



YSGOL PEN BARRAS

2025-2026 Prospectus

Gweithiwn â gwên yn sŵn y Gymraeg

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CONTACT



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Chair of Governors: Mr Huw Hilditch-Roberts

Head of Education: Mr Geraint Davies

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Parent/Carer,

It is our pleasure to present to you the prospectus for Ysgol Pen Barras.

Ysgol Pen Barras is a Welsh-medium County Primary School with 290 pupils aged between three and eleven on roll. The school is located just off Ffordd Glasdir in Ruthin and is a highly successful school that offers rich and inspiring experiences for children. We set high standards and nurture the development of the whole child in a warm, supportive, and stimulating environment. Every child is given the opportunity to reach their full potential, whether academically, in sport, or through the arts.

We place strong emphasis on reading, writing, digital skills, and numeracy, but we believe that education is about much more than that. Our aim is to provide an education that develops the whole child and prepares them for their journey through life.

Our goal is to educate pupils to be bilingual, giving them “two windows on the world.” When children join the school, they are carefully supported to adapt to the Welsh-medium setting. Welsh is the official language of the school and pupils are prepared accordingly. We also run our own afternoon nursery provision, Clwb Ffrindiau Bach, which gives Nursery class children the opportunity to continue their learning through the medium of Welsh.

Ysgol Pen Barras is a particularly happy and welcoming school, that is active within the community. We enjoy close, constructive relationships with parents, governors and the wider community. Parents are welcome to arrange a visit to the school at any time to discuss their child's education or any aspect of school life.

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Dyfan Phillips

Headteacher

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SCHOOL STAFF



Leadership Team

Mr Dyfan Phillips
Headteacher

Miss Ffion Hughes
Deputy Head / Leader of Key Stage 2 and the Under 9 Unit

Miss Annwen Hughes
Additional Learning Needs Coordinator

Mrs Helen Williams
Under 12 Unit Leader

Mrs Sioned Roberts
Under 7 Unit Leader

Mrs Elinor Rogers
Under 5 Unit Leader

Foundation Phase Teachers

Under 5 Unit
Mrs Elinor Rogers
Mrs Mared Owen

Under 7 Unit
Mrs Sioned Roberts
Mrs Elin Owen
Mrs Alwen Vaughan
Mrs Elin Griffiths

Key Stage 2 Teachers

Under 9 Unit
Miss Ffion Hughes
Mrs Lois Morris
Mrs Annwen Hughes
Mr Owen Hughes

Under 11 Unit
Mrs Helen Williams
Miss Elin Parry
Mrs Elen Tudor
Mrs Nia Roberts

Classroom Teaching Assistants

Mrs Elen Owen
Mrs Glenda Faulkner
Mrs Bethan Edwards
Miss Bethan Hughes
Mrs Ceri Roberts
Mrs Ffion Jones
Mrs Emma Turner
Mrs Sara Rowlands
Miss Jess Jones
Mr Wil Owen

Administrative Staff

Mrs Mari Wynne Jones
Miss Glenda Jones
Miss Anita Mifflin

Kitchen Staff

Caretaker/Cleaners

Mr Emyr Lloyd Thomas
Miss Carys Jones
Mr Emyr Turner

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THE SCHOOL'S GOVERNING BODY



Mr Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Co-opted / Chairman

Mr Dyfan Phillips
Headteacher

Mr Hywel Richards
Co-opted / Vice-chairman

Mrs Sharon Wyn Davies
Co-opted

Mr Wynne Davies
Co-opted

Miss Menna Jones
Ruthin Town Council

Miss Elin Parry
Teaching Staff

Mrs Ffion Jones
Staff

Mrs Ceri Ranson
Parent

Mr Dan Nutall
Parent

Mrs Mair Whitty
Parent

Mrs Holly Evans
Parent



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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



School Aims:

- To create a Welsh environment and atmosphere whereby pupils will be able to develop and mature to become confident individuals, who are also aware of the welfare of others and are responsible members of society.
- To offer an education of the highest quality possible which reflects the requirements of the Authority, the Government, the society and the individual.
- To enable each pupil to develop his ability in both Welsh and English, so that he/she plays a full part in the social and cultural life of the bilingual community.
- To promote the development and understanding of the Welsh heritage.
- To develop within them respect towards the world in which they live, including, on a general level, European and International dimensions, and most especially in the context of their local area and environment.
- To nurture in the pupils a sensitivity towards their relationships with others by ensuring that they understand the nature of their society, that they are aware of other people's rights and of their own responsibilities. We will endeavour to ensure that they respect their fellow citizens, realising their value and their place in society.
- To prepare pupils for the world in which they will live and work by developing their ITC skills across the Curriculum.
- Work alongside the pupils to ensure that they achieve their expected levels in Welsh, English, Mathematics and Science by promoting higher standards and eliminating under-achievement.

