

RECEPTION PROSPECTUS



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to Ysgol Nantgwyn!

I am incredibly proud to welcome you to Ysgol Nantgwyn. We are a strong team of pupils, parents, staff and governors who work together to ensure that each child is well supported and challenged to be their very best every lesson and every day so that, when they leave us, they have the best outcomes and qualifications possible, have had a broad and varied range of experiences and are wonderful human beings. We believe that these three things allow every person to be successful at whatever they decide is their next step in life.

We have three core values and we believe that when we are ready, respectful and responsible everything is possible.

We are determined that every child experiences a creative and innovative curriculum that is adapted to their needs. This is achieved through a relentless focus on ensuring highly effective learning, teaching and experiences. Our staff create a warm, stimulating environment where knowing children as individuals is central to ensuring that we can enable them to flourish.

Our five year record of academic performance at GCSE is very strong, placing us in the top performing school within our 'family'. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils. Their grit, resilience, creativity and energy is demonstrated every single day.

With warm wishes,

Ms Laura Morris
Headteacher

#teamnantgwyn



What is a through school?

Often, one of the biggest questions we get asked is what is a through school and how do they work? The answer is that through schools are many, many different things! There are around thirty across Wales now and they all differ significantly in terms of their physical layout and whether they are even on the same site, the staffing structure, the operations across a school, what proportion of the school is ages 3-11 and what proportion is 11-16.

We consider ourselves to be one school. We are on one site and ages 3-11 and 11-16 are educated in buildings that are next to each other. We have three values across the school; that we are ready, responsible and respectful. When we hold these three values, anything is possible.

All of our 'systems' are the same across the full school and, while it took a little while to develop and embed this, it really works well. While we currently have lower (nursery to year 3), middle (years 4 to 8) and upper (years 9 to 11), our staff are truly one team. Our professional learning is very collaborative and we learn from each other across the full 13 year continuum and all curriculum areas. Some of our teachers teach pupils across the full continuum, some teach only in lower, some teach across years 6-11, some teach years 6 and 7 - most of our teachers teach different year groups every year or every couple of years.



Key staff

Head of lower school: Mr John Davies

Deputy head of lower school: Mrs Judith Griffiths

Raising standards lead: Mrs Elford

The school day

Breakfast club drop off	08:00-08:10
Start of day drop off	From 08:40
Lesson 1	08:55-09:45
Lesson 2	09:45-10:35
Break	10:35-10:55
Lesson 3	10:55-11:45
Lunch	11:45-12:35
Lesson 4	12:35- 13:25
Lesson 5	13:25-14:05
Lesson 6	14:15-15:10
End of day	15:10

Vision, ethos and values

Children join 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.

Our school embraces three values and, when we do, everything is possible:

- To be ready
- To be respectful
- To be responsible

Contact details

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The curriculum

In nursery, pupils follow a 'Caru Dysgu' curriculum which encompasses learning statements from the following curriculum areas:

- Mathematics and numeracy
- English, literacy and communication
- Humanities and religion values and ethics
- Well-being
- Science and technology (STEM)
- Languages- Spanish and Welsh through a trilingual approach
- Expressive arts

These are taught using a blended approach by the pupils' Caru Dysgu teacher. reception pupils explore the themes of 'Independence,' 'Travel' and 'Creatures.'

Much of the lower school curriculum is spent outdoors which provides pupils with an opportunity to explore, discover and appreciate the natural world, as well as be active, strengthen fine and gross motor movement skills, test physical limits and get messy!



Independent learning

We call our homework independent learning. Independent learning tasks support and strengthen the learning that has taken place in class. For reception, there will be one task per curriculum area per half term. Pupils receive positive points for all tasks that they complete. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete these tasks - sheets are emailed to parents and uploaded to Seesaw virtual platform at the same time so that everyone is aware of the tasks set.





