

Ysgol Maes y Felin

“Achieve Excellence, Exceed Expectations”



Ysgol Maes y Felin
Pen y Maes Road
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7EN

01352 711366

mfmail@hwbcymru.net

Mr. David Thomas B.Ed (Hons)
Headteacher

Prospectus

2025 - 2026





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Ethos -Guiding Principles

Following extensive discussion with all staff the following guiding principles have been agreed and the School will seek to promote these at all times:

Vision

Achieve Excellence, Exceed Expectation.

Mission Statement

To nurture talent, broaden horizons and encourage self belief.

Core Values

- R**espect, to treat everyone consistently with tolerance and understanding.
- A**spire, to encourage high expectations, challenge ourselves and thrive in all we do.
- I**nclusive, to meet the varying needs of every individual.
- S**ecure, to nurture a caring welcoming school environment.
- E**xpectation, to maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning, attitude and well-being.



Welcome to our school



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

A very warm welcome is extended to you and your child from all of us at Ysgol Maes y Felin. I am extremely proud to have been appointed as Acting Headteacher and will, alongside the fantastic staff team, work tirelessly to ensure wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do and all children are supported to achieve their full potential.

At Ysgol Maes y Felin, we are committed to providing a supportive, caring environment with educational experiences that excite and inspire our pupil's, creating a spark for learning that will continue throughout their lives.

We will do this by living up to the Vision and Mission statements which have been agreed by all staff and are as follows:

Vision

Achieve Excellence, Exceed Expectation.

Mission Statement

To nurture talent, broaden, horizons and encourage self-belief.

If you should require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas'.

Headteacher



School Details

Name of School:

Ysgol Maes y Felin

Address:

Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 7EN

Telephone:

01352 711366

Headteacher:

Mr. David Thomas, B.Ed. Hons.

Chair of Governing Body:

Sandra Sandham, Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 7EN

Type of School:

Primary School (3 to 11 years).

Local Authority:

Flintshire Local Authority, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 6NB.

Useful Contact Numbers:

School Admissions: 01352 704068

School Meals: 01352 704043

School Transport: 01352 701234

Ysgol Maes y Felin is a County Primary, co-educational day school catering for pupils between the ages of three and eleven years of age with some 310 pupils on roll at present. The pupils are organized into twelve mixed year classes and a Social Communication Resource Centre for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.) from within Flintshire. At the age of eleven, pupils will transfer to Ysgol Treffynnon, which is co-located with Ysgol Maes y Felin.



School Staff

**Headteacher**

Mr. D. Thomas B.Ed Hons.

Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. T. Nellist B.Ed.
Member of S.M.T.

**ALN Co-ordinator**

Mrs. C. Davies B.A.
Member of S.M.T

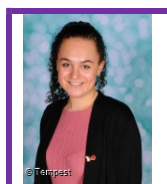
Teaching Staff

**Nursery**

Mrs. N. Roberts
H.L.T.A.

Nursery / Reception

Miss. M Wilde

**Reception / Year 1**

Mrs. B. Martin B.Ed.

Reception / Year 1

Miss. L. Minton

**Year 2 / 3**

Mrs. L. Rowett

Year 2 / 3

Mrs. G. Davies B.A. (P.G.C.E.)
Member of S.M.T.





Year 2 / 3
Mrs. S. Allman

Year 3 / 4
Miss. C. Joy



Year 5 / 6
Miss. A. Stevenson

Year 5 / 6
Mrs. R. Saunders
Member of S.L.T.



Year 5 / 6
Mr. O. Kenway

Communication Language Unit
Miss. G. Haythorne
Head of Social Communication
Resource



