



School Prospectus 2024-2025

Bryn Coch Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Bryn Coch



Web - www.ysgolbrynoch.com

Twitter - @ysgolbrynoch

‘The school’s highly effective approach to care, support and guidance has pupils’ wellbeing at its heart and has created a thoroughly inclusive ethos of mutual respect and trust between staff and pupils. This supports pupils particularly well in establishing mature and extremely positive attitudes to learning as they move through the school.’

‘The particularly strong working relationships between teachers and pupils, and the extremely consistent approach to teaching are notable strengths of the school.’

ESTYN 2019



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Dear Parents

I have pleasure in presenting this information booklet as a first step in the process of our long partnership between the home and school. We welcome you and look forward to developing a warm and happy relationship with you as parents and trust that your child will have happy and fruitful years at Bryn Coch.

The large size of the school, a high standard of accommodation, and our excellent resources, enable us to offer all pupils a wide range of opportunities. We firmly believe that all children are of equal value, both as students and members of the school community. Whilst stress is given to basic skills, we endeavour to provide as broad and full a curriculum as possible. We also feel it is vitally important to instill a healthy attitude towards school where how we learn is seen as being just as important as what is learnt.

It is important to ensure that a balance is kept between academic achievement and the development of personal attributes such as self-discipline, loyalty, involvement in a team and respect for others. These goals can best be realised when pupils, teachers and parents work together for the common good.

In conclusion, may I emphasise that you, as parents, are always welcome to visit the school to discuss any aspect of school life.

Yours sincerely

*L M Williams MA Ed NPQH
Headteacher*





SCHOOL DETAILS

Address: Bryn Coch Primary School
Victoria Road
MOLD
Flintshire
CH7 1EW

Tel: 01352 752975

Fax: 01352 752975

E- mail bchead@hwbcymru.net

Web Site www.ysgolbryncoch.com

Twitter @ysgolbryncoch @CochHt

Headteacher: Mrs L Williams

Deputy Headteacher: Mr A Williams

Chair of Governors: Mrs M Tanton

OUR SCHOOL

We are pleased to welcome your child to Bryn Coch and hope that he/she will find security and happiness within our 'family'.

The main aims of the school are as follows:

- i. To provide a caring and happy environment where children are encouraged to develop as individuals, as well as acquiring sensitivity to the needs of others.
- ii. To promote the acquisition of the basic skills to the best of the child's ability.
- iii. In addition to the above, the school will also provide a rich and broad curriculum in line with the Four Purposes and the Curriculum Wales expectations.
- iv. To encourage co-operation between the home, the school and the wider community for the benefit of the children.



BRYN COCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL MOTTO

Chwarae, Dysgu Hwyl a Sbri



MISSION

To achieve the highest possible standards by creating a happy, nurturing environment whilst maintaining the “warmth” that is at the heart of Bryn Coch.

Bryn Coch School is a large English medium non-denominational County Primary School for boys and girls from the age of 3 to 11. Children from all over the county can be registered into our part-time Nursery Department if they are 3 years old prior to the September they wish to enter. Children who are 4 years old prior to the September of entry are eligible for full time education. Any prospective parent is welcome to visit the school at a mutually convenient time.

The school was opened as a Primary School in 1975 and consists of a large hall, a smaller Foundation Phase Hall; a purpose built gymnasium, twenty-five classrooms, an I.T. suite and a self-contained dining room and kitchen.

The school is well resourced with modern equipment including a computer suite and trolleys of chrome books, iPads and Tablets. All computers are installed with the Internet and E Mail.

Within the school two Resource classes have been established to help children with Specific Learning Difficulties. These children can follow a programme of integration into mainstream during the afternoon sessions. Admission to the Resource is by means of a Statement of Educational Needs and the decision on admission to the facility is made by the L.E.A.

The school is maintained by Flintshire Education Authority. Any information that is required from the Education Department should normally be obtained from:

Mrs V Barlow
Senior Primary Officer
Education Department
County Hall
MOLD

Telephone (01352) 752121



SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Every school has a Governing Body which is made up of the following:

- parents of children who attend the school
- teachers from the school
- people appointed by the Local Education Authority.
- businessmen and women and others working within the local community

The Governors have a very important role to play. In conjunction with the Headteacher they are involved in:

- Interviewing and selecting staff.
- Deciding how the school budget is spent.
- Overseeing the curriculum.
- Setting standards of behaviour.

Governors usually serve for a period of four years and they require no special qualifications. All Governors are informed about their responsibilities and training is available. The Governing Body meets at least once a term and there are additional meetings for other business. At the end of each year Governors prepare a report for parents, and they are invited to a meeting to discuss its contents.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

GOVERNORS	
Chairperson: Mrs M Tanton	LEA Appointed
Vice Chairperson Mr G McCarthy	LEA Appointed
Vice Chairperson Dr E Poyner	Parent Governor
Mrs J Rogers	LEA Appointed
Mrs L Davies	Teacher Governor
Miss M Davies	Teacher Governor
Mrs N Arrowsmith	Community Governor
Mrs M Thomas	Parent Governor
Mrs C Berry	Parent Governor
Mrs K Roberts-Wilde	Parent Governor
Mr P Deaves	Parent Governor
Mrs I Walker	Community Governor
Mr M White	Community Governor
Mr R Chamberlain	Community Governor
Mr A Loveridge	Community Governor
Mr G Hughes	Staff Governor
Mrs L M Williams	Headteacher

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Headteacher Mrs L Williams BA Hons QTS, MA Ed, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher Mr A Williams BA Hons QTS, NPQH

