





Welcome from the Headteacher

I am pleased to welcome you to the first prospectus of our new 3-16 school Ysgol Nantgwyn, which will serve the children and community of the Mid Rhondda from September 2018.

We will do our best to ensure that every child becomes successful, curious and ambitious. Our aim is that every pupil at Ysgol Nantgwyn flourishes and is happy.

Ysgol Nantgwyn is one of almost 20 All-Age Schools across Wales, with four based in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This concept is a growing development across Wales and the UK and ensures excellent and continuous provision for all pupils.

Our school is not the creation of a large primary and secondary school on one site, but the development of a truly inclusive 3 to 16 community. We are creating a through school ethos by embracing the best aspects of innovative practice from across the globe.

Within the following pages you will find plenty of useful information which will be further supported with details on the school website and at transition events. The prospectus will be further complemented by a parent guide for lower, middle and upper schools respectively which will be shared before the beginning of the new school year.

I am very much looking forward to working with you and your children to ensure they become successful, happy and resourceful young people in the future.

Kirsty Retallick
Headteacher

Our Ethos

Children will be joining us on their own personal journey and our role as a school is to nurture their talent. We will widen their aspirations and enable each child to thrive. We will do this within a motivating, supportive and respectful environment that allows them to develop into mature, confident and successful young adults.

The school embraces three rules:

- To Be Ready
- To Be Respectful
- To Be Responsible

Learning

Learning is a personal journey of discovery for each child and will be brought to life through creative, imaginative and exciting teaching techniques.

Learning experiences come in many forms and our innovative curriculum sets aspirational milestones for each stage of a child's educational journey. Learning through exploration, investigation and experimentation will allow children to thrive and develop as aspirational, confident and articulate young people.



Curriculum



Underpinning our formally taught curriculum we aim to develop the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of all children. Through assemblies, educational visits, curriculum enrichment events and linking with schools, we aim to ensure children become valuable members of both their immediate and global community.

Our lower school curriculum, which runs from Nursery to Year 3 encourages a progressive development of skills.

Following the principles of the Foundation Phase and adopting the flexibility of the new curriculum, all the children are given opportunities for increased focused learning. This will run alongside collaborative work, structured play, outdoor learning and investigative and practical activities. Our curriculum is rooted firmly in the requirements of the Welsh syllabus, but is enhanced to go above and beyond to best meet the needs of our children. It will also provide specialist teaching in music, sport and drama along with an introduction to modern foreign languages.

In the lower school our underlying focus will be teaching pupils the basic skills in mathematics, reading and writing.

Our middle school runs from Year 4 to 8 and builds on the skills and knowledge developed in lower school before leading into the upper school.

Ysgol Nantgwyn pupils will benefit from learning with their Caru Dysgu (Love of Learning) teacher with increasing amounts of time spent in specialist lessons as they move to Year 8.

Through the exploration of a range of major questions, pupils will progress according to their individual needs and gain greater independence in learning over time.

The Upper School Curriculum runs from Years 9 to 11 and will provide appropriate and relevant learning pathways that meet the needs and career aspirations of all pupils.

A fundamental aspect of the curriculum in this phase will be skills and application. All pupils will study a wide range of subjects, including English, maths, science, religious education and Welsh.

There will also be a designated course which may include the Welsh Baccalaureate.

and Leadership & Enterprise based programme. This will run parallel with a wide range of complementary subjects in areas including; humanities, social science, enterprise, creative arts, sport, wellbeing, technology and languages.

All pupils are expected to complete classwork, homework and revision to the best of their ability and are encouraged to engage with and enjoy their learning and wider school experiences.

Behaviour and Expectations

We want to help children develop a sense of self-worth, self-discipline and co-operation. Our school operates a system of rewards and consequences. These are available to all pupils for good behaviour and effort. In turn, there are approved consequences for non-compliance with school rules and agreed behaviours.

Welsh Language

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, Welsh is taught as a second language and our aim is for all children to become as bilingual as possible.

