

Berriew Community
Primary School
*Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol
Aberriw*



School Prospectus
2022-2023

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

Choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. Most parents want a good education for their children but they also want them to be happy and to feel safe and secure.

At Berriew School, we believe we can offer all these things. We pride ourselves on the broad, balanced, and full education we provide and the high standards of teaching and learning are a credit to the hard work of both staff and pupils. Equally, we are also proud of the atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation which is always evident. Pupil voice and choice is at the heart of the school's work. Many visitors to our school comment on the warm welcome they receive and the politeness and maturity of our pupils. The children are educated in a friendly, family atmosphere, where every pupil is known as an individual by every adult. We believe that children should be excited and challenged by the work they do and aim to ensure that they are happy, confident, resilient and adopt a positive attitude towards their learning during their time with us. The language of the school is English, and Welsh is taught as a second language.

If you are joining us for the first time, we welcome you as parents and look forward to a happy and successful association over the coming years. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

This booklet provides information about our school, which we hope you will find useful. You will find out more about us by visiting our School Website. If you wish to visit the school, please get in touch to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Your sincerely

Mr Sean Clarke
Headteacher



Welcome

Starting at a new school, whether you are a four-year-old nursery child or a new child in the area, can be a difficult time. We try to make new members of our community feel welcome and part of the school. Making new friends is important. The children in our area have a deserved reputation for being kind and helpful, and they soon make new children feel at home.

We work very closely with the Berriew Preschool and the children join us for achievements assembly each week, lunchtimes and we ensure a smooth move to reception by having a number of transition days in Class Unicorn during the summer term.

Of course, settling in can take time, especially for young children. A new school is a new challenge. We do everything we can to make school life interesting and stimulating. We seek to develop the highest standards and progress for each child by providing quality learning experiences in all curriculum areas and by placing emphasis on their spiritual, moral, and social development. Hopefully, everyone who joins our school will soon feel an important and valued member of our community.



The aims of our school

The aims of our school are to:

- Encourage pupils to have a voice in school so that they are actively involved in their learning and help develop the curriculum of the future.
- Forge and maintain strong links between school, home, and the local community.
- To ensure that every child becomes the best that they can be, academically, physically, emotionally, and socially.
- Create and maintain a happy and friendly atmosphere within a safe environment
- Help each child to develop independence and self-reliance by building self-esteem so they become enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Demonstrate and encourage positive attitudes and values, self-discipline, a sense of responsibility, respect, and care for self, for others and their environment.
- To become healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- Nurture the children's sense of awe and wonder and develop their curiosity, imagination, and enjoyment in discovering new things so they become ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- To develop a school with a strong Welsh ethos where pupils are proud to use the Welsh language.
- Value the children's individuality within a framework of co-operation.
- Develop the full potential of each child, at a pace relevant to their stage of development.
- Deliver, through a creative curriculum the knowledge, skills and understanding required now and for their future.
- Foster and encourage each child's role as a member of a developing and sustainable society.
- Raise children's awareness and appreciation of their own and other cultures so they become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- Make effective, thoughtful, and imaginative use of physical, personal, and financial resources.
- Understand that there are no limits to our learning

Developing Our Whole School Vision

Our school curriculum vision was co-constructed with all stake holders whose primary focus was to consider what experiences we wanted our children to leave with at the end of their Berriew CP Primary School journey.

We agreed that the well-being of our children was at the heart of everything we do and aim to develop the 'whole child,' ensuring our pupils are good citizens and lifelong learners. We are passionate about educating the mind and heart; developing strong

personal and social skills in our pupils so they can become happy, confident, kind members of our community and society.

Our Whole School Vision

Through our vibrant and exciting curriculum, co-constructed with our learners, we engage our children in purposeful and challenging experiences, providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to fulfil each of their potential and become successful contributors in our ever-changing world. Our learners are at the heart of our curriculum, and we all work together to establish a creative learning environment which is fun, safe, and caring, enabling our learners to flourish. We, foster our learner's natural curiosity and their love of learning, promoting the importance of marvellous mistakes whilst diving into our Welsh heritage and dipping our toes into other languages and cultures along the way.

Fundamentally, our school is a brain stretching, laughter sharing, independence building, happy memory making, family feel school, where every single child matter and is valued and cared for.

