



Growing Together, Aiming High

# YSGOL BRYN GWALIA

2022-23 PROSPECTUS

# Welcome to Ysgol Bryn Gwalia



Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to wish you and your family a very warm welcome to Ysgol Bryn Gwalia in Mold. Ysgol Bryn Gwalia is a one-form entry school, just the right size to offer a caring and nurturing environment.

Choosing the right school for your child is a very important decision and I hope that the information contained within this prospectus will give you a flavour of the curriculum and enrichment offering at our school. I also hope that it will introduce the work of the school to promote children's moral, spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

Being an active school within the community, we are keen to ensure that our values-based approach helps to develop our children as responsible local and global citizens.

At Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, we recognise the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum and how such a curriculum impacts positively on our children's futures. We also place the wellbeing of our children at the centre of everything that we do; we firmly believe that children who are happy learn the best.

We are defined as a 'Predominantly English Medium Primary School' by the Welsh Government. Although English is the main language of daily life, significant emphasis is placed on developing the Welsh language skills of our pupils, staff and wider community.

Our strong family ethos promotes a positive atmosphere in which all of the members of the school community feel welcome. Each of our children are given opportunities to discover their strengths and talents, and celebrate their achievements.

Everyone at Ysgol Bryn Gwalia is committed to providing the very best for our children to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve their best and be ready for the next steps of their lifelong learning journey.

You and your family would be very welcome to visit our school to see the excellent work of the staff and pupils first-hand and to see the high quality facilities that the school enjoys. Please contact the school office to arrange a mutually convenient time to visit us.

Thank you for your interest in our school.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Dalton'.

Mrs L Dalton  
Pennaeth – Headteacher

# Welcome to Ysgol Bryn Gwalia



Dear Parent/Carer,

As Chair of the Governing Body I am very pleased to have been invited to write a short letter of welcome to you as you make important decisions about your child's future.

These are exciting times for education in Wales, as schools are entrusted with the task of nurturing pupils to be ambitious and capable, ethical and informed, healthy and confident, enterprising and creative.

The Governors and I believe that Ysgol Bryn Gwalia is capable of meeting that challenge for your child with the highest standards of academic provision, delivered by our talented teaching staff. Our school aims to provide the very best education for each child and raising their aspirations for the future.

I can promise you that the staff and governors will do all they can to ensure that every pupil receives the support and challenge they need to grow and flourish to their own unique potential. We aim to give each of our pupils the best possible foundation to grow and develop as citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this prospectus and that it will supply some of the information you need to make the right choice for your child. However, to get the real flavour of the school community I would encourage you to arrange a visit with Mrs Dalton or attend one of the Open Days for prospective parents/carers.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Yours sincerely,

Janiene Davies  
Chair of Governors

# An introduction to **Our School**



A wealth of up-to-date information can also be found on our school website. Scan the QR code with the camera of your smartphone to open the link automatically.



Ysgol Bryn Gwalia is a Community Primary School maintained by Flintshire County Council. We cater for pupils aged 3 to 11 and we also offer pre-school provision as part of our Early Education offering and wrap around care.

As a Pioneer school and since 2015 the only Innovation school in North Wales, we have invested heavily in ensuring we are at the forefront of curriculum design and development.

The school is central to the community and activities supporting families are an important part of our busy calendar. We aspire to enrich the lives of all of our children and raise their aspirations for their future.

We welcome applications for all children as per our Admissions Policy which is explained in more detail later in this prospectus. Full copies of our Admissions Policy are available on our school website and from our school office.

You may also follow us on social media:



/YsgolBrynGwalia



@BrynGwalia

# Our Vision and Values

Our mission statement and school aims have been co-created by our children, staff, governors and parents. We are a community school who put nurture and wellbeing at the heart of all we do and we are committed to ensuring that every child can reach their full potential and thrive. We strive to develop a culture of kindness, both to ourselves and to each other. We are there to support one another in all we do, in order to be successful in all we do.

## Our Mission

Growing Together, Aiming High.

## Our Behaviours

At Ysgol Bryn Gwalia our expectation is that all members of the school treat each other with respect and kindness. We celebrate individuals who exemplify this behaviour in our weekly celebration service. We call our Role Models, our **Bryn Gwalia GEMS**. Members of the school who are:

- Gentle and Kind
- Excellent in Attitude
- Mindful of Others
- Supportive and Nurturing

We also celebrate those who have shown acts of Kindness to others. These are displayed on our Kindness Tree.

## Our Values

**Kindness** – showing Kindness and Empathy and ourselves and others at all times. Creating a positive environment for students and inspire them to be kind in other areas of their lives.