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School Objectives

The Child

- To develop the pupil mentally, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually, by nurturing in him the ability to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and that which was created by man.

Ethos and Environment

- To establish an active and happy environment based upon the interrelationship of respect between the teachers, teachers and pupils, and between pupils. This in turn enables pupils to be positive and to develop their self-confidence.

The Curriculum

- To ensure that each child has an equal opportunity by providing a relevant, differentiated, wide-ranging and balanced curriculum in accordance with national and local requirements.

Organisation

- Ensure continuity and balance throughout the school and take advantage of expertise within the school. Create a flexible organisation which ensures that pupils are given an opportunity to experience a variety of different experiences.

Staff Development

- Ensuring professional development of staff and needs of pupils by means of an effective training programme.

Parents

- To establish a friendly and professional relationship between the school and the home, encouraging open discussion and co-operation.

Buildings

- Attempting to maintain the buildings by ensuring that they are in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Safety Act, promote cleanliness both inside and outside school, and create an interesting educational environment.

The Community

- To promote the liaison between the school and the neighbourhood, to gain the respect of the community and to develop the pupil's respect towards their community.



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USING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND THE SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY



Choosing to send your child to a Welsh School is an important choice. Bilingualism is advantageous in several ways.

- According to research materials, children who have an understanding of two languages have a more flexible and creative mind.
- Financial advantages may appear later in life when your child is seeking employment, as more vacancies than ever in Wales request bilingual skills.
- Bilingualism can aid in the process of bridging the gap between generations, as a grandfather or a grandmother or other members of the family may feel more comfortable in one language than another.
- It offers an opportunity to experience two cultures.
- In an area such as the Vale of Clwyd, it offers an individual the opportunity to participate in all aspects of community life.

Welsh is the official language of the School but we aim to establish bilingualism throughout Key Stage 2. County policies and National Curriculum guidelines are used to create a wide-ranging and balanced curriculum. It is important to implement this policy in a friendly and disciplined atmosphere.

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SCHOOL HOURS



School day schedule:

Teachers will be on duty on the yard from 8.45am onwards

Nursery

9.00 – 11.30



Foundation Phase

8.50 – 11.45 Morning session

11.50 – 12.50 Lunch

12.50 – 3.05 Afternoon session



Key Stage 2

9.00 – 12.30 – Morning session

12.30 – 1.30 – Lunch

1.30 – 3.15 – Afternoon session

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CHILD CARE CLUBS (CLWB PEN BARRAS)



Breakfast Club

The club is open every morning from 8.00am at a price of £4.00 per morning. A free breakfast is available for all children at 8.40am.

After School Club

The Club offers after school care from 3.05pm to 5.30pm. Prices – £5 for the first hour, then £1 for each additional 15 minutes for the eldest child. For siblings; £3 for the first hour, then 75p for each additional 15 minutes.

Clwb Ffrindiau Bach

Clwb Frindiau Bach offers care for the Nursery children from 11.20am.

Prices - £20.00 for each whole session from 11.20am- 3.00pm.

The children to bring a packed lunch.

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SCHOOL UNIFORM



Pupils are expected to wear the school's official uniform.

The Workplace Worksafe store in Ruthin keeps stock of the school uniform, which are:

- Black shoes (no trainers!) or dark sandals in summer
- Grey trousers, skirt or shorts
- White polo shirt
- The school's official sweatshirt or cardigan
- A pink and white gingham dress/grey shorts in the summer
- Physical Education Uniform – Plain white t-shirt and black shorts.



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PERSONAL INFORMATION



It is important that we keep a record of the child's full name, parents' names, address, telephone numbers etc. We also ask for an emergency contact telephone number in case we cannot contact the parents. If there is any change in the information given, the school must be contacted immediately. Information must be given to the school about any medical ailment, e.g. allergy, asthma etc., and include the name, address and telephone number of your GP.