*"Be Bold, Be Brilliant
Be the best you at Berriew."*



General information

Address	Berriew C.P. School BERRIEW Welshpool Powys SY21 8BA
Telephone	01686 640312
E-mail:	office@berriew.powys.sch.uk
Website:	www.berriewschool.uk
Head teacher	Mr Sean Clarke
Chair of Governors	Miss J Haycock

The staff

Head Teacher	Sean Clarke
Class Teachers	Class Unicorn (Reception) - Sarah Yorke Class Dragon (Y1 and Y2) - Sophie Lewis Class Griffin (Y3 and Y4) - Lindsay Clarke and Sean Clarke Class Phoenix (Y5 and Y6) - Rhian Davies
Teaching Assistants	Rachael Hassanyeh, Amy Gardner, Molly Penhale and Deborah Richards
Secretary	Katy Wright
Cleaner in Charge	Sarah Hope
Cleaner	Sarah Hope, Julie Taylor
Lunchtime Supervisors	Debbie Evans, Sarah Hope, Amy Gardner, and Molly Penhale.
Breakfast and	Debbie Evans and Polly Mascord
Afterschool Club	Debbie Evans and Polly Mascord

The Curriculum



This is one of the most exciting times in education in Wales. We are in the process of developing a new curriculum that aims to create a successful and exciting future for all the children at Berriew School.

The new curriculum is being developed by teachers with the intention of creating students who are:

- 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.

From September 2022 we will be using the new curriculum framework and developing a new bespoke curriculum along the 6 areas of learning. These are:

- Expressive Arts.
- Health and Well-being.
- Humanities.
- Languages, Literacy and Communication.
- Mathematics and Numeracy and
- Science and Technology

As we create our new curriculum, we will ensure that the pupils engage in the process of developing the curriculum. At Berriew we believe that children learn best when their curiosity and imaginations are engaged. We strive to provide relevant experiences that will nurture this approach, within a structured framework. Our ideal is to ensure that all children, by the time they are eleven years old, are fluent readers, can write effectively, will have a good understanding of mathematical concepts and skills and the world around them, and have become eager, independent learners. Each child will have had every opportunity to develop fully, according to his or her ability, and as a member of society.

Recently, we have been part of the Lead Creative School project. The pupils have learnt about growth mind habits, collaboration, independent and inquiry-based learning. They have collaborated with staff to design our own **Language of Learning characters** and are at the heart of developing the new curriculum.

Expressive Arts

Securing the children's response to any subject, through the Arts, ensures their full engagement and therefore, learning. At Berriew, children explore many areas of the curriculum in this way. They are taught the skills and knowledge outlined in the National Curriculum in a meaningful context.

They are encouraged to use a variety of media in both Art and Design activities to make both 2D and 3D pictures and models. They investigate the work of famous artists and are encouraged to evaluate their own and others work.

Music tuition involving singing and performing is provided during class lessons, supported by Sign Up an online music resource. The school is also able to offer peripatetic music opportunities for individual tuition for piano, drums, guitar, and ukulele (for which there is a small charge per week). We work with a number of local peripatetic music teachers and Music Heroes.

This subject is usually linked to our topic work and involves the children examining various products, determining how they work and then designing and making their own. It can involve the use and application of mathematical and scientific concepts and encourages the children to work cooperatively on a project.



Health and Well-being

Well-being is an essential aspect of school life and is very important. We provide many opportunities for the children to discuss issues that concern them personally, and issues that affect other people too. We also promote a healthy lifestyle. We designate the first two weeks of the new academic year to well-being and provide opportunities throughout the year to discuss attitudes to learning, Growth Mind-set and friendships.

We promote equal opportunities *for* all children, and good relations between all.

We have an effective Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies with guidance for the children drawn up by our School Council. Throughout school we have a number of councils which directly involved pupils in the way the school is run and developed.

The school agreed sex education policy is linked with our health education programme and is integrated into our topic work. Sensitive issues are managed carefully, and questions answered in an honest and appropriate manner.

Children in year six usually take part in a session with the school Nurse, where they are prepared for the natural developments that are likely to take place in their bodies as they grow older - you will be informed of this in advance and your permission will be sought.

You have the right to withdraw your child from all or part of the sex relationship education programme if you so wish.

Physical activity is very important to children's health. They undertake a wide variety of activities including gymnastics, dance, games, athletics, orienteering and swimming. The school takes part in 'friendly' matches and tournaments in netball, football, cricket, hockey, cross-country, swimming etc. There are various after school clubs and the Sports Ambassadors are developing lunchtime activities for children who are particularly interested in sporting activities such as the daily mile.