**Honesty** – feeling safe enough to be honest in any situation and understanding the importance of this. Knowing 'how' to be honest in a kind and compassionate way.

**Resilience** – having a positive approach to learning, and never giving up even if a task difficult or challenging. Using the support network around you to help in a difficult situation.

**Nurture** – can always be committed to knowing how to be self-regulated, equipped, determined, and ready to say 'Yes!' to great learning experiences on offer every day!

# Our School Aims



- To empower ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.
- To prioritise positive relationships ahead of everything else.
- To create enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.
- To shape ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world,
- To foster healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- To offer a dynamic and innovative curriculum that challenges, excites and inspires us all to learn in a twenty-first century way.
- To commit to creating an inclusive, caring and happy environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued and respected.
- To promote a sense of belonging to the school and wider community.
- To provide an inspiring and challenging curriculum that reflects our community and meets the need of every child.
- To teach children how to be a good learner so that they are empowered to lead their own learning.

# Admission Arrangements

Parents/Carers who are considering enrolling their child at Ysgol Bryn Gwalia are welcome to visit the School during a school day at a mutually convenient time. An appointment may be made by phoning or emailing the school. The Headteacher will be pleased to meet the parents/carers of prospective pupils, to answer any questions and to show parents/carers and prospective pupils around the school and campus.

Children are admitted to our Lower Foundation Phase Class in the September after their third birthday. Arrangements are made for the children to visit prior to their joining the Lower Foundation Phase the following September to help familiarise them with the school, staff and their peers. Parents/Carers of new Nursery and Reception children are invited to our Induction Evening in June annually to meet members of staff and to ask any questions that they may have.

Applications are made to Flintshire County Council, who then apply their Admissions Policy and in turn make offers of placements. For more up to date information on application deadlines, please visit our website or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



## Looked-After Children

Children who are 'Looked After' by the Local Authority are given priority in the Admissions Policy. During their time with us their progress, wellbeing and care will be monitored by the 'Looked After' Children Co-ordinator. This is the Additional Learning Needs and Achievement Coordinator (ALNCo).

## Nursery Admission

We are proud of our Early Years Unit which includes part-time morning nursery provision. Pupils who attend nursery have the opportunity of wrap around care on site for the part of the day they do not attend school (there is a charge for this additional element of childcare).

Nursery Education is not a statutory provision and parents have no right of appeal under the Education Act 1996 if they are unsuccessful in gaining a place. Admission to the nursery provision of the school does not guarantee admission to the school.

## Transition

Pupils joining our school will visit prior to their formal start to familiarise them with the campus, the staff and their peers. Should a structured transition plan be required, this will be developed in partnership with parents/carers and the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Coordinator.

Throughout Year 6, pupils will be prepared for the move up to their respective High Schools. Strong links exist between the school and high schools that pupils transfer to and we work hard to help develop confidence and reduce any anxiety around moving to high school.

# School Organisation



## School Hours

Reception	8:50 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Year 1/2	8:50 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Year 3	8:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Year 4	8:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Year 5	8:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Year 6	8:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

## Term Dates

To access details of the term dates for school, please follow this link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Holidays--Training-Days.aspx>.

Alternatively, you may scan the following QR code on the right-hand side of this page.



## School Staff

The school benefits from a highly qualified, dedicated and experienced staff made up of teachers, teaching assistants, secretaries, cooks, lunchtime supervisors, a caretaker and cleaners. We also work closely with visiting staff such as Inclusion Officers, Advisory Teachers, Educational Psychologists and Peripatetic Music Teachers.

We also enjoy strong links with the University of Chester, Edge Hill University, and CaBan (Bangor University).



## Equipment and Facilities

The school is very well maintained and resourced. All classes are decorated to a high standard and are equipped with an interactive whiteboard and kitchen area. School facilities also include a fully refurbished library, school hall with stage and extensive outdoor learning provision.

A strong emphasis is placed upon Outdoor Learning across the school. The outdoor areas are used as part of an integrated curriculum and therefore seen as an extension of the regular classroom, with structured experiential activities planned. The school is engaged in the Ysgolion-Eco-Schools Scheme to further develop the outdoor offer and environmental responsibility of the school, and has an extensive forest school area.

## Forest School

We are lucky to have our own Forest School in the school grounds, and have several members of staff qualified as Forest School practitioners. In recent years, we have expanded the forest area with the children and staff planting 450 new trees gifted to us by The Woodland Trust.



