



Ysgol y Llan Primary School

*Growing and learning through faith, friends and fun
Tyu a Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd trwy Ffydd, Ffrindiau a Hwyl*



Welcome to Ysgol y Llan

Mr Bryan Griffiths, Headteacher, says:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school in Wales. We are a mixed, English-medium primary school situated in the village of Whitford, commanding spectacular views over the River Dee, the Wirral and beyond. We are a popular school, proud of our achievements and we have a strong reputation in the local community.

Warm, welcoming, vibrant, engaging

Parents tell us that we are an extremely warm, welcoming and vibrant school.

Inspire

We provide a caring, supportive community in which all children are valued and provided with intellectual challenge. It is our aim to inspire all learners to follow their dreams, creating a better future for Wales and the global community.

Opportunities for every child

We offer an active environment with meaningful experiences that nurture and develop creativity, individual talents and interests. We will challenge pupils to become informed critical decision makers and problem solvers with a strong moral sense of right and wrong. We provide opportunities for all children to become confident assertive communicators with the ability to be resilient risk takers.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school, and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff

I am also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

If you wish to hear more about what we can offer your child, and to visit our school, please contact us for more information or an appointment to meet me, on either 01745 560431 or whmail@hwbcymru.net.



Leonardo, Lorenzo, Luca and Arabella are all thriving in the happy surroundings of Ysgol y Llan Whitford

Emma and Michael live with their children, Leonardo, aged nine, Lorenzo, aged eight, Luca, aged six, and Arabella, aged five.



Approachable Headteacher

Emma and Michael are delighted with the school they chose for their children after moving to Wales. Emma says: “We love Wales and decided we wanted to live here and so we bought a house. We then visited four local schools, but saw immediately that Whitford was by far the best. The Headteacher, Mr Griffiths, showed us round and we saw how approachable he is because the children kept coming to show him their work and talk to him as we went round the school.”

Good start

Michael and Emma’s children started just before the first lockdown. Michael says: “They attended the school for about four weeks until it had to close and they all settled in well. We had been concerned about Leonardo because he has autism, but he was fine. Leonardo is very bright and needs to be stimulated. At his old school he would get bored if the class spent ages learning something he had already mastered. At Whitford he is taught the curriculum with the other children but is also allowed to read his own material and research to further his own studies. Science is Leonardo’s favourite subject, but he is good at Maths and English as well. At his old school he didn’t have any friends, but he has made friends here.”

Football opportunity

Emma says Lorenzo absolutely loved Whitford right from the start and has a great group of friends. “Everyone has really welcomed him and he is doing well academically. He is very keen on sport and is excited they are starting an after-school football club and bringing in an external coach to run it.

Reading confidence

“Luca struggled with learning at his old school but since starting at Whitford he has come on in leaps and bounds because of the way he is being taught here. His teacher realised he needed extra help with reading and has taught him one to one. Recently she contacted us and said he didn’t need help any more. We have noticed he is more confident now and can keep up with the work.

Party day

“Arabella absolutely loves the school and settled in fine. She joined the nursery for two terms and then moved up. She goes in smiling and

comes out smiling every day. Throughout lockdown no one had birthday parties, so when everything opened again the school put on a Covid safe big Birthday party day. Everyone went to school in party clothes and played party games all day. The school gained a lot of recognition for the day and coverage was filmed for national ITV and BBC news, and interviews with children and staff were aired on Radio Wales.

PTA support

“The school has a lovely community feel and the other parents are all very positive about it. I was part of the PTA at the children’s last school and wanted to be part of it here. At my first meeting, I was happy to take on the role of Chairperson. The PTA is well supported by the school, and I want to see it grow and be successful,” Emma says.

All welcome

The couple are pleased the children are learning Welsh. “The staff greet them in Welsh in the mornings and write comments in their reading books in Welsh. Although it is a Christian school, we are not a religious family, but the Headteacher values everyone’s opinion and believes in teaching the children to understand and respect other people’s faiths,” Emma says.

Dedication

”Leonardo and Lorenzo have the opportunity to go swimming with the school. There is going to be a trip to a pantomime and Leonardo will go on a residential trip next year. We have been overwhelmed by how good the school is and the children much prefer it to their old school. The staff at Whitford go above and beyond to provide pupils with the best possible education.”