Foundation Phase Teachers
 Mrs J McManus BEd Hons
 Ms W Catherall BA Hons PGCE
 Mrs M Davies BA Hons QTS
 Mrs N Lea BSc Hons PGCE
 Mrs S Catherall BEd Hons
 Mrs K Bell BEd Hons
 Mrs L Jones BSc Hons PGCE
 Miss H Lidford BA Ed Hons
 Miss E Davies BA Ed Hons
 Miss G Holland MA Ed

Key Stage II Teachers
 Mrs F Hughes BEd Hons
 Mr I Hussain MA Ed
 Mrs L Catherall BEd Hons
 Mrs L Davies BEd Hons
 Mr N Jones BEd Hons
 Mrs C Fennell BA Hons QTS
 Miss A Chamberlin BA Hons QTS
 Mrs C Biffin BSc Hons PGCE
 Mrs S Seddon BSc Hons PGCE
 Mr J Oldfield BSc Hons PGCE
 Mrs H Winstanley BA Hons PGCE
 Mrs L Eymond BA Hons PGCE
 Mr J Pearson BMus, MA, PGCE

Additional Learning Needs Coordinator Mrs P Walsh BEd Hons

Special Needs Resource
 Mrs D Jones MA Ed
 Mrs S Jones BA Hons PGCE
 Ms K Barron HLTA
 Mrs C Kelly Classroom Assistant
 Mrs K Mayo Classroom Assistant
 Mrs S Hodgson Classroom Assistant
 Mrs L Roberts Classroom Assistant
 Miss S Durkin Classroom Assistant

P.P.A. Cover HLTA
 Mrs L Halliwell (HLTA)
 Mrs L Heycocks (HLTA)
 Mrs S Hutchinson (HLTA)
 Mrs C Jones (HLTA)

**Classroom Assistants****Foundation Phase**

Mrs D James (P/T)
 Mrs J Stone (P/T)
 Mrs E Edwards
 Miss R Williams
 Mrs L Rowlands
 Mrs N Staniforth
 Mrs K Lovelock
 Mrs A Rees
 Mrs M Colegate
 Miss J Bray
 Mrs L Salmon
 Mrs A Healey
 Mrs A Lloyd-Jones

**Classroom Assistants
Key Stage II**

Mrs C Fleming
 Mrs D Ramsey
 Mrs J Davies (P/T)
 Mrs K Smith
 Mrs L Mikolajewicz (P/T)
 Mrs J Hughes

**Pastoral Support
Assistants**

Mrs C Swinson
 Mrs V Owens-Reacord
 Mrs M Hall
 Mrs A Allen

**Auxiliary Support
Workers**

Mrs L Edwards
 Mrs N Ketland
 Mrs J James
 Miss K Morris
 Mrs C Shaw
 Mrs C Furnival
 Mrs C Jones
 Mrs R Ellis
 Ms J Mayhew

Administrative Officers

Mrs S Torry
 Miss E Stephens
 Mrs S Moody (P/T)

**School Nurse
School Caretaker
School Cook**

Mold Clinic
 Mr G Hughes
 Mrs M Marsh (Dolce Catering)



SCHOOL OFFICE

Mrs Torry, Miss Stephens and Mrs Moody, the Administrative Officers, are in the office between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm. If you wish to visit the school for any reason, we would be grateful if you could call the office first to see either of the above or the Headteacher.

SCHOOL HOURS

Main School

8.40am	Main doors are opened
8.50 am	School day begins
10.30 am - 10.45 am	Morning Break FP and Y3/4
10.50 am – 11.05 am	Morning Break Y5/6
11.50 am – 12.45 pm	Lunch Time FP
12.05 noon - 1.00 pm	Lunch Time Y3/4
12.15 pm – 1.10 pm	Lunch Time Y5/6
1.55 pm - 2.10 pm	Afternoon Break FP and Y3/4
2.15 pm – 2.30 pm	Afternoon Break Y5/6
3.00 pm	End of School Day for Foundation Phase
3.20 pm	End of School Day for Key Stage II

NURSERY

8.50 am - 11.20 am	
12.45 pm - 3.15 pm	Group A and B each morning or afternoon half termly

TEACHING TIME

The hours spent on teaching during a normal week, including Religious Education, but excluding the statutory daily act of collective worship, registration, lunch and other breaks are as follows:

Foundation Phase:	22 hours 30 minutes.
Key Stage II:	24 hours 15 minutes.

Some of our morning services do extend into teaching times, but the Governing Body, staff and parents realise that this is an essential part of school life and can include many areas of the curriculum such as drama, P.E., Speaking and Listening, English, Science, Music, Welsh and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

Children should not arrive on the school premises before 8.40 am, except for approved activities. From 8.40am, the main doors in the school are opened for those children who want to come in. They will be supervised by staff for these 10 minutes and **then will be ready to register at 8.50 am**. I would point out that the school takes no responsibility for children who are left on the school premises before 8.40am. Gates close at 8:50am.

I would also ask for your co-operation in making sure that all children are punctual for school and are in the building before the bell at 8.50 am. Children are not allowed to leave school during the day



without your permission and without an escort. If children are late in the morning, they are required to enter via the **main entrance** and sign in at the office.

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL AND PARKING



Victoria Road and the area in front of the school are dangerous for children and I would be grateful for your help in reducing this hazard. Please do not bring your child to school by car unless this is absolutely necessary and take extra care in the approaches to school.

There is no parking whatsoever on the school premises during school hours, except for those parents who are in possession of a blue badge.