Teaching Assistants



Mrs. J. Allshorn

Miss. M. Blair



Mrs. S. Brown

Miss. R. Cain



Mrs. J. Cowans

Mrs. M. Duffy





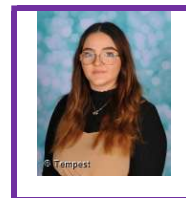
Mrs. S. Evans



Ms. A. Gray



Mrs. D. Harker



Miss. M. Hodgskin



Mrs. D. Hughes-Conroy



Mrs. R. Jenkins



Miss. K. Kidd



Miss. K. Lewis



Miss. P. McCarron



Mrs. Z. Owen



Miss. L. Owen



Miss. V. Roberts



Mrs. R. Sigsworth



Mrs. C. Tait



Mr. M. Wilkes



Ancillary Staff



Estates Technician
Mrs. M. Allshorn

Cleaner
Mrs. J. Hirst



Cleaner
Mrs. V. Roberts

Cleaner
Miss. K. Spencer



Mid Day Supervisors



Senior Supervisor
Mrs. J. Cowans

Mid Day Supervisor Assistant
Miss. M. Blair



Mid Day Supervisor Assistant
Mrs. J. Hirst

Mid Day Supervisor Assistant
Miss K. Kidd



Mid Day Supervisor Assistant
Mrs. V. Roberts



Senior Supervisor
Ms. A. Gray

Assistant Supervisor
Mrs. J. Cowans



Assistant Supervisor
Mrs. J. Hirst

Admin Staff



Business Lead
Mrs. D. Dickinson

Admin

Attendance



A.S.O. (County Based)
Mrs. R. Probert



School Governors

Chairman of Governors:

Dr. Sandra Sandham (Local Authority Governor)
Cerdd Dant, Holway Road, Holywell, CH8 7EH
(01352) 710072

Vice Chair:

Rev. D. Cawdell

Parent Governors:

Mrs. Rachael Bousfield
Mrs. Sophie Henney
Miss. Amy Lambert
Vacancy

Local Authority Governors:

Dr. Sandra Sandham
Mrs. Pat Corbett
Vacancy

Minor Authority Governors:

Cllr. Ian Hodge

Community Governors:

Mrs. Helen Mayberry
Rev. D. Cawdell
Mr. Andy Jones

Teacher Governor:

Mrs. Bethan Martin

Non Teaching Staff Governor:

Mrs. Zoe Owen

Headteacher:

Mr. David Thomas

Clerk (Non Voting Member):

Mrs. Debbie Dickinson

Observer (Non Voting Member):

Mrs. Tamsin Nellist



Function of the Governing Body

As Governors we aim to ensure that the best possible education, both academic and social, is provided by the School. We are concerned with all matters relating to the School, and these concerns fall into four principal categories:

- The admission and welfare of the pupils, and the appointment and welfare of both teaching and non teaching staff;
- Monitoring the curriculum, including that for pupils with special educational needs, ensuring that appropriate targets are set and implemented to raise the achievement of the school;
- The provision, maintenance and upkeep of the school buildings and grounds;
- The provision of resources, and the monitoring of costs incurred in running the school.

Minutes of all Governors' meeting are available at school. In addition to formal meetings, we are invited to attend school events, which we are always happy to support.

We are provided with a copy of the Instrument of Government for schools and a Handbook setting out in more detail specific information on the discharge of our duties. In addition, Flintshire Local Authority provides us with help and advice. We are always made welcome in the Local Authority to attend a number of training events throughout the year. We then report back to the main Governing Body.

Should you wish to communicate with the Governing Body, you should contact the Clerk, Mrs. Debbie Dickinson at the school or contact the Chairman of Governors at the address provided above.



The School Day

	Early Entitlement	Nursery	Infant	Junior
First Lesson	09:00 – 11:00	08:55 – 11.25	08:55 – 10:30	08:55 – 10:30
Morning Break		-	10:30 – 10:45	10:30 – 10:45
Second Lesson		-	10:45 – 12:00	10:45 – 12:05
Lunch		12:30 – 3:00	12:00 – 13:00	12:05 – 12:55
Third Lesson		-	13:00 – 14:00	12:55 – 14:00
Afternoon Break		-	14:00 – 14:10	14:00 – 14:10
Fourth Lesson		-	14:10 – 15:00	14:10 – 15:10

23.5 hours per week are spent on teaching. The remaining time is taken up by the statutory daily act of collective worship and registration.

Parents / carers / guardians are asked not to send pupils to school too early as we cannot be responsible for children on the premises before 08:45 and except in inclement weather, the children will not be admitted into the classroom before 08:55.

The bell to start the day will be rung at 08:55 and after lining up, pupils will be allowed into the building by the Duty Teacher. After registration, lessons will commence. Collective Worship on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Friday will be from 10:15 – 10:30. The pupils will have the opportunity and be encouraged to share their achievements with the rest of the school during the merit assembly. Hymn Practice is held on Wednesdays followed by Thought for the Day from 10:10 – 10:30.

Breaktimes:

Pupils are not allowed to leave the premises during break times (snacks and drinks are sold during the morning break time for junior pupils). Chewing gum is not allowed on school premises.