Humanities

Many of our topics are history and geography based. Children develop an awareness of the past and how it has contributed to the present through the study of evidence and artefacts, visual materials, oral history, the local environment, historical personalities, events, and stories. They develop an understanding of the landscape, both natural and man-made, and the cultures of people from other countries.

In RE we follow the Powys Agreed Syllabus, which is broadly Christian based, but we are keen to introduce our children to other World faith and religions, and to reflect upon various issues. Collective Worship is non-denominational but Christian based. From time-to-time other people, such as the local clergy are invited to school to take assemblies.

The school often uses Berriew Church (St. Buenos) for events such as Harvest Festival and Christmas Services. Parents are invited to attend their child's class assemblies.

If, for any reason, you wish to withdraw your child from these activities, please contact the Head teacher.



Language, literacy, and Communication

English is an integral part of a child's education and social development. Therefore, we aim to provide appropriate learning experiences right across the curriculum. The National Curriculum and the National Literacy Strategy focus on the development of speaking and listening, reading, and writing skills. At Berriew we have developed a way of working that ensures progression in each of these areas and promotes an enthusiasm for the spoken and written word.

We encourage children to talk about themselves and the things of interest to them from the earliest age. Children often work in pairs and small groups where the emphasis is not only on speaking, but also on listening to others. Drama also develops these skills as well as engaging them in other aspects of the curriculum.

A particular emphasis is also placed upon the teaching of reading at our school. We use a variety of multi-sensory methods when teaching phonics and word recognition, providing a range of strategies that each child can use. We are focused on encouraging the sharing and enjoyment of books. Children are urged to read stories, poems and non-fiction books from their class collections, the school reference library and online through Oxford Owls/Get Epic/Giglets.

Children's written work is developed both in our English lessons and across the other curriculum areas. They are given the opportunity to use their imaginations creativity, develop their logical and organisational skills, and to write for real audiences. They will develop their ability to write stories, poems, plays, reports, letters, accounts, discussions, explanations etc. In this context, the fundamental skills of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and handwriting will also be a teaching focus. Progression in these skills is carefully planned for.

The teaching of Welsh as a second language is supported by the authority's peripatetic specialist teachers of Welsh. The focus is on oral work, although more reading and written work is incorporated as the children progress through school.

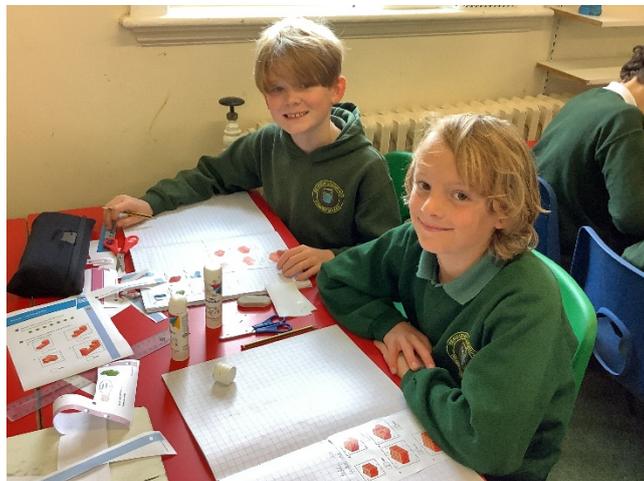
The school endeavours to give children a sense of 'What it means to be Welsh and what it means to live in Wales. This is achieved through a focus on local studies, Welsh writers, artists, and famous people - both past and present. We also hold a St. David's Day Eisteddfod each year. We also encourage URDD membership where the children take part in a range of musical, sporting, cookery, art, and craft competition. In 2018, we were awarded the bronze award (Cymraeg campus).



Mathematics and Numeracy

We have recently introduced the Abacus maths scheme, which we use from Reception to year 6. It allows the children to build their mathematical skills and understanding in a progressive and balanced manner, with an emphasis on the development of mental maths. Children return to concepts at a higher level across the terms and years, constantly reinforcing and building upon previous understanding.

We aim to develop confidence and accuracy in the use of mathematical skills, and more importantly, to equip the children with the understanding of how to apply these skills to problem solving and investigative situations. Opportunities for the use of and development of maths in other curriculum areas are planned for and undertaken, ensuring that mathematics is seen as a universally useful tool. Times Table Rock Stars and Maths Blast on the Hwb are used to reinforce multiplication and division skills.