Extra support is available for children with English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Simple vocabulary, songs, games and sentences are introduced to the Nursery and Reception class, so that they hear Welsh words as soon as they start school.

As pupils progress from middle school into upper school, they will benefit from specialist Welsh lessons from our languages team. We provide opportunities for our pupils to use Welsh in a variety of contexts including at break times.

Pupils will then follow full course Welsh GCSE in Year 11.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

Ysgol Nantgwyn is mainly Christian in character but recognises a broad range of other faiths. Non-sectarian religious education and worship are provided for every pupil in accordance with the Education Acts.

Collective worship takes place each day and is based on the key values for life, including courage, creativity, peace, trust, forgiveness, justice, thankfulness, compassion, friendship, hope, truthfulness and humility.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from Religious Education and Collective Worship by contacting a member of staff.

Disability Scheme and Access Plan

Ysgol Nantgwyn is committed to ensuring equal treatment of all its employees, pupils and any others involved in the school community with any form of disability. We will ensure that disabled people are not treated less favourably in any procedures, practice, or service delivery. Our Disability Scheme and Disability Access Plan can be found on the school's website.





Safeguarding

We are very conscious about the security of our school site which is why there are rigorous safeguarding procedures to protect our pupils during the school day. Pupils who attend Nursery to Year 6 are taught for the majority of their lessons in the secure Gwyn building, which has dedicated external areas and play spaces. When children are using other parts of the school building they will be fully escorted following agreed procedures and protocols.

Links With Associate Primary Schools

We have four main associated primary schools - Cwmclydach, Llwynypia, Pontrhondda and Williamstown and links between these schools are well established. Transition processes begin in Year 5 and continue into Year 6 with a wide range of academic and pastoral events for all learners and their families.

Sport and Physical Education

Our aim is to give every child, regardless of physical ability, the opportunity to discover and improve their skills in a wide variety of situations. We aim to provide opportunities through sport for pupils to be creative and competitive and to face different challenges as individuals and teams. Sport engenders positive attitudes towards an active and healthy lifestyle.

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

We are committed to ensuring all pupils are supported to become healthy young adults. Mindfulness approaches will underpin our emotional wellbeing strategy, along with all pupils regularly exercising and both eating and drinking healthily.

Charging and Remissions

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the school curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

Voluntary Contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to voluntarily contribute to the cost of the trip.

However, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip.

Homework

Homework is an important part of school life and specific details on how you can support and encourage your child will be outlined in each parental handbook.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club provision will be available to all pupils from Nursery to Year 6. This provision is provided directly by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. There will also be a supervised provision for pupils from Year 7 to 11 and will be available in the main canteen and coffee shop.

School Lunches

School lunches will be available to all pupils. Children from Nursery to Year 6 will eat in the hall in the new building while all other pupils will eat in the large school hall or coffee shop area. A range of healthy meals and snacks are available each day.





Targets and Milestone

Having goals and targets gives pupils a sense of self-worth and encourages them to make further progress. The depth and detail of each target will be related to the child's year group and age.

Academic targets are set and agreed with pupils and teachers on a regular basis. Pastoral targets, for improvement in attendance and punctuality, are set by teachers and support staff at the beginning of every term and reviewed every half term.

How Can You Help?

Parents and carers can contribute to their child's development by encouraging them to take part in a variety of activities and ensuring that their form tutor is kept informed of any achievements, especially those that have taken place outside school.

They are also requested to sign and discuss their child's individual targets and to encourage them throughout the term to reach them.

Kingfishers Club

The Kingfishers offer before and after school club along with holiday club for children aged 5-12 years. For further information and to request a prospectus please email nightingalesplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or call 07970 099276

Community Learning

Opportunities for adults and members of the wider community to be involved in school life will be a strong feature of Ysgol Nantgwyn. Volunteering to be a buddy reader, helper or to commit time to support school-based activities will offer excellent opportunities for individuals to make new friends and support their children and family.