Lunchtime Arrangements:

The school canteen operates a choice system at a current cost of £2.50 per day - £11.50 per week. The menus are worked on a three week rota. On no account are pupils allowed off the premises without prior permission. Parents / carers are able select their child's meal up to 8.00 a.m. of the morning via Cypad. All pupils up to year 4 are entitled to a free school meal.

A team of Mid-Day Supervisory Assistants and a Senior Supervisor, under the County agreed system, will be responsible for lunchtime procedures and the safe use of play equipment provided by the school.

Free Meals:

Parents / carers / guardians may apply for free school meals and all applications are assessed on a national scale. Application forms can be obtained from the Flintshire County Council website.



School Term 2025 – 2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30							27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
December 2025							January 2026							February 2026							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		
March 2026							April 2026							May 2026							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31																				
June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
														30							

	Training Day		School Holiday		Bank Holiday (School closed)
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Health Matters

Flintshire has a comprehensive School Health Service provided by the North East Wales N.H.S. Trust. The aim of this service is to promote the health of your child 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 Health Team and / or the School Doctor, both of whom have specialised training in educational medicine, community Paediatrics and child health. The School Sister for Ysgol Maes y Felin is Sally Reay and the School Doctor is Dr. Caryl Daniel. These specialists are able to liaise directly with all other areas of Flintshire's Health Services and other agencies should the need arising.

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 to older children from the School Nurse 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 which may affect his / her progress in the classroom. Parents / carers / guardians 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.

The School sister visits regularly to check the children's general health, to promote healthy lifestyles and to liaise with the school staff regarding any health problems and to talk to the older pupils about puberty. She also makes herself available to parents on specified dates and times.

If you have any concerns with any of your children, do please feel free to approach the School Sister to discuss them.

Gemma Hall is based at Flint Clinic, Flint – Telephone number 03000 859540

Medicines:

If a child has any particular medical requirements, please contact the Headteacher in order that the well being of each individual is ensured.

Headlice

It is the parents' / carers' / guardians' responsibility to ensure their child's hair is kept free of infestation and at the first sign of a problem, please take immediate remedial action to eradicate the headlice.

Whilst staff are alert, quite often unless brought to our attention we are unaware of the individual problem. If, however, it is identified parents / carers / guardians will be contacted and asked if they require any further advice on treatment.



Child Protection

The ALL WALES CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES makes it clear that schools and colleges have an important role to play in the protection of children against abuse. This is confirmed by the Policy of Flintshire County Council, which sets out the necessary procedures to be followed by all staff.

Ysgol Maes y Felin, therefore, has a duty to refer any concerns about the well being of pupils to the Social Services Department and School Medical Officer for further advice.

The school has a robust safeguarding policy, copies of which can be made available from the school office.

Please see below the Child Protection Officers for Ysgol Maes y Felin:

- Mr. D. Thomas (Headteacher);
- Mrs. T. Nellist (Acting Deputy Headteacher);
- Mrs. C. Burke (ANCo);
- Dr. S. Sandham (Chair of Governors).

If you have any safeguarding or child protection concerns, do not hesitate to contact any of the above at school at any time. In the event that the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher are unavailable, please contact Dr. Sandham on the number on the Governor page of this prospectus.

All staff, teaching and non teaching have had Child Protection Level 1 training and the Headteacher, Acting Deputy Headteacher, ANCo, Enfys teacher and Chair of Governors have received Level 3 training.

If you require any further information regarding any of the above, please make an appointment to see the Headteacher at your convenience.



Attendance and Absence

Regular attendance at school is essential if the best efforts of the teachers are to achieve their aims. Parents / carers / guardians are under a legal duty to send their children to school regularly. Frequent absences interrupt progress and can affect the development of social relationships. When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside school hours. If this cannot be arranged, then pupils should attend school before and / or after any appointment.

If for any reason a child needs to leave school during school hours, the class teacher must be informed and arrangements made to collect the child from school. The registers are taken every morning and afternoon and record lateness, absence and the reason for the absence.

If an explanation for absence has not been received, then a reminder letter with space for completion by the parent / carer / guardian, will be sent. If a reply to this is not received then the child will be registered as having an unauthorized absence. Letters or telephone calls to inform the school of absence are very important. Parents / carers / guardians are most earnestly requested to lend their support in informing us of any problems which may affect the regular and punctual attendance of their children.