Science and Technology

Science is taught as part of our rolling plan of topics but occasionally as a separate subject to ensure coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum. Science is the practical investigation into the environment in which we live. We encourage the children to question, predict, explore, and give explanations. Our immediate vicinity is used where appropriate - the school grounds for example.

We aim to give all our pupils confidence in using ICT through the Digital Competency Framework. We are keen to develop their skills in all aspects, from word processing and data handling to using the internet safely, and to help them to use ICT to enrich and extend learning in other areas of the curriculum. The pupils have the opportunity to use a range of digital technologies and are encouraged through the homework grids to practice their skills at home in a range of cross-curricular activities.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The school offers a wide variety of activities, workshops, visitors to school and trips throughout the year for each class.

The year five and six children have the opportunity for a residential visit every year and we currently go to Condoover, near Shrewsbury one year and Glan llyn the next. This encourages independence, teamwork, and responsibility. The activities offered include a variety of water sports, abseiling, climbing, orienteering and a rope assault course.



Home school links

When parents, teachers and children work together, then children make better overall progress, and they seem to be much happier with life in general. It is, therefore, very important that the links between home and school are good. The school has an open-door policy and teachers are around to discuss issues with parents in the morning or at

the end of the day. If a longer discussion is needed then parents can arrange a phone call or meeting with the class teacher.

The school uses Class Dojo as a method of staying connected with parents and carers. Through this site we can share events at school, send messages about individual pupils, share the work they have been doing in class and let parents know when they have been awarded Class Dojo points for positive attitudes to work, good quality work and for showing respect. We also use Facebook and the school website to keep parents up to date with information linked to the school, the wider community and from the LA and Welsh Government.

We also have a celebration assembly each week to recognise the hard work of pupils, the use of Welsh and for showing good manners.

The home/school partnership should ensure that together we provide an environment where every child has the opportunity to achieve their best.

The school day

Breakfast club	7.45-8.45
Doors open	8.45
Start of school day	8.50
Morning play	10.30 - 10.45
Lunch time Class Unicorn and Class Dragon	11.45 - 12.45
Lunch time Class Griffin and Class Phoenix	12.00 - 1.00
End of day	3.30
Afterschool club	3.30 - 5.30

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.45am to 8.45am, where your child can attend for a free breakfast. Our Breakfast staff are Mrs Debbie Evans and Miss Sarah Hope. A registration form will need to be completed prior to your child attending Breakfast Club. Staff will sign in pupils in the register when parents drop their children off at Breakfast Club. Currently we charge £1/child for the breakfast club/childcare. Currently we have around 26 pupils attending each morning.

Afterschool club

From 3.30pm - 5.30pm every day our After School Club offers the opportunity for children to access a wide selection of activities (including ICT, art and craft and indoor/outdoor sports equipment). A light tea is also provided. There is a charge for this facility. Please enquire at Reception for information regarding availability if you require this service.

End of the day arrangements

Parents meeting their children at the end of the day should make their way to the outside door of their child's class. It is very important that parents collect their children punctually at the end of the day as staff often have meetings at the end of the school day. It is important that as a school we are made aware of any unforeseen difficulties that may occur in exceptional circumstances, which may delay the collection or delivery of pupils to school. If ever the person collecting them is late, for whatever reason, the children are taken to After School Club.

Inclusion

The school has a positive, inclusive ethos, which aims to identify and meet the physical, spiritual and social needs of each individual member of the school community. Please contact the Headteacher to discuss any specific needs or for a copy of the Equal Opportunities Policy.

Equal Opportunities

The school has an Equal Opportunities Policy that ensures equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school irrespective of disability, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or marriage and civil partnership. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all of those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Berriew School we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Additional Learning Needs

Co-ordinator: Mrs S Lewis

We welcome all children - including those with **disabilities** as long as we are able to cater for their needs. The ethos within our school aims to meet the needs of our pupils regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, emotional, or behavioural difficulties, gender, social and cultural background, religion, or ethnic origins. We aim to demonstrate our school's commitment to equal opportunities through our practice. We will make every effort to admit a child who has a disability. We believe in developing children's attitudes by example and try to promote respect for other people's beliefs. We have a plan in place in order to improve our existing facilities and would be glad to discuss your child's needs in order to make our school accessible to them.

All staff are committed to a shared responsibility for the development of appropriate strategies and systems of support in the delivery of provision made for pupils with Additional Learning Needs. The responsibility for ensuring supported integration for pupils with statements is with all staff. Inclusive and appropriate arrangements are made for pupils who have Additional Learning Needs. Consideration is given to each child's need and what they need in order to achieve.