Children say

Leonardo says: “I’ve met my best friend there.”
Lorenzo says: “I get to make friends and have fun,”
Luca says: “We get to make friends and it’s fun.”
Arabella says: “It makes me smarter.”

School day: happy learners

Wraparound care

Breakfast Club Ysgol y Llan participates in the Welsh Assembly's Free Breakfast Initiative and also has a paid service for those who have work commitments. The cost of the childcare service between 8.00am and 8.30am is £2.50 per day and the free breakfast club will be available from 8.30am onwards.

We also have an After-School Club (Clwb Ddraig) which provides care for pupils whose parents work and are therefore unable to collect their children at the end of the school day.

Uniform

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Our school colours are yellow and navy.

Food in school

Our priority is to ensure that all menus provide balanced and nutritious food choices, as an important and integral part of school life. Eating healthy nutritionally balanced meals helps support a young person's continued growth and development, boosting concentration, improving performance and active participation throughout the school day.

Packed lunches

Should children prefer to bring a packed lunch from home, we ask that it contains healthy and nutritious foods. All children, whether packed lunch or school meals, sit together with friends in the school hall.

Free School Meals

If you are eligible to receive free school meals it is very important for our school that you apply. The school can access funding for children who qualify for free school meals that will allow us to provide further targeted support programs, buy equipment and resources.

Please complete an online form to apply for free school meals. Contact the school office or FreeSchoolMeals@flintshire.gov.uk if you have any questions in relation to free school meals.

Behaviour

A high standard of behaviour is expected at all times.

- Children in school have made their own set of rules based on the 'Golden Rules'.
- Ysgol y Llan is a calm and warm environment where children feel welcome and where they can work in a relaxed atmosphere.
- All children have a right to be happy in school and not feel, or be, threatened.
- When on the school site, parents are expected to support all school rules.
- Classes have adopted 'Good to be Green' to encourage positive behaviour.



Bethan and Russell believe smaller village schools can have lots of advantages and that Ysgol y Llan offers them all

Bethan and Russell live just over two miles from Ysgol y Llan with their children, Thomas, aged ten, who is in year six, Sophie, aged eight, who is in year 4, and Oliver, aged five, who is in year 1.



The School of Choice

Bethan and Russell looked at a variety of local primary schools but Ysgol y Llan in particular had a number of strengths making it the right choice for their family. “There were lots of positives for us. The teaching came across as exciting and engaging; there is a strong commitment to the Welsh language and the school has a welcoming family feel. Thomas started the school in Nursery class, aged 3, and is now in year 6. Sophie and Oliver both started in Playgroup / Early Entitlement aged 2.5.”

Award winners

Bethan and Russell think the staff at Whitford are doing a wonderful job encouraging the children to speak Welsh at school and use the language at home. Bethan says: “Whitford is the first school in north Wales to achieve the Arian/Silver Award for their commitment to bilingualism and the Welsh culture. We like the way the staff skilfully integrate the Welsh language into work, assemblies and activities.”

Understanding Each Child

The close community feel the school has is a real positive for Bethan. “I like how the school is small enough for all of the teachers and support staff to know each of the children and their individual personality traits, strengths and weaknesses. I think it really allows them to understand each child as an individual. Children aren’t just a number at Ysgol y Llan. You can tell that all the staff have a passion for what they do and are really committed to helping the children achieve their full potential.”

A Good Feeling

The school’s atmosphere really put Bethan and Russell at ease. “I’m a real believer in gut instinct and we got a good feel during our visit to the school when Thomas was three years old” say Russell. “The children were respectful, but there was also lots of happy noise; we felt this told us a lot about the school’s environment. This is still true today as has enabled our children to grow and thrive over the years at Ysgol y Llan”.

Motivating and Rewarding

All three children are naturally quite competitive and Bethan believes the school is managing their desires to learn well. “All three children take a lot of pride in their work; Oliver enjoys receiving stickers and certificates for his hard work and achievements. Being older, Thomas and Sophie thrive off positive feedback which they receive a lot of. We

think these things are very good at motivating and encouraging the children to try really hard.”