Authorised absences can only be registered for the following reasons:

- Illness, medical / dental appointments;
- Educational visits, sporting activities or any educational activity approved by the school;
- Support or temporary education on another site;
- Family holiday – up to a maximum of 10 school days in any school year. The school does not encourage holidays during term time. Parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupil for holidays and must apply to school for permission;
- Any other approved circumstance such as a family bereavement.

Year	Total Attendance	% Unauthorised Absences	% Authorised Absences	Attendance Rate
2018 – 2019	100528	1.65%	6.36%	91.98%
2019 - 2020	Due to COVID-19, school has not reported on attendance for this year			
2020 – 2021	Due to COVID-19, school has not reported on attendance for this year			
2021 – 2022	88,475	3.85%	7.36%	88.79%
2022 – 2023	86,619	5.85%	7.31%	86.85%
2023 - 2024	86,358	6.50%	5.79%	87.71%
2024 – 2025	89,722	3.47%	6.42%	90.11%

Absences for any other reason will be registered as unauthorized. Mr. Trevor Jones is the school's Inclusion Welfare Officer who helps us monitor, not only attendance, but also other problems which can, from time to time, affect our pupils.

Parents / carers / guardians should ensure that their children arrive at school on time, properly attired and in a condition to learn.



Parental Involvement

It is important that close links are maintained between school and home if pupils are to derive the greatest benefits from their education. We make every effort to keep parents / carers / guardians informed of developments and events that are happening in school. There are two formal parents evenings for each year group during the school year, one early in the Autumn term for parents to meet their child's new teacher and one in the Easter term to discuss work and progress. School reports are issued at the end of the Summer term with an allocated time for discussion, being given. Parents / carers / guardians, however, are welcome to visit school anytime during the year to seek advice or information concerning their child's educational progress.

There are also plenty of opportunities for parents / carers / guardians to join us in events during the school year i.e. Sports Day, Concerts, Summer Fayre, Stay and Play, Class Service, Lesson and Lunch etc. and we welcome help parents / carers / guardians with various organisations.

Parents / carers / guardians can be assured that no decision affecting their child's education or welfare will be made without them being consulted first.

Parents / carers / guardians will be informed of school activities through newsletters. If a newsletter has been missed - spare copies are available from the School Secretary and also available on the school website.

We take great pride in the relationship with parents / carers / guardians which is based on trust and respect. Below are some of the comments that our parents / carers / guardians have made regarding Ysgol Maes y Felin:

- "Parents are always kept updated with news"
- "Can always approach staff"
- "Friendly staff"
- "Lots of fun activities take place"
- "Good learning environment"
- "Great teaching"
- "Great rapport of staff and children"
- "Good after school activities and fund raising events"
- "Teachers are very polite and make you feel welcome"
- "Children feel happy and safe"



Dress Code

All pupils are expected to wear school uniform when attending school.

The uniform will be a white t-shirt with a purple sweatshirt or purple cardigan. Grey trousers or skirt along with sensible black shoes (not trainers).

We would therefore be grateful if parents / carers / guardians could make an effort to ensure that their children attend school in their uniform. We thank you in anticipation of your co-operation. The uniform is as follows:

Uniform

- Purple jumper or cardigan
- Grey trousers or skirt
- White polo shirt
- Grey shorts
- Fleece Jacket
- Sensible footwear essential

Summer (optional)

- Grey shorts
- Purple Gingham / Striped Dress

P.E.

- Dark leggings, tracksuit bottoms or shorts.
- White t shirt
- Purple jumper
- Trainers or pumps

There is no requirement for items to have the school logo but if you would like to, jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, fleeces, book bags, PE bags, caps, hats and waterproof jackets all bearing the school logo can be ordered from Stitch Design using www.stitchdesign.co.uk or First Class Uniforms, Prestatyn using <https://1stclassuniforms.co.uk/collections/maes-y-felin>

In addition, pupils will need swimming costumes, pumps, black or blue shorts and a blue or white T-shirt for P.E. Training shoes are not suitable for gymnastics/dance.

It would be appreciated if all items of clothing could be marked with your child's name. This will undoubtedly save you money in the long run and help us to return lost property.



Pupils will be allowed to wear a watch and studded earrings. NO jewellery can be worn in P.E. sessions.

Extreme Haircuts

The school does not permit children to have “extreme” haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children.