We work hard to make every child feel special, nurtured and an individual. The school building is well designed allowing children to learn and play with their peer groups and has large play areas for all ages to play/interact together.

The ALNCo works closely with parents and all teaching staff to ensure that the most effective provision possible is made for pupils with Additional Learning Needs. All pupils entering the school are usually assessed to determine whether additional educational support is needed.

A copy of the school's Additional Learning Needs Policy is available on the school website. The school works closely with outside agencies in arranging provision for Additional Learning Needs pupils. The school keeps a record of pupils with ALN to ensure their needs are being met. This list is regularly reviewed. If your child is identified as having ALN, you will be informed that they are being placed on the register.

The first person to identify that a child has ALN may be yourself, as a parent or carer; the class teacher, a Health Visitor, or another medical professional. If your child is identified with an ALN, we will assess:

- The child's strengths and weaknesses
- How best to help your child learns?
- Whether additional support is needed.

If it is decided that your child may have ALN then we will immediately look at making provisions necessary for them to succeed and will inform you of any changes.

We recognise that all children have individual needs to be met within the classroom, and therefore work is differentiated to suit their needs. Some children may, however, at a particular stage in their school life, need some extra support. Others may need more challenging activities than their peers.

Currently, all our external doors are accessible without the need for steps; we have a disabled toilet in the main building. Our plan includes improvements to the opening of the double entrance doors to allow easier wheelchair access and the development of a sensory garden.

School meals

Children have the choice of bringing their own packed lunch or taking advantage of the meals offered by Powys Catering Services. At present, meals costs £2.35 payable

through ParentPay and includes a choice of meals including a vegetarian option and jacket potatoes. Parents/pupils can choose daily if they want a school lunch.

All the children dine in the Community Centre Hall where meals take place in a friendly atmosphere supervised by our lunchtime supervisors. The tables consist of mixed aged children and we encourage the older children to support the younger children to eat their meals quietly and help clear tables.



Uniform and PE kit

The wearing of school uniform, although optional for primary pupils, is encouraged to increase the children's sense of belonging and identity. School uniform is obtained from Constructiv Clothing (Unit 50, Mochdre Industrial Estate, Mochdre, Newtown).

The uniform consists of a bottle green sweatshirt, hooded sweatshirt or bottle green cardigan, black trousers/skirt/dress and a white or bottle green polo shirt.

We discourage the wearing of jewellery as it can be dangerous when playing and can get lost. If your child has pierced ears, then only studs should be worn.

Children will also need a simple **P.E. Kit**. This consists of a green Berriew T-shirt, black shorts, and a pair of pumps. Trainers are necessary for outdoor activities. A tracksuit may be worn in colder weather.

We have swimming lessons at the Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool. If parents wish their children to wear swimming goggles, they should sign a form stating that they take full responsibility for any accident that may occur as a result of this wish. The relevant form can be obtained from the Administration Officer.

All clothing needs to be clearly marked with your child's name, to assist with identification and limit lost property.



Safeguarding

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The school follows Powys County Council's Child Protection Policy and Procedures. This important policy document is available on the school website. If you have any concerns that a child is being harmed or is at risk of harm, or if you receive a disclosure, you must contact the following staff immediately: Mr Sean Clarke (Headteacher), in his absence Mrs Lindsay Clarke (Assistant Headteacher) on 01686 640312.

Health and Safety

Every possible care is taken to ensure children's safety whilst they are at school. No child is allowed to leave early without permission. If there is a change to normal arrangements, please let the class teacher know. The school regularly reviews health and safety arrangements for pupils and staff. Every visitor must visit the main entrance before gaining access to the school. Visitors **MUST** sign in and wear an identification badge. If a visitor acts inappropriately towards a pupil or member of staff then they will be asked to leave the school grounds immediately and the police will be informed. Fire drills are held each term.

Complaints

If parents or carers have any concerns regarding their child in school, they are asked to contact the class teacher or Mr Clarke. It is important that we are fully aware of individual concerns so that we can address them immediately. We will be only too pleased to answer any of your questions or assist you in any way.

Should you wish to make a formal complaint, relating to the curriculum or any other matter, there is a complaints procedure, which is set out by Powys County Council. This begins with the complaint first being lodged with the Headteacher, who will arrange for a discussion to take place. If the matter is not resolved, the Headteacher will then advise on the next step of the complaints procedure.

The full complaints procedure policy can be found on the school website.