# School Curriculum

Currently, the school is organised into Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two. The Foundation Phase Curriculum includes:

- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematical Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Religious Education
- Personal and Social Development
- Creative Development
- Physical Development
- Welsh Language Development



The Foundation Phase is made up of direct teaching of 'focused tasks', follow up activities around the classroom called 'enhanced provision' and an element of choice known as 'continuous provision'. The aim of this statutory approach is to develop independence in our younger pupils and prepare them for Key Stage Two.

The Key Stage Two Curriculum is made up of:

- |               |                       |                                 |                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • English     | • Religious Education | • Art                           | Technology                      |
| • Mathematics | • Geography           | • Design & Technology           | • Personal and Social Education |
| • Science     | • History             | • Information and Communication | • Physical Education            |
| • Welsh       | • Music               |                                 |                                 |

Incorporated into all areas of learning is a focus on developing pupils' literacy, numeracy, thinking and digital competence skills.

At Ysgol Bryn Gwalia we use the What Matters statements to drive our learning. We plan for progression for all learners through topics that will engage and inspire. With the child at the heart of everything we do, our teaching and learning is focused around the needs and interests of our learners. We use Mantle of the Expert to provide our children with scenarios that allow them to investigate, problem-solve, persuade and inform. In doing this, we fulfil the Four Purposes of the new Curriculum for Wales and ensure that our pupils are life long learners.

## Curriculum for Wales

The Welsh Government has launched a new curriculum, the Curriculum for Wales, in partnership with schools. This will replace the current Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two Curricula and will be centred on six Areas of Learning and Experience. These will include:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| • Expressive Arts      | • Languages, Literacy and Communication |
| • Health and Wellbeing | • Mathematics and Numeracy              |
| • Humanities           | • Science and Technology                |

We have members of staff currently working with Welsh Government to implement the new curriculum.

## **Bilingualism**

As a school in Wales, we promote and aim to develop the Welsh language wherever possible. We are actively engaged in the Cymraeg Campus Scheme to develop bilingualism and also to contribute to the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 million Welsh speakers target.



In addition, there are three cross-curricular responsibilities of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence which will be embedded across all Areas of Learning and Experience. The new curriculum will launch from September 2022.

The school is currently working with stakeholders, the Regional School Improvement Service and the Local Authority to plan and prepare for the new Curriculum for Wales.

## **Religious Education**

We follow the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Parents/carers who wish to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons should inform the Headteacher in writing.

## **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship takes place daily, and we welcome visitors to school to lead acts of worship and to also attend regularly for Collective Worship. Parents/carers who wish to withdraw their children from Collective Worship should inform the Headteacher in writing.

## **Sex and Relationships Education**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from any or all aspects of the Sex and Relationships Education Program of the school. Should they wish to do this, they should write to the Headteacher confirming their wish. Parents/carers who have any concerns are welcome to arrange a meeting –in confidence– with the class teacher to discuss these concerns and see the teaching and learning materials that are used in the sessions. Parents and carers may request a copy of our Sex and Relationships Education Policy from the school office or find a copy on the school website.

## **Homework**

The School's aims in setting homework are to support and extend pupil's learning by practising and consolidating skills and knowledge, encouraging independent working and promoting good study habits.

Children are encouraged to read as widely as possible at home and the cooperation of parents in supporting our reading programme is enlisted, not only in the early stages but throughout the child's school career.

## Assessment

Formative (ongoing) Assessment is used continually to help plan relevant and meaningful learning activities for the pupils. Periodically, –usually termly– the school will use Summative (short tests) Assessment tools to monitor progress and provide benchmarks on pupil progress.

## Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

We are proud to be an inclusive school that values our differences and aims to ensure that every pupil has the support and opportunities to realise and meet their potential. The Additional Learning Needs Coordinator implements the school Additional Learning Needs Policy (available from the school office or website). Their work entails:

- Reviewing the progress of pupils and identifying those who would benefit from additional support as part of the 'Universal Offer' of the school.
- Working to develop 'Person Centred Practice' to ensure that the pupil is at the heart of planning any additional support they may require.
- Coordinating the work of Teaching Assistants who provide additional interventions to individuals and groups and monitoring the effectiveness of these.
- Planning Annual Reviews for pupils who have Statements/Individual Development Plans and working with colleagues in the Inclusion Service to seek further guidance and assessment where required. (Educational Psychology Service, Inclusion Services, etc.)
- Quality Assurance of Individual Development Plans and ensuring that these focus on person-centred outcomes.

We value the diversity of all members of our school community and actively seek to provide the best for all pupils; through a person-centred approach.