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we discourage children from wearing such shoes in Ysgol Maes y Felin. Also children are discouraged from wearing trainers to school; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisure wear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We encourage all children to wear shoes as stated in the uniform list.

Make Up:

No make up is permitted. Any child attending school wearing make-up will be asked to remove it.

False Nails:

False nails are not permitted. Any child attending school wearing false nails will be asked to remove them by the next day.

The Role of the Parents / Carers / Guardians

We ask all parents / carers / guardians who send their children to Ysgol Maes y Felin to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents / carers / guardians have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents / carers / guardians is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent / carer / guardian would like the school to modify the uniform policy, he / she should make representation, in the first instance, to the Headteacher.

The Role of Governors

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents / carers / guardians regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hard wearing, safe and practical.



Charging and Remissions Policy

The Governors of the school have approved a charging policy for certain activities, as required by the 1988 Education Act. Broadly speaking, this means that no charge is made for education in school time, with very few exceptions.

Requests for voluntary contributions from parents / carers / guardians will be made for some activities which can only be provided if there is sufficient voluntary funding, whilst ensuring that no pupil is excluded from such activity by reason of inability or unwillingness to make a voluntary contribution.

Where the parents / carers / guardians of a pupil are in receipt of Income Support, the full cost of board and lodgings for any residential activity that is organised within school hours will be remitted.

Induction Day

To facilitate the easy transfer of pupils from Primary to Secondary school, an Induction Day is held in June / July when pupils spend a day at their 'new' school becoming familiar with their new surroundings.

Admissions

Pupils attend Ysgol Maes y Felin the September after their third birthday and join the Nursery on a part time basis during the morning / afternoon session only. This may be split into a.m. / p.m. sessions depending on pupil numbers. Parents / carers / guardians wishing to send their children to Ysgol Maes y Felin must complete the necessary documentation which can be found on the Flintshire website at www.flintshire.gov.uk and must be completed online.

Parents / carers / guardians are asked to keep the school informed of any changes in the basic information supplied on the admission form, especially changes of name, address, contact telephone numbers or any family circumstances.

Where application for admission is made by families who live outside our natural catchment area, a place will be provided if the admission number has not been reached. Priority will always be given to those children within our catchment area and should our admission number be exceeded a waiting list will be applied.

For further information regarding any of the above, please request a copy of the school's Admission Policy.



Admissions to the Secondary School

Pupils normally transfer to Ysgol Treffynnon in the September following their eleventh birthday. The Director of Education invites parents / carers / guardians to express their preference of a secondary school for their child. Again parents / carers / guardians should apply online via the County website.

Sporting Aims

The school aims to give as many opportunities as possible for all pupils to take part in sports and outdoor events as well as enjoying the challenge and encouraging excellence. The school has teams for soccer, rugby, netball, swimming, athletics, chess, cross-country, rounders, hockey and dance, usually entering local, County and Urdd competitions.

Equal Opportunities

Staff and pupils are assured of equal rights and opportunities to express their individuality, to be respected for their beliefs and characteristics, to develop a distinct and unique personality within the setting of a positive and supportive school environment.

School Policies and Schemes of Work

These are kept within school and may be made available for reading by parents / carers / guardians on receipt of sufficient notice.

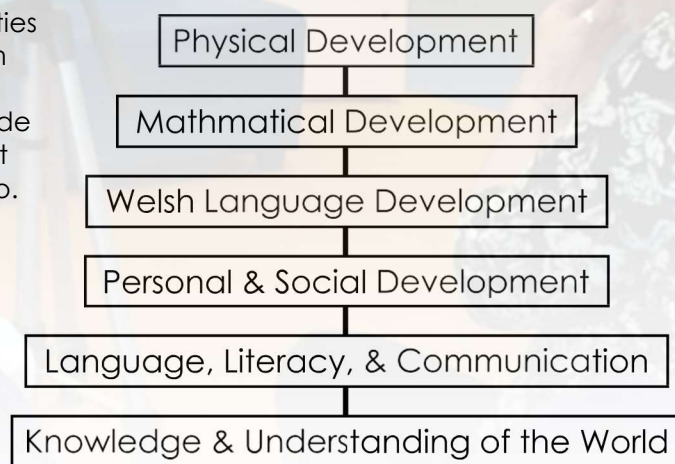
Within the class, the children are taught in a variety of ways, at times on a whole-class basis, occasionally on a group basis and occasionally children will receive individual instruction, depending on the type of lesson being taught and upon the ability of the child.