YSGOL NANTGWYN: OUR CURRICULUM

VISION

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, our curriculum vision is based around our school statement; 'when we are ready, respectful and responsible, everything is possible'. It takes into account our school population and their needs and helps them to be ready to respond to the demands of our world and be responsible and respectful in doing so. To support this, it is informed by our local, regional, national and global context. The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum ensures that all pupils gain good knowledge and skills through a range of learning experiences so that they make good progress from nursery to year 11 and are ready to be successful in their chosen pathway when they leave school.

OUR CURRICULUM

The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum is designed to take account of the needs of all pupils and offers a broad and balanced range of experiences for all pupils. We recognise that pupils are individuals and therefore the way in which they experience the curriculum may differ. Our curriculum is iterative in its development and provides opportunities for pupils to inform and lead their learning. It provides opportunities for pupils to have meaningful learning experiences, to consider themselves and others and the part they can play in their local community as well as the wider world. The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum presents pupils with a range of big questions, gives them the opportunity to ask questions and enables their development of knowledge and skills in the exploration of possible answers through a variety of learning experiences. Our staff will carefully listen to our pupils and ensure that their thoughts, views and needs inform their learning.

Through consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors, we have agreed that our curriculum will place increased emphasis on the following identified needs:

- Understanding their responsibilities and rights
- Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Thinking creatively to solve problems
- Sharing ideas and emotions in a variety of ways
- Setting goals
- Speaking and listening to others effectively
- Building up and applying knowledge
- Forming good relationships based on trust and mutual respect
- Building mental and emotional well-being

AREAS OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

Our curriculum will provide learning which encompasses six areas of learning and experience. These are:

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

Each area of learning and experience has a set of 'what matters' statements. Staff use these statements and the concepts within them to design and plan the learning for pupils. These statements support pupils to make good progress by developing the skills and knowledge gained from their learning experiences from nursery through to year 11.

Our curriculum ensures that pupils learn about diversity, human rights and the rights of the child, relationships and sexuality education (RSE), Welsh and religion, values and ethics (RVE).

DESIGN

Our curriculum design has been informed by our pupils, parents, governors and community members and staff as well as our cluster schools and external partners. Our design has centred around ensuring an inclusive, progressive curriculum that meets the needs of our pupils to ensure that they have the very best experience at school and are ready to succeed in the opportunities and challenges that will present throughout their life.

FOUR PURPOSES

Our curriculum will be designed, developed and delivered with the four purposes at the centre to ensure that pupils become:

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

CROSS CURRICULAR

Our pupils will develop skills and knowledge relating to literacy (oracy, reading and writing), numeracy (including reasoning) and digital competence across the full breadth of the curriculum.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will continue to be part of our daily teaching and learning as pupils and teachers use information from time spent with pupils to plan the next steps in each individual pupils' learning. As part of this process, pupils will engage with feedback from teachers about their learning so that they know how well they are doing and what they can do to improve and progress. Ysgol Nantgwyn will review the progress of each individual pupil regularly across the year and use this information to plan for individuals and groups to ensure that all make at least good progress and are well supported in doing so. We will report to pupils and parents about progress and approach to learning at regular points in the year.

REVIEW

The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum will go through a process of iterative evaluation and development to ensure that all pupils are experiencing the very quality of provision that we can provide. We will work with a range of people to gather a range of information from many different activities that include pupils, parents and teachers to inform our evaluations and planning for development. These evaluations will sit as part of our robust monitoring and evaluation work.

Well-being and safeguarding

The role of well-being is to ensure we support our young people's health, well-being and mental health needs as well as offering a robust well-being curriculum model. Pupils have access to a wide range of support within the school including a well-being breakfast club, focussed curriculum activities, staff support, our safe haven provision and a range of external agencies.

Our curriculum encompasses a progression of pathway points from nursery to year 11 based around the 5 statements of 'what matters' from the Curriculum for Wales :

- Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits.
- How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being.
- Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our lives and the lives of others.
- How we engage with social influences shapes who we are and affects our health and well-being.
- Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well-being.