To ensure the safety of the children, **vehicular access should not be used**, i.e. the one onto the main yard and the one past the caretaker's house. The entrance to be used is the gate from the main road onto the main front yard which leads to the Foundation Phase playground. Tesco car park can be used at the far end for short periods of times for drop off and pick up.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

The number of children on roll at present is 584 full time pupils and 61 part-time Nursery children (April 2024). Children are admitted into the Nursery (Mornings 8.50 am until 11.20 am and afternoons from 12.45 pm until 3.15 pm) during the school year in which they have their fourth birthday. Nursery provision in Flintshire is on a 0.5 basis. Children may start full time education at the beginning of the term starting in September if the child's 5th birthday falls on or between September 1st and August 31st.

Prior to their transfer Nursery children would have followed an integration programme which includes.

1. Integration into Reception and later full school assemblies
2. Integration on to the Foundation Phase playground.
3. Spending a morning in their new class with their new teacher.
4. Foundation Phase Reception teacher visiting Nursery for story telling sessions.
5. An evening for parents to visit the school and discuss transitional arrangements.

Parents of pupils entering nursery and reception are invited to induction evenings in the summer term. The school's standard admission number is 85 per year group.



LEA STATEMENT

Parents may express a preference for any school nursery irrespective of where their home is in relation to the school. However, expressing a preference does not guarantee a place at that school. Although every effort will be made to meet parental preference, nursery education is not compulsory and parents have no right of appeal under education legislation if they are unsuccessful in gaining a nursery place for their child at the school of their choice.

In the event of oversubscription, applications for nursery places will be dealt with by applying the criteria for admission to nursery, infant and primary schools as listed below.

When making the decision about the 'nearest suitable school' the Authority will accept only the pupil's home address and not that, for example, of childminder or grandparents. Parents will be asked to provide official documentation showing their home address. Parents are advised that a school place may be lawfully withdrawn if the information given on their application form is fraudulent or misleading.

Normally children remain at Bryn Coch until the end of the summer term of the year in which they are eleven on or before 31st August, when they transfer to a Secondary School. Parents will receive a booklet published by the Education Authority which outlines the provision for Secondary Education in this area.

The L.E.A. has established a Planned Admission Limit of 85 for Reception classes at the school.

HOME - SCHOOL LIAISON

Mrs Williams, Headteacher, will be pleased to see parents at any time during your child's stay at Bryn Coch. However, it is advisable to make an appointment to arrange a time of mutual convenience.

We would ask that all parents who wish to visit the school, for any reason, please report to the School Office on entry.

INDUCTION

Towards the end of the summer term all the parents of the children starting their first year in the Nursery and Reception classes are invited into school to attend a meeting addressed by the Headteacher to meet their child's teacher and have a conducted tour of the school.

FORMAL TEACHER/PARENT MEETINGS

Open Evenings are held termly to enable parents to discuss their child's progress. The first is held in October, the second in March and the last in July prior to their transfer to the next stage of their education. In order to keep to work/life balance requirements, teachers will provide 10-minute meetings. For families where parents have split we request they either come together or one parent comes in the October and one parent in the March Open Evenings.



INFORMAL MEETINGS

These are often the most valuable as they deal with immediate problems. If you are concerned about your child's progress please write or see the class teacher and arrange to meet after school. Similarly, teachers may arrange to meet you if they are anxious about your child.

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The majority of our Year 6 pupils transfer to the Alun High School at the age of 11. Others choose Maes Garmon (Welsh medium), Richard Gwyn (Roman Catholic) or those nearest to their home.

An excellent relationship exists between this school and all High Schools but this is especially true of the Alun. This includes pupil visits, classroom teaching, teacher exchange, open days and pre-transfer visits by the Assistant Headteacher. In addition there are on-going meetings between all Primary Headteachers and Alun staff as well as Curriculum meetings. Records of Progress are passed on prior to transfer.



THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The New Curriculum in Wales

In response to the publication of 'Successful Futures' in 2015, Bryn Coch has developed the New Curriculum in Wales. We adapted our provision to make sure that we are working with the important purposes and principles in the report. A school's curriculum is everything a learner experiences in pursuit of the four purposes. It is not simply what we teach, but how we teach and crucially, why we teach it.

The purposes of the curriculum in Wales should be that children and young people develop as:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the World
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The new curriculum in Wales has six Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Expressive arts
- Health and well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, literacy and communication
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Science and technology.

Within these 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLE) are listed key aspects of learning 'what matters'. It is these 'what matters' that staff use to plan lessons.

The areas of learning aim to promote and underpin continuity and progression.

Weaving across the six Areas of Learning and Experience will be the three Cross Curriculum

Responsibilities:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Competence.
-

In Bryn Coch we organise our curriculum into themes and topics which are based around a text, this enables our children to learn in the Areas of Learning and Experience and to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills. We have also developed a list of life skills that we want all children to experience before they leave in year 6.

This approach is used across the whole school and we aim to develop the 'whole person' so pupils embody the Four Purposes.

The curriculum offered at Bryn Coch will lay great stress on the basic areas of education, whilst at the same time ensuring the delivery of a broad balanced curriculum, including Personal, Social and Health Education, which is an important element in developing responsible attitudes in children while promoting a positive self-image. The school also offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities which are seen as an extension of the children's day and play a significant part in the development of the school ethos.