Curriculum Statement

Foundation Phase

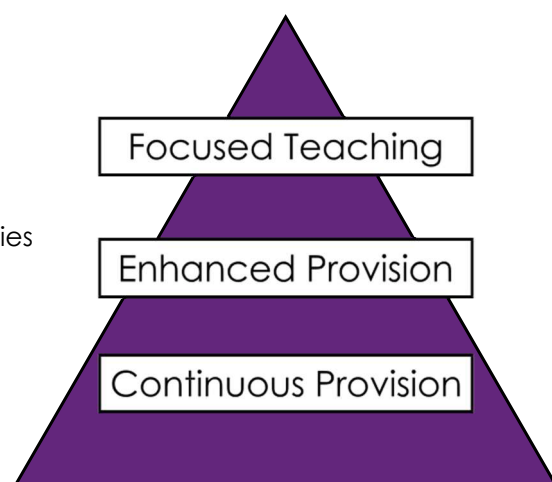
Young children learn best through play based activities that are well planned and resourced, enabling them to develop their skills in a practical way that is meaningful to them. At Ysgol Maes y Felin, we provide a combination of a child and adult led activities that build on what the children already know and can do. The curriculum is designed to meet the diverse needs of all our children, at their own stage of development. Children are observed to assess the level that they are working at. The teacher will then plan activities that will extend their skills or their thinking in each area.



The Foundation Phase Framework has seven areas of learning, with an emphasis on Personal and Social Development, Mathematical Development and Language, Literacy and Communication.

In practice, your child will develop their skills through activities in different parts of their Foundation Phase classroom and the outdoors. There are three types of activities that cross all the seven areas of development.

- When the teacher or teaching assistant is teaching or reinforcing a new skill.
- When the teacher provides extra resources for the children to practice and extend the skills on their own.
- The areas and equipment which are available for children to use on a daily basis to practice their skills.
- The children will also be provided with lots of opportunities to apply the literacy and numeracy skills they have been taught to the other areas of learning throughout the day, for example using their measuring skills learnt in Maths to measure plants.



As our children move from Foundation Phase to Key Stage Two, a smooth transition is achieved through a gradual increase in formal table based activities during year two. The children will develop their independent working and group work skills so that they are ready to access the Key Stage Two curriculum. For more information on the Foundation Phase curriculum, please ask a member of our Foundation phase team or visit www.wales.gov.uk/foundationphase.



Teaching Methods and Organisation

We strive to provide our pupils with the best possible education and to deliver the requirements of the National Curriculum within a broadly based curriculum. When producing Schemes of Work, the planning is based upon the Programmes of Study as laid down in the Regulations. We aim to provide our pupils with the knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a fast changing world.

We have a two year rolling programme which ensures that all pupils cover all the Attainment Targets at least twice during their four year stay with us.

The medium of instruction is English but Welsh as a second language is taught to all pupils.

There are Common Requirements that apply across all subjects in the National Curriculum.

They include a statement of Access for all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEN) and those who are gifted and talented.

The other Common Requirements emphasise the importance of providing opportunities, where appropriate, in all National Curriculum subjects, for pupils to develop and apply Common Requirements related to communication, mathematical, information technology, problem-solving and creative skills and to the Curriculum Cymraeg and personal and social education.

English

Reading Development

The overall aim of our reading programme for all our children can be summarised as 'the need to produce critical efficient and habitual readers.' The children will be prepared to meet the demands of reading in adult life and for this they must not only be able to gain meaning from a text at a variety of levels with maximum efficiency but they must also want to read and enjoy their reading.

On arrival from the Infants School, the Year Three pupils will be assessed to gain additional knowledge of their reading ability. Prior to the children coming to this school in September, Year Three teachers will visit the Infant School to gain background knowledge of each child's reading ability.

The early linking between Top Infants and Year 3 ensures a smooth transfer of each pupil from Infant to Junior School.

Each child's progress will be monitored and recorded. The children with more severe reading difficulties will be heard to read frequently. When a teacher listens to the child reading, he/she will note any decoding problems and simple questions will be asked to check comprehension. We also ask that children read frequently at home and parents are asked to encourage reading by listening to their children read often, especially in the Lower Juniors and to take an active interest in their children's reading as their ability develops.



Independent Pieces of Writing / Grammar

We shall aim to develop good English usage and to this end a knowledge of simple grammatical terms will be used to lead the children to improve their written expression.