Extra-curricular clubs

We offer a broad range of extra-curricular clubs after school, please see the table below for some examples:

NAME OF CLUB	DAY	STAFF	COLLECT FROM	YEAR GROUPS
Discover & Do! STEM club	Tuesday	Mrs Garley and Mrs Richards	Gwyn hall	nursery- year 2
Variety club	Wednesday	Mrs Jones and Mrs Schorschinski	Gwyn hall	nursery- year 3
Reading Eggs	Tuesday	Mrs Wilkins	Gwyn hall	reception - year 3
Construction Club	Tuesday	Miss Dowling Mrs Price	Gwyn hall	reception - year 2

Breakfast club

Breakfast club is available everyday for all pupils based in the Gwyn building (nursery to year 6). The Gwyn gates are opened just before 08:00 each morning and locked at 08:10. During this window you are able to drop your child off for them to attend supervised breakfast club sessions. At the conclusion of breakfast club, pupils will be escorted to their designated classroom to start the school day. There is no application process or fee for this provision, simply arrive in the allocated window and take your child to the entrance where they will be greeted and registered by a member of staff.

Lunch time

All full time nursery pupils over the age of 4 will have the option of a free hot meal if they wish, or they can bring a healthy packed lunch option. Pupils who do not fit into this category may also purchase a hot meal .

A copy of the current school lunch menu can be found on the RCT council website: [click here](#)



Uniform

We encourage all pupils to wear our school uniform with pride.

Lower school uniform:

- Royal blue or navy sweatshirt or cardigan**
- White or royal blue polo shirt or white shirt and tie
- Grey formal bottoms or dress - trousers, skirt, shorts, pinafore or tartan skirt*
- Black outdoor shoes
- Coat
- School bag

PE

- Black or navy shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings
- Royal blue or white t-shirt
- Trainers

*Summer uniform can include tailored grey shorts, summer gingham navy or blue dress, white polo shirt.

** Badged items are no longer required (cardigans, sweaters and polo shirts). The uniform must match the same style as our badged items however.



Attendance

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we expect all pupils to have 95% or more attendance. When children attend school consistently they are more likely to do well with their studies but also build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community.

It is vitally important that your child's absence is reported to us on the first day of absence and each subsequent day of absence unless there has been medical authorisation for a period of absence granted on day one. ' Absences should be reported via the Class Charts app. Medical evidence is required to authorise absences. You will receive details of your child's ID and password for Class Charts when they join the school.



Reporting absences

1. Download the Classcharts app.
2. Contact the school to request a username and password ID.
3. Register your device with the code from school.

ALN (additional learning needs)

The Welsh Government aims to transform the expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs. To do so, they have developed the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act, which will transform the separate systems for Special Educational Needs (SEN) in schools. Ysgol Nantgwyn, like all schools in Wales, have implemented the ALN Act.

Children and young people with additional learning needs have a difficulty or disability that means they need extra support, or find it harder to learn than other children and young people of the same age, or have a disability that means they cannot use the local school or college.

Ysgol Nantgwyn is dedicated to inclusive practices and offers a continuum of provision to meet individual pupils' needs. Pupils with Additional Learning Needs are taught in mainstream classes and in mixed ability classes where they may receive additional support from our coaches. The class teacher will be fully aware of any additional learning needs within the class and will differentiate accordingly. Pupils will access support in class or through withdrawal sessions, depending on their difficulty and/or the intervention needed.

Ysgol Nantgwyn is committed to ensuring equal treatment of 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 any less favourably in any procedures, practice or service delivery. A copy of our accessibility plan can be found on the school website in the policies section.



Admissions

Please visit [click here](#) for reception admissions.



Frequently asked questions



How do I access Ysgol Nantgwyn?

You will be able to access the site via two entrances, they are: -

- The main Gwyn gates via the Parc Gellifaelog estate by foot or by car.
- The footpath for the lower MUGA via Llewellyn Street.