TOPICS 2024-2025 (subject to adaptation)

The children cover a variety of topics, each based on a central text (fiction/non-fiction). We emphasise the importance of a variety of study methods when collecting information. Children are also encouraged to continue this work at home and we hope that this helps to form a stronger link between home and school. Here is a list of topics that are covered at present: These topics cover many of the Areas of Learning and Experience. We also hold special weeks in school e.g. Welsh Week, Community week, Multicultural week to enhance the curriculum further. At the start and during the topics children have pupil voice sessions which steer the topic they want to learn for the term, they are loosely around the following:

Nursery	Nursery work is planned throughout the year around a text depending on the children's interests.
Reception	Reception work is planned throughout the year around a text depending on the children's interests.
Year 1	<p>Autumn – Billy Wise and the Smeds and Smoos</p> <p>Spring - The Journey by Aaron Becker and Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers</p> <p>Summer – The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister and Somebody Swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts</p>
Year 2	<p>Autumn – The Bog Baby by Jeanne Willis, Tidy by Emily Gravett and The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry</p> <p>Spring – The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by Ronda and David Armitage</p> <p>Summer - Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas</p>
Year 3	<p>Autumn – Boudica's Army by Hilary McKay/ Magic Tree House Racing with Gladiators by MP Osbourne</p> <p>Spring - Earthquake Shock by Marlane Kennedy</p> <p>Summer – The Magic School Bus plant seeds by Patricia Relf</p>
Year 4	<p>Autumn – The Queen's Token by Pamela Oldfield</p> <p>Spring – Stories / Mabinogian from Wales</p> <p>Summer – The Boy who harnessed the wind by Bryan Mealer and William Kamkwamba</p>
Year 5	<p>Autumn – A Twist of Fortune by Barbara Mitchelhill</p> <p>Spring – The Man who bought at Mountain by Rennie McOwen</p> <p>Summer – The River Singers by Tom Moorehouse and Sabrina and the River Spirit</p>
Year 6	<p>Autumn – When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle and The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf</p> <p>Spring – Bardsey Island Poem and Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo</p> <p>Summer – Billy Sure Kid Entrepreneur by Luke Sharpe</p>



Resource 2024/25 - Resource work is planned throughout the year around a text in line with their 4 year cycle of themes.

CYMRAEG AIL IAITH (Welsh Second Language)

All pupils attending Ysgol Bryn Coch are predominantly English speaking and Welsh is taught as a second language. Welsh is not only taught as a discrete subject but opportunities are provided throughout the broader curriculum to hear and use the language in formal and informal situations. The use of incidental Welsh is encouraged and every opportunity is taken to promote the Welsh dimension e.g. Christmas and Summer concerts, St David's Day Eisteddfod, written competition for the Eisteddfod Chair, Urdd Eisteddfod and Sports competitions, Cymraeg Yr Wythnos, Welsh week, a residential visit to Glan Llyn and Welsh educational visits both in the local area and across the country. We endeavour to develop the child's ability to converse, read and write in Welsh, taking account of the need for sequence and progression. Through this we hope to nurture and foster a healthy and positive attitude towards Welsh as a second language and make it a living language within the school community. The school is also working towards the Campus Cymraeg Bronze award which is an initiative to improve Welsh speaking across the school.

PUPIL PROGRESSION

All pupils entering Bryn Coch will be having a baseline assessment. Progression is further supported by progression steps in the new curriculum, which provide guidance on how learners should progress within each statement of what matters as they journey through the continuum of learning. These are arranged in five progression steps which provide reference points for the pace of that progression. These expectations are expressed from the learner's perspective and are framed broadly so that they can sustain learning over a series of years. While the learning continuum is the same for each learner, the pace of progress through it will differ. As a result, the progression steps can only broadly correspond to expectations at ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16. Formal assessments will also take place each year, these assessments inform us of where the children is at and what we need to offer individuals. All pupils in Y2-Y6 will complete the national literacy and numeracy tests. Parents will be informed of these results. If deemed appropriate, some children may be disapplied from these tests.

WRITTEN REPORT

At the end of the summer term the school will send you a written report with a summary of your child's achievements and comments from the teacher on your child's progress. Only you, your child and the teacher will see the report, a copy of which will be kept in school.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children develop their understanding of Christianity and other World Religions through discussion and exploration. Children are encouraged to take part in school trips to our local religious buildings and members of the community regularly come into school to discuss their beliefs. Whenever possible, Religious Education is integrated within topic work. There is daily worship either within the classroom or as a whole school or a Key Stage. Each class takes it in turn to take a weekly assembly and the parents of the children in that class are invited to attend on that morning.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience (Area) provides a holistic structure for understanding health and well-being. It is concerned with developing the capacity of learners to navigate life's opportunities and challenges. The fundamental components of this Area are physical health and development, mental health, and emotional and social well-being. It will support learners to understand and appreciate how the different components of health and well-being are interconnected, and it recognises that good health and well-being are important to enable successful learning.

The main types of physical health within the school programme are

Foundation Phase Outside Play
 Games
 Dance
 Gym

Key Stage II Creative activities (Dance & Gym)
 Adventurous Activities (Swimming and Outdoor Activities)
 Competition (Games and Swimming)

Children are expected to take part in all these activities unless they are excused on medical grounds. To be excused a pupil must bring a note from a parent stating the reason for the temporary disability or illness.

In Foundation Phase children will need

Gym and Dance – Black Shorts, blue sports top with logo
 Games – Black Shorts, blue sports top and trainers/black Velcro pumps

KS2 Children will need

Outside games – Black shorts, blue sports top or blue sports t-shirt (Summer), trainers or football boots.

With contact sports – Gum shields and Shin pads are advisable

Swimming – Swimming costume (not bikini) trunks/shorts and towel

Use of Goggles

The School is following the guidelines of the LEA, the Association for P.E. and the Amateur Swimming Association. Where goggles are being worn those children will be taught how to remove goggles by “slipping them off the head not by stretching the retaining band”.