Fantastic Opportunities

The school embraces the range of things on offer locally and cater for all children, no matter what their ability. “The school uses the vehicle of PE, sport, art and drama to give the best opportunities for the children at the school, which we really like.” The school ensures they participate in a range of competitions which target varying skills and the children get a real sense of achievement from them.

Opportunity for Personal Attention

Thomas, Sophie and Oliver have all progressed incredibly well. Bethan says “the children have the freedom to explore things they are interested in and there’s a lot more opportunity for personal attention. We believe the children’s progress is down to the teachers recognising, challenging and stretching their natural abilities.”

Parents Welcomed

“Everyone, including the office staff, are always helpful when you have a question and parents are made to feel very welcome by the school. The teachers are all willing to go above and beyond to help the children and I would have no hesitation in recommending Ysgol y Llan to other families.”

Children say

Thomas says: “At Ysgol y Llan, we have a school parliament and this means that the pupils have a voice in the school and have a say in how things are done. I really like this and enjoy being part of the Crïw Cymraeg and Digital Champions”.

Sophie says: “I have lots of friends at school. The teachers are all really nice and friendly. My favourite thing at school is the Crïw Cymraeg.”

Oliver says: “The thing I like to do the most at school is maths”.



Curriculum: solid learning foundations for future success

A progressive curriculum

Teachers plan their work based on the Foundation Phase (infants) and National Curriculum (juniors) documents.

Infant pupils work to the 'Foundation Phase Outcomes' covering seven areas of learning.

Throughout Key Stage Two, the children study all of the core and foundation subjects as laid down in the National Curriculum. Our schemes of work provide a framework to teach by and are progressive and sequential, building year on year. Whole class teaching takes place regularly, alongside group work and individual work.

Foundation Phase Seven Areas of Learning

1. Personal and Social Development, Well-being and Cultural Diversity.
2. Language, Literacy and Communication skills.
3. Mathematical Development.
4. Welsh Language Development.
5. Knowledge and Understanding of the World.
6. Physical Development.
7. Creative Development.

National Curriculum Key Stage 2

- English.
- Welsh as a second language.
- Mathematics.
- Information and Communications Technology.
- Science.
- History.
- Geography.
- Art.
- Design and technology.
- Music.
- P.S.E. (Personal and Social Education).
- P.E.

National Curriculum for Wales

The new National Curriculum for Wales is currently available and will be statutory from September 2022. In preparation for this, all of the above will be taught under the new headings of the new curriculum. The Curriculum for Wales covers six Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLEs) with three cross-curriculum responsibilities.



Enriched curriculum: visits and visitors, residential, outdoor learning and clubs

Visits and visitors

To further enhance our curriculum, we regularly take the children on trips out of school, such as:

- Local walks to the Downing.
- Mostyn Estates.
- Talacre Beach.
- Annual pantomime.
- St. Asaph Cathedral.
- Greenfield Valley.
- Flint Castle.
- Local artists and musicians.

From time to time, we also welcome visitors into school to talk to the children. These have recently included:

- Bishop's Visitor or the Bishop himself.
- Police Liaison Officer.
- NSPCC.
- School nurses.
- Various sports coaches.



Residentials

Each Year, Upper Key Stage children go on a three-day residential to Nant BH to cover outdoor and adventures activities.

Nant BH Centre is part of the North Wales Outdoor Education Service (NWOES) delivering to Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham and Anglesey. Based in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park they are able to provide an exciting range of adventure activities in unspoilt wild country. They are surrounded by impressive scenery and have easy access to lakes, rivers, mountains, coast and mines for memorable and inspiring adventures.

Outdoor learning

Additionally, our school benefits from wonderful outdoor provision in a secure learning environment, including:

- Extensive grounds.
- A small, wooded area named the Goedwig, with log circles, bug hotels and a small pond.
- Two FP outdoor areas.
- Outdoor classroom.
- Trim trail.
- School orchard.

Clubs

Many extra-curricular activities take place at the school, including:

- Gardening Club.
- Cookery Club.
- Netball.
- Football.
- Craft.
- Urdd.
- Chess.
- Cycle proficiency.
- Choir.
- Playground Leaders.

Some of these activities are seasonal.

Sport, P.E. and music

Sport and P.E.