From a study of individual children's writing the Teacher will diagnose what help is needed for the individual, if clarity, grammatical accuracy, punctuation and spellings are to maintain some relationship and fluency.

The grammar we teach will be based on the needs of the children, as shown by weaknesses that arise in their oral and written work, correcting errors which have occurred and then going on to the relevant exercise in books. In the early years the basic fundamentals of a sentence will be studied.

Talking / Listening

Children are encouraged to develop constructive talk, to enhance their confident and articulate use of speech. They are also encouraged to listen carefully, to develop their skills of comprehension, their ability to interpret and follow instructions and their ability to relate to others within a group situation.

Spelling

The children are given a weekly list of spellings to be learnt at home.

Mathematics

The School Policy is aimed at developing pupil's ability to use Mathematics effectively as a tool in a wide range of practical tasks. Our aim is to develop creativity coupled with an ability to think clearly and logically and to tackle problems in a systematic way.

Through their Mathematical studies, children learn to use the language of Mathematics to describe and represent relationships, interpret events and make predictions. We try to encourage perseverance, willingness to work with others and self-confidence.

Our approach to number work places an emphasis upon the use of practical material, including structured number material, on problem solving, investigations, number patterns, games and the use of calculators.

Mental Mathematics is seen as an important aspect of Maths development and is practised daily.

Practical work is advocated to secure concepts and give practice in measuring skills and to develop meaningful language. Practical activities develop children's recognition of shape and awareness of their properties.

Literacy and Numeracy Framework (L.N.F.)

Recent curriculum changes in Wales have seen the introduction of the Literacy & Numeracy framework. All schools across Wales have had to alter all their planning to accommodate the teaching of literacy & numeracy in virtually every lesson.

This means that once a skill or concept has been taught in Maths or English lessons, this then should be transferred – where appropriate – into all other curricula areas. At Ysgol Y Fron we have robust plans in place which focus on literacy and numeracy skills in to a topic based approach to learning. These



plans are maintained and updated regularly so that we as a school keep pace with all educational changes to the curriculum.

Science

Science is a process by which an understanding of the physical, chemical and biological aspects of the world is discovered.

At Ysgol Maes y Felin our objectives are to aid children to develop the necessary skills to allow them to explore and investigate the world of science. We aim to help them to achieve a fuller understanding of scientific phenomena.

Wherever possible, the children are given the opportunity to develop the process skills required for the exploration of Science, engaged in investigations or problem solving activities. They are encouraged to pose their own questions and devise their own experiments.

Information Communication Technology (I.C.T.)

Our Information Communication Technology is based on the educational and curriculum needs of the children, not on the technical capabilities of the available hardware / software.

Information Communication Technology is taught through a range of curriculum activities and it is through their experience in using a wide range of Information Communication Technology devices (calculators, video recorders, tape recorders, computers) pupils will become aware of the great variety of ways in which Information Communication Technology can be applied.

Information Technology skills and knowledge are developed most effectively and in a more relevant and purposeful way when ICT is used as necessary during learning activities on various subjects and themes.

Religious Education (R.E.)

Religious Education is compulsory in all schools, although there are certain categories of exemption. We believe that it is important that Religious Education should not indoctrinate children in any particular faith but should set out to help them develop an understanding of what and how people worship and how religious faith affects people's everyday lives. As the major living faith in this country, Christianity will be studied in depth. Judaism and Hinduism will also be studied to enhance the children's understanding of our multi-faith society.

Collective Worship

There is a daily act of worship and each class prepares a service once per Spring term and once per Summer term for the rest of the school with parents being invited. Occasionally local Clergy are invited to lead the Collective Worship. Visitors from charities and aid organisations are also invited to explain their role in helping others.

All pupils are expected to take part, unless a special case for exemption on religious grounds is made to the Headteacher.



Welsh

Welsh is taught as a second language throughout the school. The process of learning Welsh will develop pupils' speaking and listening, reading and writing skills and will develop an understanding of how the language works. The language is also used every day in real situations thus the children are encouraged to use Welsh during registration, various requests, everyday greetings and comments etc.

Music

The main aim of Music is to foster the pupils' activity to, and their understanding and enjoyment of music, through an active involvement in performing, composing and appraising. 'The Silver Burdett' and 'The Sound of Music' schemes have been integrated into all classes. Some specialist tuition is available for the teaching of violin & cornet and the playing of the recorder is taught to beginners and advanced groups.