What will my child be learning and how can I support them at home?

Pupils will typically focus on literacy and numeracy activities in the morning and spend their afternoon sessions exploring various skills through a theme. We would encourage you to talk to your child about what they have been learning during the day and explore anything that they have found particularly interesting.

We work with parents to ensure that all children are reading every day, both in school and at home. Further notes will be sent home in relation to this however settling down for around fifteen minutes a day and reading to your child has been shown to have a significant educational benefit whether it is a book, newspaper article or song lyrics.

How will I be updated about what my child is doing?

You will receive monthly newsletters and important other updates via Classcharts. If you are not already signed up for this, you will receive a link in the first week of the new term and I encourage you to sign up as soon as possible. The app for this can be downloaded to your phone and/or other devices.

When should I keep my child at home?

We would like all children to attend school all of the time and we would encourage you to bring your child to school every day that they are well enough to attend. Currently there are no expectations for pupils to test and/or self isolate due to COVID.

Frequently asked questions



When will my child need to bring their PE kit?

Your child's teacher will communicate this information via the Seesaw classroom area and Classcharts. Pupils can wear their PE kit to school

Can I see what my child is doing each day?

Lower school pupils use the Seesaw virtual platform. Staff will regularly update this area with your child's work. Parents can also upload independent learning to this area. This area is secure and you will be provided with log in details by your child's teacher.

When can I see my child's teacher?

When your child first starts with us you will have the opportunity to chat with the teacher to ensure your child is settling.

Your child's teacher or key member of staff will also be greeting pupils at the door each morning and dismissing pupils at the end of the day.

My child needs to take medicine during the school day. What should I do?

Speak to staff during school drop off. We will be able to provide you with a medical form to complete that will allow staff to administer medicine to your child during the school day.

My child is worried about school. Who can help?

Your child's teacher or key member of staff will greet pupils at the door each morning and dismiss pupils at the end of the day. Please mention any worries that you may have so that we can help.

Frequently asked questions



What does my child need to bring to school with them?

We ask all pupils to come with a piece of fruit for a mid-morning snack (clearly labelled in a pot and the fruit needs to be cut/peeled as we are unable to do this, no nut products please as we are a nut-free school). We will provide milk or water.

All pupils will have the option of a hot meal if they wish, or they can bring a healthy packed lunch option.

Our site is halfway up a mountain and we often experience the 'worst' of the weather. As we learn outdoors every day where we are able - warm clothes and coats are a must please.

Spare clothes in a carrier bag clearly labelled with your child's names just in case a change is needed during the day.

Arriving on-site

If arriving on foot, you can access either entrance as outlined above and walk your child(ren) to their classroom. They will be greeted by staff at the door. If collecting on foot at the end of the day, you will access the site and walk to the outside waiting area opposite your son/daughter's classroom. Staff operate a system where they release each child individually to their parents and this can take a little time.

If arriving by car, you will need to do so via the Parc Gellifaelog estate. We operate a one way system and a maximum speed of 5 miles per hour at all times. The gates to site open at 08:35 in the morning and 14:55 in the afternoon - please do not arrive at site before this as it causes congestion through the estate. Staff will not release your child until you have arrived to collect them so there is no need to worry if you are running a couple of minutes late. If you expect to arrive later than this, please can you get in touch with a member of the lower school team.

During morning drop-off by car, you will park up and walk your child around to their classroom door to drop them in. Reception learning starts at 08:55 and we expect all children to be in class and ready at this point. You can drop children off from 08:40 onwards.

During afternoon collection by car, parents are permitted to park in the spaces available and walk to the designated collection point opposite the classroom of your child to the rear of the Gwyn building. You will be called to collect your child by a member of the teaching staff.

If you find the first few days a bit difficult during the morning session you can park up and take a few moments before making your way. Similarly, if your child is having difficulty going into school, we will work with you to find a suitable solution.