Please get in touch if you would like to become more involved in school life.

Playgroup and Wrap Around Care

We are delighted to work in partnership with the Nightingales group to provide a range of childcare provision to support parents and families. Nightingales is open for children aged from two years every Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year excluding Bank Holidays. Full day care runs from 7.30am to 6pm with meals and snacks included. Playgroup and Flying Start sessions are also available.

The Site

Ysgol Nantgwyn has two main buildings: Nant (Year 7 to 11) and Gwyn (Nursery to Year 6). Pupils in Nursery through to Year 6 will be based in the Gwyn building on the Gellifaelog estate side of the site which will be accessed from either this entrance or the path access via Llewellyn Street.

Pupils in Year 7 through to Year 11 will be based in the Nant building which will be accessed from either side using the designated paths and entrances.

Pupils arriving by bus will be dropped at the Gwyn side of the school in the designated bus turning area.

Pre-nursery children attending the Nightingales provision will have a designated drop off area at the Llewellyn Street entrance.





The Pupil Pledge

The development of the wider child is pivotal to their individual success. We will strive for pupils to benefit from a wide range of experiences.

The pupils will be involved in the creation of a pledge of 50 experiences for every one of them to enjoy on their wider school journey. These may include:

- Going on a residential visit/trip
- Seeing a show or production in a theatre
- Singing in the Principality Stadium
- Taking part in an Urdd event
- Camping outdoor/adventure activity
- Singing as part of a choir to the local community
- Representing the school
- Visiting a new country /hosting an international visitor
- Raising money for charity
- Volunteering to help the local community

In addition, a wide range of extra curricular activities will be available to all pupils which will include sport, music, drama, craft and academic clubs.

Attendance

Attendance at school is vital. We expect all pupils on roll to attend every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so.

Persistent lateness can be as damaging to a child's education as absence and pupils who arrive late disrupt not only their own education but also that of others.

Medicines and Illness

We ask that parents do not send their child to school if they are unwell. If children become ill during the day we will try to contact parents. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that relevant addresses and telephone numbers, including an emergency contact, are made available to the office. If your child has been prescribed medicine which needs to be taken during the day, parents must complete a form from the school office. Medicines should be in a clearly marked container with written instructions.

Additional Learning Needs

The curriculum will be adapted to suit the needs of all children and the level of provision will vary according to the needs of the child.

This information is agreed with the child and parent and is documented on an IEP (Individual Educational Plan) and PSP (Pastoral Support Plan). The implementation of the new Additional Learning Needs Bill will take place over the next few years and processes will change to further enhance the provision for pupil in our care.

Admission Statement

The local authority manages the admission process to the school at each entry point. Mid year admissions are also facilitated by the local authority. Please contact the school for more information.



Home School Agreement

The School will:

- Provide a safe, stimulating, well ordered and caring environment
- Have clear aims and objectives for all pupils relating to their education, behaviour, attitude and ability
- Communicate with you promptly should we have any concerns or worries relating to your child
- Offer you the opportunity to express your views regarding your child's education and invite you to parents meetings
- Value each pupil as an individual
- Provide regular homework
- Ensure we are available, by arrangement, to discuss your child's progress or your concerns

The Parent / Carer will:

- Strive to support my child in the standards the school seeks to achieve
- Help and encourage my child to take an interest in their work and homework
- Take part in regular discussions regarding my child's progress and development
- Inform the school of any matters which may be affecting my child's progress or attitude
- Assure regular attendance and high standards of punctuality
- Support the school in its school uniform policy
- Help my child to follow the school's rules

The Pupil will:

- Show that I am willing to work to the best of my ability
- Cooperate with others within the school community
- Take pride in my own appearance and wear school uniform
- Complete my homework on time
- Look after my school and its surroundings
- Look after my own and other people's things in school
- Respect other people and their opinions
- Follow the school code of conduct





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