SCHOOL LUNCH AND FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES

A hot/cold lunch is prepared for the pupils with a different choice daily and this is free for the children through the grant funding of the Welsh Government. Children can bring their own lunch box.



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CHARGING POLICY



This is based on Denbighshire County Council's Charging Policy. There is a charge for instrumental lessons administered by Denbighshire Co-operative Music company. A voluntary contribution is also requested from parents towards educational trips or visitors to the school which are related to class work.

A full contribution is requested when there is an opportunity to go to Outdoor Centers e.g. Glan Llyn The Education Authority administers a grant which enables children from families who receive Family Credit or Income Supplement not to pay the cost of accommodation and food on residential visits.

There is no charge for swimming lessons as we use the swimming pool at Ruthin Leisure Centre. But a contribution is requested towards the cost of the bus to transport them to the lessons.



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PUPIL ADMISSION POLICY



Pupils are admitted to the school part time (Nursery Class) in the September following their third birthday. They will attend the morning session 9.00am-11.30am. Pupils are admitted to the school full time (Reception Class) in the September following their fourth birthday.

In order to make an application for the Reception/Nursery Class in September, parents must apply to Denbighshire County Council's Admissions Department. Reception Class applications by the previous November and Nursery applications by the previous February. Parents will then be informed of the application decision by April.

In the same way, if a child is transferring from another school, parents are asked to contact school to discuss the transfer and then make a formal application to Denbighshire County Council's Admissions Department.



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TRANSFERRING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL



Most of the pupils from Ysgol Pen Barras transfer to Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin. Applications must be made to Denbighshire County Council's Admissions Department in November when the child is in Year 6. Parents will then be informed of the application decision by April.

Year 5 and 6 pupils attend sessions at Ysgol Brynhyfryd regularly during their two last years in primary school as part of the transition programme organised by the secondary school.



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ATTENDANCE



Regular attendance at school is vitally important to a child's education. The children are expected to arrive at school on time, dressed appropriately and ready to learn. As we must show on our registers that an absence is authorised or unauthorised, parents are expected to contact the school as soon as possible to explain their child's absence. This can be done by email or by phone.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

It is not recommended for families to go on holiday during the school term. But if it is unavoidable, a formal request must be made by completing a form, which is available from the school, and returning it to the Headteacher. It will be recorded as an unauthorised absence (except in very rare circumstances).



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HEALTH



The nurse will visit the school regularly to check hearing, sight etc. There will be an opportunity for the parents to come in and discuss any problem with the nurse. Teachers and the nurse will regularly educate the children on how to keep healthy and to consider the dangers of alcohol and drug misuse.

If your child must have medication during the school day, a parent/carer must complete a dedicated form available from the school office. There is no obligation for any teacher to administer or introduce medicine to children if they are unwilling to do this. Children who suffer from wheezing (Asthma) can bring a pump to school and put it in the care of their class teacher. Ideally an asthma care plan should be left at school with the pump and spacer.

If your child is ill at school we will contact you if they need to go home. If your child is sick in the morning you should not drive them to school. With certain illnesses, the Health Authority recommends that your child stay away from school for a number of days:

Diarrhoea/vomiting - 48 hours after not being sick

Chicken Pox - 7 days after discovering the chicken pox

Measles - 7 days after discovering the measles

The German Measles - 4 days after the discovery of the measles

Mumps - 7 days after the sickness has disappeared

Whooping cough - 21 days after starting to cough

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HEALTH AND SAFETY



We follow the County's Health and Safety Policy and aim to ensure a high standard of health and safety for the staff, pupils and visitors, with a healthy and safe environment throughout the school.

A fire drill is held every half term.

First aid boxes are located in specific places around the school as well as accident books and if there is any doubt about a child's condition after an accident, we'll contact the parents or take the child to the hospital in Ruthin.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

Child protection is of utmost importance to us at Ysgol Pen Barras. In the interest of the child, the school has a statutory duty to refer any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate agencies. This can mean physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY STATEMENT

Ysgol Pen Barras offer activities providing equal opportunities to all pupils.

Pupils are encouraged to adopt a healthy attitude towards others, whatever their beliefs, and to eradicate any prejudice, racism and violence. Pupils can take part in school activities whatever their social or linguistic background.

Any violent, racist or prejudiced behaviour will not be tolerated.