The support for Additional Learning Needs in Wales is changing as the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act is implemented from September 2020. These changes aim to ensure a person centred-approach and stronger emphasis on multi-agency working. Further information is available from the school Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion coordinator.



## **Home School Agreement**

A Home School Agreement has been developed to show expectations of the school, parents/carers and pupils as they move through Ysgol Bryn Gwalia. This agreement is reviewed annually and parents/carers and pupils' views are sought when reviewing this.

## **School Meals**

School Meals are prepared on the premises and we are fortunate in having a large dining room adjacent to the kitchen. They have a variety of meals to choose from each day, and we use SchoolComms to order and pay for school meals.

Children are also allowed to bring a packed lunch. The children are supervised during the lunch hour by our senior mid-day Supervisor and a number of dining room assistants. If you think your child might be entitled to a free school meal, please contact email [FreeSchoolMeals@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:FreeSchoolMeals@flintshire.gov.uk) or visit the following link to Flintshire County Council's website: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Tax-and-Benefits-and-Grants/Free-School-Meals-and-Uniform-Grants.aspx>.

## **Reporting to Parents/Carers**

A 'Parents' Evening' is held in the Autumn Term for all classes when parents are invited into school to receive information about school life.

Parents' evenings are also held during the Spring Term when parents are invited to discuss their child's work and progress with the teacher. A formal report of your child's overall progress is sent to you at the end of each school year with opportunity to attend a third Parents' Evening to discuss this. Parents are welcome to request a meeting with their child's class teacher at any time during the school year through contacting the school office.

## Attendance and Punctuality

The school has high expectations regarding both attendance and punctuality, both of which are critical to success in school. If your child is absent, we ask that you contact the school office at the soonest opportunity to inform us. We follow the Local Authority Attendance Policy, which is available on request from the school office.

The school has an attendance target of 95% during the 2021/22 academic year.

## Equal Opportunities

At Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, we believe that every pupil is entitled to develop their skills and talents and that no pupil should be disadvantaged. The school is fully compliant with the Equalities Act (2010).

All children regardless of race or gender will be treated with the same degree of care and attention. All pupils will have the same rights of access to age appropriate activities in all aspects of school life. Governors are updated termly on any incidents of racial abuse or bullying and equal opportunities in practice are integral to the school's ongoing self-evaluation procedures, these are also reported to the Local Authority as requested.

At Bryn Gwalia, we have a commitment that, wherever possible, children with physical disabilities will be educated in their local primary school. If required, adaptations to the building will be considered by the school and the Local Authority to enable a child to attend our school.





## **Sport and Extra-Curricular Activities**

The school enjoys a very wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities. These take place after school and also during some dinner times. Examples of clubs include Football Club, Netball Club, Gardening, Urdd, Science Club and Eco Club. The types of club offered may change throughout the year depending on weather, staff availability and the interests of pupils.

Teachers and non-teaching staff attend First Aid Courses to update their First Aid skills. First Aid materials are available at designated points around the school. Staff are vigilant to child injuries and record them systematically.

Parents/carers are notified should their child received First Aid whilst under the care of the school. The school also records incidents of a serious nature on the Local Authority reporting system.

At times of concern, parents/carers are contacted immediately. It is therefore imperative that parents provide up-to-date telephone contact numbers for home or place of work, plus an additional emergency contact number of a close relative. Parents/carers are asked to confirm or update their contact numbers at the start of every academic year.

Should your child require medication during the school day, a consent form must be completed, which is found in the Managing Healthcare Needs Policy, available on request from the school, or on the school website.

## Complaints Procedure

Should parents/carers have any reason to complain about any aspects of school then the school complaints procedure is available from the school office as well as on the school website.

We do hope, however, that any problems can be resolved by following the below process:

### Stages

1. Contact class teacher with concern. If not resolved;
2. Contact Headteacher. If not resolved;
3. Write to the Headteacher. If not resolved;
4. Write to Chair of Governors.

If a parent/carer feels that the school has not followed its complaints procedure, they can contact the Local Authority for further advice.

The School Complaints Procedure is available on the school website or on request from the school office.

## Safeguarding and Child Protection

The School follows the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008. The following points are very important:

- The welfare of your child is paramount.
- We will make every effort to ensure that children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
- All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by staff and everyone associated with Ysgol Bryn Gwalia and responded to appropriately – this may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police.
- We have a commitment to safe recruitment, selection and vetting; all staff and governors in school have been DBS-checked and all volunteers will be DBS-checked prior to starting their time with us.
- We will refer to all associated policies and procedures which promote children's safety and welfare e.g. with regards to health and safety, anti-bullying, protection of children online and photographs.