Charging

Education is provided at the school without compulsory charges to parents, the vast majority of school time activities being financed by the school with funds received from the Local Education Authority.

When going on school trips, voluntary contributions are asked to support the financial costs. If the voluntary contributions do not meet the costs of the trip, then the trip will not go ahead. Only for residential trips and our annual pantomime, do parents have to meet the full cost of the trip.

There is a charge for music lessons. These will be set out in an individual letter when an interest is expressed in learning an instrument.

Pastoral care

The Headteacher has the overall responsibility for the health, safety and security of the school and the pupils. The school relies upon the close cooperation of all members of staff and parents to ensure that all pupils are cared for. The staff of the school take responsibility for the children when they arrive at school in the morning and the class doors open at 8.50am. Their responsibility continues until the children leave in the afternoon, with staff on duty outside until 3.30pm. Members of staff and Lunchtime Supervisors are responsible for the children during lunch break. Children should always be clear as to arrangements for their getting home. If they are being met by an adult other than the person who usually collects them school staff should be informed of this, otherwise they will not release your child to an unknown person without your express permission to do so.

From time-to-time accidents do occur; these are recorded and treated on the premises. Parents are always advised of a head or groin injury by telephone and bump form. In cases of more serious accidents parents are requested to attend school. If unavailable, then a member of staff would accompany a pupil to hospital if required and would stay with the pupil until the parent was available. It is important and in the best interest of all pupils that parents keep the school informed about changes relating to addresses, telephone numbers, welfare of the pupils, home circumstances, illnesses and any medication being taken at home. The emergency numbers provided by parents must be accurate and amended if parents or close relatives/contacts change their phone numbers.

Online safety

Online Safety is taught throughout the school and great emphasis is put on the safety of our pupils when online. A range of lessons are taught to improve understanding of staying safe online. Digi Wizards have been established in order to improve online safety further - leading learning for other children as well as staff and championing online safety messages around the school. All pupils and staff are aware of the Acceptable-Use Policy which sets out guidelines for staying safe online and with digital resources. Our online safety policy sets out how we keep children safe online in much greater detail.



Religious Education and daily worship

Following statutory requirements all pupils attend a daily act of worship within assemblies or the classroom. Such opportunities contribute to pupils' moral and spiritual development. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Please discuss with the Headteacher your individual needs.

The school examines all the main religions of the World with an emphasis on similarities and tolerance of others. We aim to introduce pupils to other people's cultures, traditions and beliefs through the themes and topics we teach to ensure they become ethically and spiritually informed citizens.

Sex and relationship education

This area of the curriculum is delivered sensitively and with the support of the school nurse. During their final years in school, pupils are provided with a greater depth of information relating to the development of their bodies and the onset of adolescence. The school follows the advised programme of study provided by the local authority. Parents will be informed as to when this will take place and they have the right to

withdraw their child if they do not wish them to receive this information. If you would like to see the full policy, please look at our school website:

Healthy snack

We encourage children to eat healthily and are a member of the Healthy Schools Scheme. Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack for breaktime either fruit or vegetables and have a straw style water bottle in school every day. There is a water cooler in the main corridor which children have access to throughout the day for clean cold filtered water. **Fizzy drinks and sweets should not be brought to school.**

The Foundation Phase children are provided with **free school milk** at playtimes.

Daily Welsh

Staff and pupils are encouraged to use Welsh as part of their everyday language in school. We aim to develop the use of the language and to provide a relevant context for the teaching of it. Much of the teaching is through activities and games, as well as reading and weekly writing sessions in Welsh in Key Stage 2. Children are encouraged to be proud of their Welsh heritage and to respect the cultural identity of all children in school. We focus on our similarities and shared beliefs.

Homework

As part of our close links with home, we do encourage children to undertake homework provided on the topic-based homework grid. This allows pupils to complete a range of creative tasks linked to the work they are doing in school and allow them to practice the skills they have learnt in school. Reading, spelling, and learning their times tables are crucial and we ask parents **to read with their child daily.**

Do remember, however, that your child will have worked hard at school. If they enjoy a variety of activities with you at home, then get a good night's sleep, they will come back in the morning ready and keen to learn!