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PARENTS AND TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



Ysgol Pen Barras has an active and enthusiastic PTA and is regarded as being essential to the life and success of the school. The association is proud of the professionalism of the staff and of the lively interest shown by parents in all aspects of the school's work.

The main purpose of the Association is to raise money which can be used to buy resources for the school, essential resources - without which the school would not succeed to the same degree. Each contribution is a direct investment in the education and in the future of our children, and your support to assist in any way is most welcome.



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DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

The school has an open, friendly ethos and you are welcome to arrange to see the Headteacher to discuss any concerns.

When it is necessary to raise a complaint about any aspect of the school's work, the Head should be contacted and if you are not satisfied, you can contact members of the Governing Body or Denbighshire County Council's Education Department.

The school can be contacted to request a copy of the Complaints Procedure.



POLICIES

Policies were designed on the subjects taught, statutory policies and the recommended policies and are regularly reviewed by the Governing Body and staff. A parent is welcome to request a copy of any policy they wish to see.

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THE CURRICULUM



All subjects in the National Curriculum are included in the school's syllabus. The aim is to prepare work for children of different abilities and ability grouping and social grouping/friends will take place within the class. Differentiated material is prepared for children of all abilities.

The class is taught as a whole unit as well as group learning and the pupils have the opportunity to develop as individuals within the class.

The Governors support the Local Education Authority in their work of advising and informing parents about the changes that may occur in the Curriculum from year to year.

FEEDBACK ON PUPIL PROGRESS

If you would like to discuss your child's work you can contact the school to arrange to see the class teacher. An open evening is organised for parents during the Autumn and Spring Term, and an evening to discuss the end of year report during the summer term.

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ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS



Miss Annwen Hughes is the staff member responsible for coordinating the school's ALN provision.

Objectives

We aim to ensure that the necessary provision is made through the medium of Welsh for any pupil with special educational needs.

Policy

A whole school policy (available on request) sets out the procedure for identifying, assessing and providing for pupils with special educational needs. A member of the governing body has been nominated to monitor the effective implementation of the policy.

No criteria are used when accepting pupils. The school building is on one level and there is a toilet for a wheelchair in the building.



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SEX EDUCATION



The school has adopted the Personal and Social Education Framework published by the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC) in 2000 and approved by the National Assembly for Wales for use in schools, and prepares a curriculum that meets the learning outcomes of Gender Attitude in the four Key Stages.

The aims of the school's Sex and Relationships Education are:

- Enabling pupils to be personally and socially effective by providing learning experiences where pupils can develop skills, explore attitudes, values and personal qualities, and acquire and apply appropriate knowledge and understanding of the sexual aspect of their lives appropriate to their age;
- Developing pupils' self-esteem and their sense of personal responsibility so that they develop into adults who have rewarding personal and sexual relationships;
- Prepare pupils for the challenges, choices and responsibilities of their developing sexuality and their maturing fertility;
- Empowering pupils to participate in their communities as active citizens responsible for their sexual behaviour;
- Foster and encourage positive attitudes and behaviour towards members of the community whose sexual bias differs from theirs.

The school health visitor will meet with Bl 6 pupils during the summer term to talk about adolescence and growing up. We will use a special programme called 'Sense' as a basis for this conversation. Parents can choose not to allow their child to take part in this conversation.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Morning assemblies are held in the hall two days a week and in the classrooms on the remaining three days. Pupils are allowed to be excused from the service on the condition that the school receives a letter requesting such an arrangement. Religious Education is a curricular subject, and pupils are expected to attend lessons in the subject. The lessons are mainly Christian in nature, but pupils will also occasionally be made aware of other religions.



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SPORTS



All pupils have the opportunity to take part in sport. We encourage close contact between the local clubs, e.g. football and rugby.

We have football, netball, rugby, swimming, athletics, cricket and cross-country running teams who will take part in the Urdd and Sport Dyffryn Clwyd competitions annually.

Various sports clubs are held for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children either at lunchtime or after school.



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SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025 - 2026



Autumn Term

Term begins: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Term ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Half term holidays: Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

Christmas Holidays: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term

Term begins: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Term ends: Friday 27th March 2025

Half term holidays: Monday 16th February to Friday 2nd February 2026

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

Spring Term

Term begins: Monday 13th April 2026

Term ends: Monday 20th July 2026

May Day (Bank Holiday): Monday 4th May 2026

Half term holidays: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

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