The annual Sports Day (F.P. & KSII) is held in the Summer term, for which the children are organised into three houses.

School teams compete against other local schools in the following: Football, Rugby, Netball, Cross Country, Swimming, Rounders, Cricket, Athletics, Dance and Indoor Athletics.

All PE kit can be bought along with a PE bag from Monkhouse, Mold



School participates in the Daily Mile to try to keep every child active. All children are encouraged to take part along with staff.

Personal and Social Education incorporates a range of experiences to promote the personal and social Well-being of children and enables them to develop a sense of self-worth and relate effectively to others. We have developed the Jigsaw Programme into our scheme of work Children follow the Jigsaw scheme which is a mindful approach to Health and Wellbeing.

Jigsaw nurtures children to be confident and successful, increasing their capacity to learn and preparing them for the challenges of the modern world. Jigsaw provides children with opportunities to develop their emotional intelligence and life skills.

Healthy Schools

We have been part of the Healthy Schools scheme since the launch. We were awarded the prestigious National Quality Award in 2014; reassessment took place in the Summer term 2018 and we continue to follow the standards.

Over the years we have developed the following areas:

- Playground Pals
- Playground areas
- Food and Fitness
- Staff Health and Well-being
- Emotional Health
- School Council
- Respecting Others
- Safety
- Personal Development and Relationships
- Hygiene
- Drinking Water and Toilet Facilities

RELATIONSHIP AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE)

Bryn Coch School follows the mandatory Welsh Government RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) Code.

The content is set within the context of broad and interlinked learning strands, namely:

- relationships and identity
- sexual health and well-being
- empowerment, safety and respect.

These strands allow staff to design and develop a curriculum tailored to our learners, making connections and developing authentic contexts for learning across the curriculum. Bryn Coch has adopted an age-appropriate programme for pupils based on national and local guidance which covers the Welsh Government themes of relationships; rights and equity; sex, gender and sexuality; bodies and body image; sexual health and well-being; and violence, safety and support. Resources to support the teaching of RSE include the SENSE DVD, Tyfu i Fyny, NSPCC Pants and No Outsiders. See website for further details.



Morning Snacks

In the Foundation Phase pupils pay weekly for their healthy snack. In KSII pupils can pay weekly/daily or they can bring in fruit for their snack. No other snack is to be eaten. We have a policy of no sweets/chocolate/crisps/nuts at Bryn Coch School. Every pupil has access to drinking water throughout the day. In conjunction with 'Appetite for Life' pupils are not permitted to drink squash, fruit juice etc. during the day unless accompanied with their lunch.

Protection against the sun

The school is concerned by the dangers posed by exposure to the sun and we therefore encourage parents to send their children to school with sun-hats during the summer months. Children may also bring sun-protection creams to self-administer.

Smoking

Bryn Coch in line with LEA guidance is a non-smoking establishment. No smoking is allowed on the grounds of the school, this includes e-cigarettes.

Drinking water

Children need to drink to keep hydrated and to help concentration. Access to water is always available, but is a good idea for all children to have their own water bottle that they can use in school. Water fountains are available in both Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Opportunities are given for pupils to join many noteworthy clubs. Obviously, most are relevant to those pupils in Key Stage II. These activities are taken either at lunchtime or after school. They include Sports Club (FP), Football, Netball, Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Athletics, Cross Country, Cymraeg, Choir, WordsWorth, I.C.T., Art, Cookery, Sign Language, Well-being and Maths Club. Some of these after school activities i.e. Drama clubs are taken by a third party and as such the full cost of the activity has to be paid for by the children themselves.

Specialist instrumental tuition (string, brass woodwind and percussion) is offered to a number of pupils in Years 2 to 6. Children also have the opportunity to join the school choir and participate in a number of musical concerts and events during the school year.

HOMEWORK

Pupils are encouraged to carry out various tasks depending on the ages of the pupils and the requirements of the members of staff. Children from reception are encouraged to read at home daily and the support of parents is vitally important in this area. Most pupils will also receive weekly assignments in Spelling and Multiplication Tables.

Children throughout the school will be asked to work on half termly tasks at home which are related to the work that they are completing in school. All children will be expected to do at least 3 of the half termly tasks, we request parents work with their child on the task and sign the homework on a weekly basis. Each term children are encouraged to find out about a famous or influential Welsh person, work of which is displayed in the main corridor.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Children in all classes take part in educational visits as part of their project work these can be in their local community or further afield.

Year 4, 5 & 6 pupils also have the opportunity to take part in the following trips:

- I. Two night trip to Colomendy Y4
- II. Two night trip to Cardiff Y5
- III. Two night trip to Pentrellyncymer Y5
- IV. Two night trip to Nant BH Outdoor Education Centre Y6
- V. Two night trip to Glan Llyn Welsh Second Language Centre Y6
- VI. Three night visit to London Y6

These out of school activities are beneficial to the children, both in terms of learning opportunities presented, and also from the experiences gained. The law states that all education in normal school hours must be provided free and, as such, we must ask parents to make a “voluntary contribution”. The continued support of our parents is essential if these opportunities are to continue. If, for any reason, you do not wish your child to take part, he/she will remain in school and integrate with another class.

PUPIL VOICE

The school council meets every other week, there are representatives from all classes from Y2 onwards. They run their own stationery shop and are involved with policy making within the school. The eco group meet regularly and set classes targets for improvement. Pupils also have a voice through the Super Ambassador, Eco council, and Digital Leaders.



STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2020 –2024

We recognise our duty and responsibility to eliminate discrimination and promote equality for pupils, employees, other members of the school community and service users regardless of their race, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

We have developed our Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) to ensure equality is at the heart of everything that we do as an education provider and as an employer. The Strategic Equality Plan sets out our priorities for equality for 2020 -2024 and the actions we will take to reduce identified inequalities improve outcomes in education and employment and foster good community relations. The Plan will also help us to meet the general duty of the Equality Act (2010):-

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;
2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; this means
 - a. removing or minimizing disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic, (definition of protected characteristics in Diversity and Equality policy)
 - b. taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
 - c. encouraging persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low
3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the school office or is available on the school website.

PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

A pupil has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This would require the school to make different provision for him/her.

The school will admit pupils whose educational needs can be met from the resources provided. Where children have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Individual Development Plan, which is maintained by the local authority, their admission must be negotiated via the LA's ALN department on 01352 752121. Admission arrangements for other pupils with Additional Needs, including those who have physical or mental impairments, are set out in the school's Additional Needs Policy.

Classroom Integration

Bryn Coch has very strong beliefs in integration. Pupils from our resource classes integrate with children from mainstream for PE and music and when deemed appropriate on an individual basis.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS PUPILS

It is important to remember that children and young people learn in different ways. We complete person centred work with all of our pupils, and they all have a One Page Profile. In this way we can



get to know them and their individual needs and identify the best ways to support them. Class teachers plan to meet these needs through reasonable adjustments and differentiation.

If we feel that your child requires some additional support to meet their needs, then they will access our Universal Provision; this may include a learning group for Literacy or Numeracy, a well-being group, or some one-to-one sessions.

If you have concerns about your child, their class teacher or Mrs Paula Walsh, the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator is the first point of contact. They will be able to listen to your concerns, and if requested, begin to consider if your child has Additional Learning Needs. This decision will be made within 35 school days, unless the school requires further specialist assessment through the local authority or Health Services, in which case a further 12 weeks may be required.

Under the terms of the new Additional Learning Needs code:

‘a person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision’.

If your child meets these criteria then an Individual Development Plan, or IDP will be written for them. An IDP also replaces a Statement of Special Educational Needs. These plans will be person-centred, ensuring that the child is at the centre of planning their provision.

In all cases we recognise the importance of good communication between school and parents/carers and always seek to discuss any concerns as they arise.

MORE ABLE AND TALENTED PUPILS

At Bryn Coch we always aim to identify, support and extend the skills of the More Able and Talented child. We provide a range of opportunities in school to challenge our pupils in all areas and we advise and encourage links with external agencies and clubs. We have a More Able and Talented register which is used by staff when planning the curriculum. We are very proud to have been awarded the NACE Challenge Award for our work with More Able and Talented pupils. If you think your child has a particular talent, please let your class teacher know.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The member of staff designated the responsibility of promoting the educational achievement of looked after children is Mrs P Walsh ALNCO and Mrs L Williams Headteacher. The school follows Local Authority policy when promoting the educational achievement of looked after children.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a school uniform and the wearing of it is always encouraged. The uniform is:

- Grey trousers, skirt/pinafore - sensible length - (not black) (No leggings)
- White polo shirt or white blouse/shirt and school tie (with or without the school logo)
- Royal blue round neck sweatshirt / cardigan **with school logo**.
- White socks or grey/black tights.
- Shoes – flat black sensible shoes (boots may be worn to and from school in bad weather)
- During the summer months the girls can wear blue gingham dresses.

Please label all your child's clothing clearly with his/her name especially coats, ties, cardigans, jumpers and wellingtons. If your child represents the school, for example the choir, Eisteddfod etc., the Governors would like children to wear the shirt and tie.

MOBILE PHONES

Children are not permitted to use mobile phones in school without the permission and in the presence of the class teacher. Children are to hand their phones into the teacher at the start of the day and collect when going home.

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation - PREVENT

Bryn Coch Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with the support. (See Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy for more details). In year 6 children will complete a week long course -GOT (Getting On Together) challenging extremism programme. The programme counters a growing level of reported intolerance (at worst, extreme attitudes) amongst younger pupils and promotes ethical, moral citizenship and shared (British) values through safe spaces, challenge and critical thinking.

SAFEGUARDING

All staff and pupils have a right to be safe in school. At Bryn Coch the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which their children can flourish. Bryn Coch therefore has to ensure that this expectation becomes reality.

Safeguarding is not just about protecting our pupils from deliberate harm. It includes issues for school such as:

- pupils' health and safety;
- bullying;
- racist abuse;
- harassment and discrimination;
- use of physical intervention;
- meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions;



- providing first aid;
- drug and substance misuse;
- educational visits;
- intimate care;
- Internet safety;
- matters that may be specific to a local area or population, for example suicide; and
- security.

SITE SECURITY

Bryn Coch provides a secure site, which is controlled by precise management directives, but the site is only as secure as the people who use it. Therefore, all people on the site have to adhere to the rules which govern it. Laxity can cause potential problems to safeguarding. Therefore:

- Pedestrian gates should be closed except at the start and end of each day.
- Doors should be closed to prevent intrusion but to facilitate smooth exits.
- Visitors, volunteers and students must only enter through the main entrance and after signing in at the office window.
- Children will only be allowed home with adults with parental responsibility or confirmed permission.
- Empty classrooms should have closed windows.
- Children should never be allowed to leave school alone during school hours, and if collected by an adult during the school day, signed out.

Should a child leave the school premises without permission then staff have been informed never to chase after a child, but rather to report immediately to the office. Then parents and police will be informed of the circumstances.