Sex and Relationships Education

Personal Development & Relationships is one of seven health themes that form the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes. This encompasses the 2010 Welsh Government recommendations for Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) in schools which recommends a graduated, age-appropriate Sex and Relationships Education programme.

Ysgol Maes y Felin has adopted an age appropriate programme for pupils based on national and local guidance includes the use of Sense Growing up and keeping Safe and Tyfu i Fynu. The programme of delivery is outlined in the Sex and Relationships Policy and summarised in the parent /carer leaflet.

Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents/ carers to withdraw their child, either wholly or partly, from receiving sex education in school, with the exception of what is contained within the National Curriculum. Parents/ carers must inform the school if they wish to exercise this right and are advised to make arrangements to see the Head teacher to identify which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

Physical Education

P.E. provides children with the opportunity to develop control, co-ordination of skills and a degree of mastery over their bodily movements. Children learn the need for co-operation, rules, fair play, discipline and safety, as well as the contribution made by exercise and fitness to good health. Gymnastics / Dance take place in the School Hall, Games outside on the yard and swimming is taught at Holywell Leisure Centre.

The school requests that suitable changes of clothing are required for each activity.

Boys and girls take part in the same activities and these include:



Swimming

The children attend the local Leisure Centre under the supervision of a class teacher and a qualified swimming teacher. All pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 will attend. This usually takes place during the Summer Term.

Target Setting

The school has set a number of targets for the coming year. These are part of the continuous drive to improve standards throughout the school.

Assessment

In addition to the continuous assessing and monitoring that class teachers carry out during the course of the year, pupils are formally assessed three times during the year in assessment week. From these assessments targets are set and shared with both children and parents at Parents' Evening where each parent is presented with a target sheet of the Core subjects showing the next steps for their child's education. Therefore parents are actively encouraged to work on these targets at home with their children giving a direct insight as to their child's ability.

Additionally, at Ysgol Maes y Felin, we carry out the WNT (Welsh National Tests) twice a year, once in September / October and again in May / June. The three tests that are carried out are a Reading Test, Procedural and Reasoning Test.

The purpose of these assessments is to find out children's strengths and areas for further development so that their teachers can help them grow their skills.

Personalised assessments are taken online and are adaptive, meaning that questions are selected based on the responses to previous questions. This provides a tailored assessment experience for each learner and will help all learners develop their skills through understanding what they can do, the things they may need to work on, and their next steps.

The assessments provide schools with information on the skills of individual learners, groups and whole classes.

There is no set time of year or 'assessment window' for personalised assessments, the timing is decided by the school.

Learners can take the assessments in small or large groups, depending on the school's preferences and facilities.

Learners must do the assessments once during the academic year. Schools also have the option to use the assessment once more during the academic year.

Personalised assessments are a tool that schools can use as part of their wider assessment processes under Curriculum for Wales.



Special Educational Needs

If a child experiences some kind of learning difficulty in the classroom the Class Teacher gives assistance within the class. If further support is needed the child may receive additional support. The children requiring support receive constant monitoring and assistance and are tested for spelling, reading and comprehension. Support is provided on the basis of the child's needs.

Parents are kept informed of progress and are invited for formal discussions with the S.E.N. Teacher.

An Individual Education Plan will be devised for a child who has special educational needs and the child's parent / carers will be invited to school to discuss any concerns he/she may have and the targets set.

It is possible that from time to time it may be deemed necessary to involve various Outside Agencies as part of the programme of provision.

Children who have great difficulty in learning or severe behavioural problems, are referred, with the parents' consent, to the Educational Psychologist or Behaviour Support Teacher.

Regular review meetings are held, involving all parties concerned, to assess and monitor progress and establish new targets.

Healthy Schools Initiative

Ysgol Maes y Felin have been part of the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes since the amalgamation of the two previous schools in 2016.

The Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme is a partnership between Public Health Wales and Flintshire County Council which is committed to supporting and encouraging the growth and implementation of health and wellbeing in all schools.

No Smoking Zone

At Ysgol Maes Y Felin we are committed to the education of your children. However, more than this we are committed to the all-round development, care, safety and health of the pupils in our charge. To this end we have taken the decision of declaring our school and its grounds a 'No Smoking Environment' in line with LA Policy. We are sure that parents / carers / guardians and visitors will support us in this decision. We will be displaying posters as reminders of your commitment and ours.