Attendance

If pupils do not attend school, they cannot be educated. Good attendance and punctuality leads to the best learning outcomes. We ask you to call the school on the first morning of absence, if possible before 9am. All medical/dental appointments should be made outside of school hours as far as possible, but if they take place during school time, we ask that parents bring in the appointment letter or a card from the receptionist following the appointment. Pupils who are persistently late may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer. Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning! The school will not authorise absence for holidays unless it is in exceptional circumstances. The school, in line with local authority policy, will issue penalty notices as necessary

The majority of staff are trained in basic first aid procedures. If more serious accidents occur parents may be asked to collect their children. If this is not possible an injured child may be taken to a surgery or casualty unit if we consider that this is necessary and the parents contacted.

If your child is receiving medication that needs to be continued in school time, we can only do so if we have received your written instructions on the appropriate form, a copy of which is available in the appendices or from the office.

Transfer to High School

Our pupils normally transfer to Welshpool High School at the age of eleven plus. However, we have close links with all the High Schools in the local area and representatives from them visit the school prior to transition. Year 6 children have the opportunity to visit the High Schools on a number of occasions, including 2 full days in July, so that they can see the school operating and be a part of its normal day. Every effort is made to make the transition as smooth as possible.

For children with ALN or anxiety additional transition sessions can be arranged to support their transition to the high school.

Looked after children

The member of staff designated the responsibility of promoting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is Mr Clarke. The school follows local authority policy when promoting the educational achievement of Looked After Children.

New pupils

If your child is starting at Berriew School you will be asked to provide emergency contact numbers and medical information and sign the following forms:

- Photo consent for Class Dojo, website, and Facebook pages
- HWB platform permission
- Local area visits e.g., Church, village
- Educational visit consent form, including swimming

Health matters

If you suspect your child is unwell before the start of the school day, it is best that you keep them home until they have recovered. If you require information about specific guidance regarding illnesses and infections, please contact the school and we'll pass on your concerns/queries to the school nurse if we don't have the information. If your child is taken ill during the school day and is unfit to continue in school, we will contact parents to collect their child.

If a child requires daily medication for a chronic complaint e.g., asthma, there are certain procedures which must be followed:

A parent or guardian must inform the school of the child's condition and the medication being taken. An asthma form will need to be signed by the parent/guardian. These are available at the main Reception desk. All medication should be taken to Reception and must clearly show the child's name on the sticker from the pharmacy, the dosage, and the frequency. You will be asked to complete an administering medicines form. We can only give medication in school that is prescribed as four times a day or more, and we can only give it once in school.

Items such as ventilators for asthmatic pupils are to be kept in the pupil's classroom. All staff are aware of pupils who require specific medication in an emergency (for example an epi-pen), and where it is kept.

It is essential that we are kept up to date with contact numbers so that you can be informed quickly in the event of an emergency.

Transport

Due to the rural nature of our school, most of the children travel to school either on designated mini-buses or in their parents' cars. At 3.30pm, the vicinity of the school can become a very busy area. For reasons of safety, we request that parents picking up their children by car, park in the bottom playground and collect their child/ren from the class entrances. Please do not park near the double gates at the front of school as this can inhibit access for the mini-buses or emergency vehicles which could be dangerous.

From time to time, it is necessary to take children out of school on an educational visit or to take part in a sporting fixture. In these circumstances, transport is often provided by local coach companies or teachers in exceptional circumstances.

For your child to take part in such events it is necessary that you give your written permission. When your child begins school, you will also be asked to give written permission for taking your child on short walks to the village/church, using your child's image on the website, in press releases or on school videos and Class Dojo, part of our positive behaviour reward system.

Behaviour

Discipline and high standards of behaviour are very important within Berriew School, where everyone is valued and respected. We believe that the task of producing well-disciplined children is a joint one, shared between parents, teachers, and children. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour and they are expected to comply with acceptable standards of behaviour. The overall responsibility at school rests with the Headteacher.

Restorative Practice (RP) is a whole school philosophy. It is the ethos that underpins all aspects of school life. RP is closely aligned to the United Nations Rights of the Child and supports well-being and positive behaviour management. RP also links directly with our Values Education and Habits of Mind. Our emphasis is on the promotion of positive behaviour and examples of current rewards include Class Dojo points and certificates for manners in the weekly Celebration assembly Jar' and 'Golden Time.'

We have a system of sanctions in place to deter unacceptable behaviour. These sanctions include advising parents of their children's unacceptable behaviour. Any form of bullying will be acted upon immediately and if necessary, parents will be informed.

A disregard of acceptable standards of behaviour, especially when the health and safety of other pupils is at risk, will result in pupils being excluded from school. This process involves the Governing Body as well as the Local Education Authority and follows strict procedures.