PHOTOGRAPHING AND VIDEOING

We allow parents to photograph and film providing they follow certain guidelines:

- Parents consent to school taking photographs by signing a permission slip on entry to school.
- Photographs are only taken from within the school grounds, for example, sports day, and concerts. School photographs that are for use outside of school are anonymous unless specific permission has been received from parents.
- Parents are discouraged from putting photographs of pupils and identifying them on Social Networking Sites.



SCHOOL EVENTS

During the year you will be invited to school functions, such as class assemblies, concerts, Harvest Thanksgiving Festival, Christmas Celebrations, the Christmas Fayre and Sports Days.

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

It is school policy to take all pupils on an educational trip organised by staff. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, it is the right of the LA (Local Authority) and Governors of schools to invite voluntary contributions in support of any activity by the school.

Parents/Carers should be aware that without voluntary contributions to cover the expenses involved, out of school visits cannot take place. Where the parents of a pupil are in receipt of Free School Meals, the school are in receipt of the Pupil Development Grant, as such the school will remit half of the cost of the board and lodging for any residential activity or trip that it organises for the pupil, (one per year). When organising activities where parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution the school must cover the cost of organising the whole event. It is not the school's intention to make a profit out of such an activity, but if a profit is made it is spent on improving the quality of provision for all pupils.



FRIENDS OF SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (FOBC) Twitter – @FOBCMold

This is for all those people who have the interests of the school at heart, including parents, friends, relatives, ex-parents, governors, staff and people from the local community.

All parents are automatically members of the association. The main aim is to provide an even closer link between home and school. This is achieved through informal meetings, social events, talks and discussions. Your help in fund raising activities and practical skills is most welcome. The funds raised are vital for equipping the school adequately.

We also encourage parents to become involved during the school day, assisting with various activities including cooking, sewing, art and craft, making costumes, helping at lunchtimes, library duties, duplicating, preparation and care of equipment, using computers and accompanying children on school outings. If you feel you have something to offer please contact Mr A Williams Deputy Headteacher.

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENTS

One of the main aims of Bryn Coch is to involve parents in an active partnership between the school and home. We believe that a way to strengthen this link is to establish an agreement between the school and home which will create a genuine and meaningful partnership.

Bryn Coch School will:

- * Strive to maintain the highest standards of academic achievement and pastoral care and ensure that your child achieves his/her full potential as a valued member of the school community.



- * Set challenging work, appropriate to the ability of the individual child and according to the demands of the Foundation Phase / National Curriculum.
- * Care for your child's safety and happiness.
- * To assess and mark work on a regular basis.
- * Set, mark and monitor homework according to the child's age and ability.
- * Report progress to parents on a regular pre-determined basis.
- * Involve parents in discussions about a child's academic and/or pastoral welfare.
- * Provide a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.
- * Keep parents informed about school activities through regular letters home, news-sheets and notices about special events.

The Parents will:

- * Inform the school of any concerns regarding their child's progress.
- * Support the school by ensuring standards of behaviour are maintained.

Bryn Coch pupils are expected to display:

- a) good behaviour in the classroom and on their way to and from school;
 - b) show respect towards school and other pupils' property;
 - c) be polite and helpful to others;
 - d) keep the school free from litter and take pride in its appearance.
- * Make sure that their child wears Bryn Coch uniform and regularly brings all equipment and kit needed for school.
 - * See that their child goes to school regularly and punctually and inform the school of any absence on the first day.
 - * Support the school's acceptable use policy in ensuring social networks, when used, do not bring the name of Bryn Coch School into disrepute.
 - * Attend Parents' Evenings and discussions about their child's progress.
 - * Support their children with homework and other opportunities for home learning.



COMPLAINTS

The Governing Body of the school has a complaints procedure and this came into effect in February 2000. If a person has a complaint relating to the school he or she should make it known to a member of staff or a Governor in writing or orally, following the Complaints procedure which can be found on the school website. If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant he or she is entitled to make a formal complaint. This should be done in writing to the Complaints Officer (Headteacher). Once the Complaints Officer has reached a decision as to what action, if any, should be taken he/she must send it in writing to the complainant within ten school days of receiving the complaint.

The letter will set out the reasons for the decision and a timetable for any action to be taken. If the complainant is not happy with the decision he/she can appeal to the Governing Body who will then investigate the matter through a delegated complaints committee. The Governing Body decision is final. Please request a copy of the school's Complaints Policy or find it on the school website.

CODE OF CONDUCT

DISCIPLINE

1. We expect all pupils to have good manners and act with courtesy and consideration to others at all times.
2. Children are expected to behave in the correct way as they must remember that they are representing Bryn Coch School wherever they are, especially when they are wearing the school uniform.
3. To treat their work and that of others with care and pride.
4. To look after younger children.
5. To move about the school in an orderly fashion on the left-hand side of the corridor and be ready to open doors or stand back to allow people to pass.
6. To keep the school grounds clean and tidy.

SICKNESS OR ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please use the Parentmail app or phone the office explaining the reason for absence on the first day. If this information is not received your child will be noted as an **unauthorised** absence. If you anticipate a longer term of absence please contact the school by telephone. The statutory period of absence for 'infectious diseases' may be obtained from the headteacher.

If your child has a medical or dental appointment during school time, please let us know in writing.

With certain childhood illnesses the Health Authority recommends that children are kept away from school for a minimum number of days:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Chicken Pox / Measles | 7 days from onset of rash |
| • Mumps | 7 days from onset on swelling |
| • German Measles | 7 days from onset of rash |
| • Sickness and Diarrhoea | 2 days |



PUNCTUALITY

A pupil's punctuality for school is a legal requirement. Pupils who are persistently late will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer to see if they can resolve any problems you may be experiencing. Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning!

