growth. Examinations are carried out in Reception with prior consent from parents.

Parents should be aware that it is no longer the responsibility of the School Nurse to check children's hair. Head lice can become a problem. In order to eradicate this problem, please inform the school as soon as possible. Letters can then be sent home, advising other parents to check their children's hair. Parents are advised to carry out a weekly check of their own children's hair.

If your child is unwell, parents are advised to keep them at home until a full recovery has been made. The All Wales Prevention and Control Guidance for educational settings provides information on how long children should remain at home following specific illnesses. You may view this document at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/document/309927>, or alternatively the NHS guidance is available to view on request at school in the main office.

If a child becomes unwell during the school day, the school will contact parents as soon as possible. It is therefore most important that the school has up to date telephone contacts for all children.

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS.

Accident books are kept in the school.

Prescribed medication

If your child needs to take prescribed medication during school time, please call in to the main office or speak directly to your child's class teacher, where you will complete a medical consent form. All medication is to be fully labelled – pupil's name, dose, time of administration and duration of treatment - and handed in to a member of staff.

Please keep us informed if your child ever needs to use an asthma reliever. All asthma medications are kept safely and easily accessible, where they are available at all times. We encourage parents to provide a duplicate set of relievers in order that we may ensure they are always to hand for pupils' immediate use - both at home and in school.

Cymuned y Ddraig - Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Our school has a very supportive and hard-working Parent Teacher Association which re-launched during Autumn 2022. The Association organises social events throughout the year which are enjoyed by children, parents and teachers together, in order to raise money for the school. The money is used to buy extra resources and all the children benefit from the support of the PTA. The school appreciates the importance of the Association in its success and your support for the PTA can be of great benefit to your child's education.

Details of events and meetings are shared on Twitter (@ysgolyddraig), signage around the school and our weekly newflash. In addition, the PTA has its own Facebook page where you are able to receive information about any upcoming events or activities. You can request to join this group.



Charging for School Activities

All activities offered wholly or mainly during normal school teaching time are available to every child, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost. No charge will be made for admission to the school or for the cost of teaching materials, books or other equipment.

The school reserves the right to invite voluntary contributions in support of the cost of providing any activity organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours. Where an activity is dependent on a sufficient level of voluntary contributions being forthcoming, the school has the right to cancel the activity if insufficient support is received. Sometimes it is possible to subsidise certain activities from the school fund or via the generosity and hard work of the PTA.

The school may make a charge for activities that take place wholly or mainly outside school hours and which are not provided as part of a syllabus or to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum.

Parents are encouraged to discuss any difficulties with payments at the earliest opportunity with the Headteacher.

The school retains the right to request parents to pay for the cost of loss or damage caused by their child.

Complaints Procedure

We value the good relations we enjoy with parents and the community. We recognise that at times misunderstandings and conflicts may arise. It is the school's policy to resolve these misunderstandings as soon as possible.

1. In the first instance, parents should talk with their children's class teacher about any concerns they may have.
2. Parents are also encouraged to discuss concerns with the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher.
3. If the concern cannot be resolved then the school needs to receive the complaint in writing, setting out the details in full to the Headteacher. The Headteacher will then investigate the complaint and will offer parents a meeting to discuss the outcome of the investigation.
4. If concerns remain unresolved, the Parent is advised to write to the Governing Body.

A copy of our complaints procedure is available on our website and on request from our school office.

Breakfast and After-School Clubs

Breakfast Club

Our **free** Breakfast Club begins at 8:00am and runs until the start of the school day at 8.50am. Children wishing to attend the Breakfast Club **must arrive no later than 8.20am**.

Free Breakfast Club Arrivals 8.00am – 8.20am
(via main entrance)

After School Club

Our After School Club runs until 4.30pm. There is a cost for attending After School Club and this depends upon the time that children are in the club.

The Club is organised by Miss Rose and Mrs Roberts. Please contact them via the office for further information.

After School Club will offer snacks e.g. fruit, cheese and biscuits, toast for those who are staying for the full session.

Communication

We will communicate in a number of ways with families, including: -

- Weekly newsflash
- School & class blogs
- Website
- Twitter
- Seesaw
- Emails / texts
- Notice boards
- Informally at the beginning and end of every day
- Parent Teacher reviews
- Parent workshops
- By appointment as and when necessary.



Call us on 01446 792368 or drop us an email



Don't forget...

Monday, 2nd May is a Bank Holiday.

Children will return on Tuesday, 3rd May.