The Headteacher is the Designated Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer. In their absence, the Deputy Headteacher is the Deputy Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer. Should you require further information, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies are available from the school office, or on the school website.

## **Charging and Remissions Policy**

In accordance with the Education Act 1988, the Governing Body has a duty to develop and publish a Charging Policy for the school. This document is available from the school office. Parents/carers are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transport to swimming lessons.

Parents/carers in receipt of certain Tax Credits or Universal Credit may be entitled to some remission on certain activities.

## **School Uniform**

School uniform is not compulsory, but it does help children to feel a part of the school community. It gives them a feeling of belonging to the school community and of school identity.

Our school uniform consists of:

- Black Bryn Gwalia sweatshirt.
- Black trousers/skirt (no leggings)/pinafore.
- Red Bryn Gwalia polo shirt.
- Black shoes.
- Our PE kit consists of black sports shorts and black pumps. Please note that PE kits need to be in school every day.
- Jewellery is not permitted to be worn in school, with the exception of a small ear stud which should be removed for Physical Education lessons.

The school website has further details on school uniform, including how to order online.

## **Uniform Grant**

You may apply for a uniform grant for children starting in the following years: Reception, Years 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

Looked After Children can qualify in any academic year. In order to be eligible to apply, parents must be already in receipt of Free School Meals.

For enquiries, please email [FreeSchoolMeals@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:FreeSchoolMeals@flintshire.gov.uk) or you can alternatively speak to Ms Wyatt.

## The role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has a substantial range of responsibilities.

Our Governing Body:

- Supports the school staff in deciding what is taught.
- Setting standards and policies relating to behaviour and inclusion.
- Interviewing and selecting staff.
- Determining how the school budget is set.
- Managing the school admission processes.

## Our Governors

- Mrs. Janiene Davies – Chair of Governors
- Mrs. Liz Croft
- Mrs. Maria Kennedy
- Mrs. Jennie Downes
- Mrs. Jo Lane
- Mr. Ben Lane
- Mr. Chris Hoole
- Mrs. Anne Hill
- Mrs. Katie Glover-Jones
- Mrs. Lorraine Dalton

## Pre-School Provision

We are proud to be a Flying Start and Early Education provider. Flying Start provision is offered to eligible pupils following their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Early Education is available to pupils in the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Our pre-school provision enriches, engages and inspires our youngest pupils, ensuring they have the very best start to their education. More information –including how to apply– is available on Flintshire County Council's website:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Early-Entitlement-Scheme-Flintshire.aspx>.

## Wrap Around Care

The school is proud of the facilities that it has to offer Breakfast Club and Fun Club. These are offered by the Managing Committee. Children from Nursery upwards are welcome to attend these clubs and times are as follows:

Breakfast Club: 7:50 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. (Paid)

8:20 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. (Free)

Fun Club: 3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Paid)

Prices are available upon request from the School Office.

The Wrap Around Care offering is operated separately to the school and is operated by the Managing Committee.

## Summer Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)

The school runs this programme annually free of charge for all pupils. It is important that you book early to avoid disappointment. SHEP is a school-based education programme that provides food and nutrition education, physical activity, enrichment sessions and healthy meals to children in areas of social deprivation during the school summer holidays.



November 2015

# Estyn Summary

## Inspection and Performance

"The school cares for its pupils well. Its provision to support pupils with emotional difficulties is of high quality and helps improve the wellbeing of these pupils effectively. There are sound strategies to encourage pupils' good behaviour and to develop pupils' understanding of how to stay safe. The school



# Estyn

has appropriate arrangements to promote healthy eating and drinking. [...] The school has a caring and welcoming environment. The school's inclusive ethos ensures that all pupils receive equal access to all aspects of the school's provision. It values the background and diversity of its pupils effectively. It has especially effective arrangements for dealing with pupils who had emotional difficulties. [...] The school building and the interior environment of the school have been improved over the last 18 months. There are a range of informative displays of pupils work about the school, especially in the Foundation Phase. Resources throughout the school, including those for ICT, are of a good quality and well matched to pupils' needs. The school grounds are well maintained, with the school starting to make good use of the extensive grounds for activities such as forest school to aid outdoor learning."

Full copies of the Estyn inspection are available from the school office or on the Estyn website: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6642068>.

## My Local School

A wealth of information about our performance data may be found on the Welsh Government's "My Local School" website: <https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/School/6642068>.



**Ysgol Bryn Gwalia**  
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