- 5 minutes late every day = 3 lost days (15 lessons) a year
- 15 minutes late every day = 2 lost weeks (50 lessons) a year
- 30 minutes late every day = 19 lost days (95 lessons) a year

Missing 19 days (90% attendance) every year over 10 years of school life = 1 whole year of school (950 lessons). **Please help us to achieve our targets and support our attendance policy.**

HEADLICE

Incidents of head lice are a community problem, which affect school life. Please help us by checking for head lice on a regular basis, informing school of incidents and referring re-occurring cases to the local Health Clinic for treatment.

HOLIDAY ABSENCE

We discourage children taking holidays during term time but we do realise that for some it is impossible to do otherwise. However, I must remind you that the appropriate form must be completed and the maximum amount of time allowed is 10 school days. No holidays will be authorized during May when we do the National and Internal testing. Parents will receive a reply if the holiday is NOT authorized only.

MEDICAL

Flintshire has a comprehensive School Health service provided by the North East Wales NHS Trust. The aim of the service is to review the full scope of your child's individual needs, promoting health in the widest sense and to identify any health problems that may develop.

The primary contact with the School Health Service is through the School Nurse Mrs P Jackson and the School Doctor Dr Bos, both of whom have specialised training in educational medicine, community pediatrics and child health. These specialists are able to liaise directly with all other areas of Flintshire Health Services and other agencies should the need arise.

If your child is a school entrant you will be given a leaflet outlining the full scope and involvement of the School Health Service. These leaflets are available for older children from the School Sister on request. Your child will not be examined by the School Doctor without your permission, except in a medical emergency.

All health interviews are strictly confidential and your consent will be sought before discussing any issue with the school teaching staff. Obviously, it would be in your child's best interest for the teaching staff to be aware of any medical condition that may affect his/her progress in the classroom. Parents' attendance at school health interviews is highly valued, especially at Primary age. You will receive, in advance, a written invitation and a consent form for you to sign. When your child is in Reception Class the School Nurse will check his/her vision, hearing and growth. In Year 2, your child's vision, height and weight will be checked.



Thereafter, the School Nurse visits regularly to check the children's general health, to promote healthy lifestyles and to liaise with the school staff regarding any health problems. If you have any The School nurse is based at Mold Clinic, telephone 03000859697.

SCHOOL MEALS

The lunchtime break is 55 minutes and as such most children remain on site. As we are such a large school, the lunchtime is staggered. **All pupils are now entitled to a universal free school meal.** The following meal arrangements are available:

Lunches

Lunches are prepared in our own kitchen and pupils are provided with a set meal from Dolce Catering. Dolce Catering allow online ordering through SchoolGrid. As of April 2024 all pupils in primary education are entitled to a free school meal. For more information see Mrs L Williams (Headteacher) or Mrs Torry in the School Office.

Once a year you will be invited into school to spend time with your child in class and have a dinner with your child, this has proved very popular with the children and is one of the ways we strengthen our links with you as parents. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, the pupil development grant will cover the cost of the parents' lunch.

All allergies and food intolerances can be catered for, it is parents' responsibility to log these with the catering provider Dolce on SchoolGrid.

Packed Lunches

Children may bring a packed lunch from home if they so wish. They will eat these lunches in the dining hall, these packed lunches should be in line with the Healthy Eating Policy, no sweets or nut containing items.

Free School Meals

If you are receiving Income Support, your child is entitled to extra support. Further details can be obtained from Mrs Torry in the school office. As a school it is very important you claim for free school meals, if eligible, as the Welsh Government give the school a pupil development grant of £1150 which entitles your child to trips subsidies and extra support within school.



BRYN COCH CLUB

The Bryn Coch Club let a purpose built building on the school grounds. Mrs Murphy and her staff run the service. The service is available to any child within the school and it runs in the morning from 7.45 am until 8.50 am, and after school from 3.00 pm until 6.00 pm. We also run wraparound care during the school day and are an Early Entitlement Setting. The children are carefully supervised and will be provided with activities including Computer games, video, T.V., paper activities and outside games on the yard or field. To book a place at the club a booking form must be completed which will be passed to the Manager (bryncochclub@bryncoch.wales). Please note once a permanent place has been booked 2 weeks written notice will be required to cancel or amend your sessions. Any regular places that are booked and used prior to the end of the school year in July will automatically be held over to the start of the new school year in September.

Offer letters for places for children starting in a reception class in September are sent out. All places will start at the beginning of the school year in September.

Parents are liable for payment for absences through cancellations or changes. You will not be charged if your child is off sick from school, if the school closes due to unforeseen circumstances e.g. snow, or your child is on a residential trip associated with school. School inset days are not charged. If your child attends an extra-curricular club, for example, football, art club, choir etc. you still need to reserve your place and will be charged accordingly.

Emergency sessions can only be booked depending if a place is available. These can be booked by contacting via bryncochclub@bryncoch.wales

Please contact Mrs Murphy for information regarding prices and further information.



SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2024/2025

	School opens	School Closes
Autumn Term 2024	Wednesday 4 th September	Friday 25 th October
	Monday 4 th November	Friday 20 th December
Spring Term 2025	Tuesday 7 th January	Friday 21 st February
	Monday 3 rd March	Friday 11 th April
Summer Term 2025	Tuesday 29 th April	Friday 23 rd May
	Monday 2 nd June	Friday 18 th July

Training Days*	Bank Holiday
02.09.24*	
03.09.24*	05.05.25
08.11.24*	
06.01.25*	
28.04.25*	
21.07.25*	

* Please note training days can be subject to change and there may be an additional date in 24/25