Please check your emails for information relating to a 'Food and Fun' School Holiday programme taking place at Ysgol y Ddraig in July/August.

Jubilee Picnic

On Thursday 26th May, from 3pm till 4.30pm, we will be holding a Jubilee Picnic. This will be an opportunity for us to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as a community.

If you would like to attend, please bring along picnic food and a blanket for you and your child/children. The celebration will start at 3pm at collection time, at the end of the school day. All children attending will need to be supervised by an adult/family member.

Class letters

Please find the link below for parents/carers to access class newsletters. These letters help us to share important information with our families.

[Class Newsletters](#)

ACE News Flash 29.04.22

Velindre Hospital Chick Knit Appeal

We have raised a fabulous £467.40 for Velindre.

The 'Hospital of Hope' has been providing specialist treatment and supportive care to cancer patients and their families in Wales for over 60 years.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jubilee Picnic (cont...)

We would love to have some music to accompany our Jubilee picnic, if you have any outdoor speakers that we could use on the day please contact the school office.

We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with all of our families.

FOR TECH SUPPORT - DdraigSupport5@hwb.cymru.net

Partnerships

At Ysgol y Ddraig we encourage families to become involved in the life of the school during the school day and after school. It is vital for every child's development that links between home and school are positive. Parents are asked to sign a **Home – School agreement, admission forms and consent forms** when their child enrolls with the school.

We hold annual **Meet the Teacher opportunities** in September and these are an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, talk about how your child has settled into their new class and to find out more about our school and the year ahead.



Parent Learner Reviews are held every term. The class teacher will outline your child's progress, how you can help at home and answer any questions you may have. **Learner Progress reports** are shared with parents at the end of every term.

At the beginning of each term, class teachers will inform you about the learning that your child will be involved with during that term. You will also be given details of Home Learning, of routines with reading books and details of PE lesson days.

Parents are strongly encouraged to share any concerns regarding their child with us as soon as they occur. Parents are welcome to approach class teachers at the beginning and end of every school day or to make an appointment via the school office.

Show and See days are held throughout the year to enable parents to work alongside their child in their own classroom and help celebrate some of their topic work. These events are an excellent way for parents to understand how our classrooms operate. Of course, parents are welcome to visit the school on a number of dates during the year or by prior arrangement with the Headteacher.

Parents are also regularly invited into school for **special events** such as concerts, assemblies and sporting events.

We host 'Family Literacy and Numeracy' sessions for parents of Foundation Phase children. Parents and children are able to learn together with the support of learning professionals. We also run our own LAP Dragons, a Language and Play programme for Nursery children and the community.

Family Information Services

The Vale of Glamorgan, Family Information Service website also provides information for families.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/fis

Contact

Family Information Service

Social Services Directorate

Dock Offices

Subway Road

Barry

Vale of Glamorgan

CF63 4RT

Tel: 01446 704 704, Mon-Thurs 08.30-17.00 and Fri 08.30-16.30

Fax: 01446 704794

Email: FIS@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



School Holiday Dates

2022/2023

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2022	Monday 5 Sept 2022	Monday 31 Oct 2022	Friday 4 Nov 2022	Friday 23 Dec 2022	75
Spring 2023	Monday 9 Jan 2023	Monday 20 Feb 2023	Friday 24 Feb 2023	Friday 31 Mar 2023	55
Summer 2023	Monday 17 April 2023	Monday 29 May 2023	Friday 2 Jun 2023	*Monday 24 July 2023	64
				TOTAL	195

Monday 5th Sept 2022 and *Monday 24th July 2023 will be designated INSET days for all LEA Maintained Schools. The remaining three INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school following appropriate consultation with staff. ****It is intended that this INSET Day will either be taken on Monday 24th July 2023 or at an alternative time for example in the form of twilight sessions.***

All schools will be closed on **Monday, 1st May 2023** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates:	Christmas	Sunday 25 December 2022
	Easter	Good Friday 7 April 2023 Easter Monday 10 April 2023
	May Bank Holidays	Monday 1 st May 2023 Monday 19 th May 2023

We appreciate there is a large amount of information included in our prospectus' so please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can also follow updates, photos and links @ysgolyddraig on Twitter. There is a vast amount of excellent practice where schools are using Twitter across the world. We like to use Twitter at Ysgol y Ddraig to enhance children's learning experiences, celebrate their achievements, discuss learning and signpost useful information from school or the wider world.

Contact us: ddraig@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Follow us: [@ysgolyddraig](https://twitter.com/ysgolyddraig)