Health, wellbeing and fitness are considered vitally important at Ysgol y Llan. We encourage all pupils to participate in sporting activities and to derive enjoyment from such activities.

Regular sporting fixtures against local schools are arranged to give pupils experience of competitive sport. The main competitions that we regularly participate in include:

- Football.
- Dodgeball.
- Swimming.
- Rounders.
- Netball.
- Tennis.
- Athletics.
- Hockey.

Music

We value music and the happiness and togetherness this can bring to everyone. Daily hymns brighten up even the dullest of days during our collective worships. We also take part in various community musical events:

- Annual Christmas Carol singing at Mostyn Hall or the local town.
- Singing in the local Eisteddfod.
- AmaSing Fusion projects.
- AmaSing Spiderdome in school.
- Cathedral services.



Inclusion

Additional Learning Needs, supporting our shining stars

In line with our desire to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality for pupils of all abilities within the context of Christian belief and practice, we take great care to identify any pupil who may have additional needs. Our Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) is responsible for maintaining a register of children with additional learning needs, including those identified as more able and talented.

We maintain a register of children with additional learning needs (including those identified as more able and talented). These children are identified through ongoing teacher assessment, and also by analysis of the results from the assessment/profile weeks, which takes place in the autumn and spring term. Children on the register are discussed formally at bi-annual additional learning needs team meetings which monitor progress and decide whether further intervention is necessary. Where appropriate, children will be provided with an Individual Development Plan.

Monitoring and support is provided via:

- A person centered approach with the views of the learner and family at the heart of any individual plan.
- Discussions with all staff including the early years and playgroup staff so that early intervention can take place.
- Learning support staff withdrawing individuals or small groups to enhance their basic skills and to track progression
- Regular forms of assessment, reviews and tracking of progress.
- Tailored support in class through appropriate modelling, scaffolding and adult support.
- External professionals from the Learning Support Service or other relevant agencies such as Speech and Language or Occupational Therapist.

More able and talented

We take part in regular activities/competitions entered within Flintshire and further afield aimed specifically at those more able and talented, together with classroom-based challenges appropriate to their needs.





Worship: reflect, sing, pray and learn

Church links

We take great pride in our links with our Church. Ysgol y Llan is a Voluntary Aided School, and our R.E. scheme of work is based on the new Church in Wales Religious Education Syllabus for Primary Schools.

Every day the whole school comes together to reflect, sing, pray and learn about our common Christian values. Once a week the whole school crosses the road to our local Church to attend a short service. This is conducted by the Reverend or Headteacher, and on occasion by our Bishop's Visitor or another visitor.

Collective worship

Each class has daily prayer and weekly R.E. lessons. We come together for whole school collective worship on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Friday is a celebration assembly).

Church events

The school supports the local Church at key events during the year, including Harvest, Easter, Christingle and Christmas, and everyone is invited to the Family Eucharist Service which is held on the first Sunday of each month at 11.00am.

Pupils have the opportunity to be confirmed in St. Asaph Cathedral later in the school.





Admissions and getting involved

Applications

Ysgol y Llan Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School accepts pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years of age. Ysgol y Llan has a capacity for 120 pupils on roll including 15 Nursery.

As a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, the admissions committee established by the governing body of the School is responsible for the admission of pupils. A parental preference form for nursery and primary school admission will be available on line (preferred method of application) on www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions or by contacting the Admissions Team (admissions@flintshire.gov.uk; 01352 704068/704073).



Forms will be available according to the admissions timetable as set out in the Flintshire County Council Admissions Guide.

Getting involved

Friends of Ysgol y Llan

Our active and friendly PTA organise a number of popular annual events such the Christmas Fair, Winter Wonderland with Santa's Grotto and Reindeer, Summer Fair and BBQ, Easter Bingo and a Christmas Market. These events provide significant funding for the school. Everyone is welcome to join.

Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, teachers, the Local Education Authority, and Foundation Governors from the Diocese who is linked to the Church. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments. If you would like to be a School Governor, please contact the school office.

Our core values

- Respect.
- Perseverance.
- Trust.
- Truthfulness.
- Friendship.

Together we will succeed.

School ethos

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan levels. The school aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.



Ysgol Y Llan, Whitford, Near Holywell CH8 9AN

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 @Ysgolyllan

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