In conjunction with pupils, staff and governors, our School Council has drawn up a comprehensive set of standards for behaviour in our school. If you would like a copy of the full positive behaviour policy, please do not hesitate to ask for one.

Pupil voice

Berriew School takes great pride in its encouragement of Pupil Voice and this underpins the philosophy behind our new curriculum and informs planning. We also have a number of pupil voice groups, made up of pupils from different classes in every year group. Annual secret ballot elections for Pupil Voice group members are held each September, with one member from each class, from Year 1 to Year 6, being elected as a School Council member, Digital Leader, Criw Cymraeg and Well-Being Warrior member. There are also numerous other pupil voice groups such as our Year 6 Sports Ambassadors.

Pupil progress and assessment

All pupils have writing targets based on formative and termly assessments. If a pupil has a specific additional learning need, a Universal Learning Provision (ULP) or Individual Learning Provision (ILP) will be drawn up in collaboration with the child and their parent/carer to assist them in achieving their targets.

All staff at Berriew School work hard to ensure the continuous improvement of the basic skills of all pupils in school. This includes those who underachieve and those whose attainment is lower than would be expected of someone of their age. This is achieved by regular assessment procedures which inform teachers and parents of the children's academic progress. The results will also inform teachers' future planning to ensure that the individual needs of each child continue to be met.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet the teacher on two occasions throughout the year: Meet the Teacher in the Autumn term and Individual Parents' Evening appointments in the spring term (10-minute sessions). An annual full school report is sent home in the summer term.

At the beginning of each term, a newsletter is sent home explaining the topic for each class, the work they will be covering and ideas for homework activities. PE days etc. for that particular class.

Twice a year the pupils in Years 2-6 will be assessed using the National Welsh Tests in Reading and Maths (Procedural and Reasoning). Small skill or knowledge-based tests e.g., spellings or mental maths tests are carried out at the discretion of the class teacher.

Early Years and Reception pupils take a base-line assessment on entry and exit. All test results are collated onto an individual tracking sheet. The information from each year group is recorded on a year group tracking sheet. This tracking information is closely monitored by staff and appropriate action is taken if a child is thought to be under achieving.

Parents of children in Years 2 and 6 will also receive a report on their child's attainment at the end of the year with comparative information of school children in Wales

Contacting school

All parents are welcome to arrange an appointment to come into school to discuss problems and concerns. Teachers can return phone calls to parents to discuss any concerns. A weekly newsletter is emailed to each parent and the school uses Class Dojo as a reward system and also to communicate with parents during the school day. In addition, parents can also email the school and we endeavour to respond by the next day.

The school Administration Officer is available daily from 9.00 until 3.15.

In case of emergency, or if the matter you wish to discuss is of pressing importance to you, then you can ring the school at any time.

For security reasons, all visitors during the school day are requested to report to the office on arrival.

Communication with parents

Numerous letters and newsletters are sent home with the children on a weekly basis, these can also be sent via e-mail and are available on the school website. Starting at the beginning of each year every whole school letter is numbered, so if you find that you are missing a particular letter you can ring the secretary and request another copy.

Staff will also use Class Dojo to send messages including photographs of their children, to parents during the day showing the work they are doing in school. Home learning will be supported by online through Microsoft teams. In the case of an emergency then staff will phone parents/cares or a designated contact for the family.

Parental Involvement in School

We endeavour to involve parents as much as possible in the life of the school. Invitations are, of course, extended to special annual events such as Sports Days, Christmas, and Summer Concerts. However, we are also keen to involve parents in the day-to-day activities that take place. We welcome any help from parents that they might like to give, and if they have a special skill that they can bring to the children, they are very welcome in school. All our regular helpers are police checked.

So far parents have been involved in such supportive activities as listening to children read, helping with craft work/sewing, teaching sporting skills, gardening with groups of children, school visits, computer technology and cookery.



Friends of Berriew

The Friends of Berriew supports the school by organising social events, which not only raise much-needed funds, but also bring parents together. They help staff in ensuring the smooth running of Sports Days, summer, and Christmas fairs. Their contribution to school life is very valuable. The meetings are very friendly and informal - so why not come along?



Admission Arrangements

In Powys children are admitted to school in September following their fourth birthday.

They can start on either a full or part-time basis. This flexibility is important in order to meet the needs of individual children. However, children are welcome to join us at any stage of their primary education. Our current admission limit is 15.

Please see our admissions policy on the school website or contact Powys County Council

