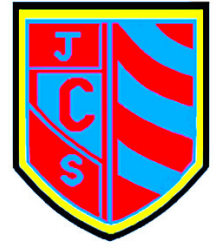


Ysgol Iau Cwmaber Junior School



General information
Cwmaber Junior School
Brynhafof Road,
Abertridwr,
Caerphilly
CF83 4BH

Tel : 02920 832231
Email :
Cwmaberjunior@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk
Website:
<https://www.cwmaberinfantsandjuniors.co.uk>



Welcome

Within the school, quality, excellence and effort are all given due recognition by teachers, as well deserved achievement can be a source of great self-motivation to children. We aim to ensure that every child achieves his/her full potential and develop self-discipline within a caring and supportive atmosphere. The school hopes that parents will progressively extend their knowledge of the school, through both contact and discussion with staff and similarly take advantage of the many opportunities for consultation. The school feels that it is important that mutual understanding and trust should be the basis of our shared responsibility for the development of all children. Governors, teachers and parents are partners in the education of children and it is, therefore, important to forge happy and productive working links between the home and the school.

B. Davies (Mrs)
Executive Headteacher of Cwmaber Infants and Junior Schools

Dear Parents,

This brochure provides an essential overview of school life at Cwmaber. Should additional queries arise, then the Headteacher will be pleased to discuss any matters arising with you. The pupils at Cwmaber are taught in a bright and attractive environment that has a relaxed, friendly and caring atmosphere. High standards of personal behaviour are required of all pupils and each child is expected to work to the best of his/her ability. You will find the staff to be very committed and caring in continuing the educational process started in the Infants, that of assisting children towards becoming confident, capable and caring young adults.

Cllr J Taylor Chairperson of the Governing Body



About the School

Cwmaber Junior covers the age range of 7 to 11 years old. It is a co-educational community school that serves the village of Abertridwr. The main language of instruction is through English, whilst Welsh is taught as a second language to all pupils. Housed in a modern building, it has excellent facilities, equipment and resources and is located in a pleasantly landscaped area with a very well-resourced playground to the rear of the building.

Should any parent / carer wish to visit the school, arrangements can easily be made. Parents / carers are always welcome at the school but it is better to make an appointment beforehand.



Our Staff

Executive Headteacher : Mrs B. Davies
Chair of Governors : Cllr. J Taylor

Type of school : Co-educational, English Medium
Juniors (7-11 years old)

School organisation:
Each year group has a separate class.

The school is within the catchment of St Cenydd Comprehensive.

Executive Headteacher : Mrs B. Davies

Deputy Headteacher : Miss L. Howells

Teaching Staff:
Miss E. Knight
Miss L. Barnett
Mrs A. Williams
Mrs S. Dann
Miss R. Shelley

Teaching Assistants:
Miss T. McNamara
Miss N. Newbold
Miss A. Beddoe
Miss D. Williams

Admin:
Mrs J. Ralph
Miss C. Jones

Mid-day Supervisors:
Mrs J. Thomas
Ms L. Morris
Miss A. Jones
Miss A. Beddoe
Miss T. McNamara
Miss R. Hart

Catering Staff:
Mrs K. Williams
Mrs J. Clarke
Mrs D. Palmer

Caretaker: Mr S. Pearce



School Uniform

Black or grey trousers, pinafore or skirt. Red and white checked dresses and black or grey shorts may be worn in the summer

Red or white polo shirts or t-shirts and a red cardigan, jumper or fleece, Sensible shoes with easy fastening e.g. Velcro

Uniform with the school logo on can be bought from TSS Sports in Bartlett Street

<https://www.tssprintandembroidery.com/>

We support Caerphilly Uniform Exchange
<https://caerphillyuniformexchange.co.uk/>

Please label all clothes clearly with the child's name, particularly cardigans and jumpers.



Times & Dates

Term dates:

School term dates are listed on the Caerphilly Council and school website

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Schools,-term-dates-and-closures.aspx>. All schools are allocated six INSET days throughout the year and you will be able to access these dates either through newsletters or on the Caerphilly Council and school website.

School Calendar:

You can find events on the school calendar at:

<https://cwmaber-infant-junior-schools.secure-primarysite.net/diary/>

There is also an option to add the school calendar to your phone.

Times of the school day:

8:55 am* - 3:30 pm with lunch from 12:00 noon to 12:55pm

*The school bell will ring at 8:45 am to enable children to be in the class by 8:55 am. The school staff will take responsibility for the pupils from 8:45 am to 3:30 pm

Due to health and safety reasons parents are not allowed to bring vehicles on the school grounds without prior authorisation

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:15-8:45 in the canteen building. Last admissions 8:30.

After School Club

We are hoping that this provision will be available soon :-)

Our Vision

"Nurture Inspire Achieve Together"

Learning Together, Working Together and Growing Together to create curious, caring and confident learners.

Cwmaber is a collaboration of two small nurturing schools with big ambitions to create curious, caring and confident learners for the future of our community



Admissions

Pupils may be admitted in the September following their seventh birthday. Families apply directly to the Directorate of Education at Ty Penallta if they wish their child to attend the school. If the school is oversubscribed, children are given priority according to criteria established by the Authority.

Good working transition links exist between Cwmaber Junior School and St Cenydd Comprehensive and this harmonious relationship forms the basis for essential educational continuity and progression for the children attending the school.

Admission is now carried out online at <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

The Local Education Authority is responsible for admissions within the county. The school adheres to the County's Admissions policy and where numbers exceed the standard number the school's local catchment defined by the Local Education Authority will be adhered to. Parents of statutory school age pupils have the right to appeal. The full policy is available on request or alternatively, please see "Starting School" booklet available at <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillydocs/schools/starting-school-booklet.aspx>

Parents seeking admission for pupils with additional needs should contact the Local Authority admissions department. Access arrangements are discussed at the point of application and managed through necessary procedures including risk assessment; the special educational needs register and appropriate agencies.

At the end of Year 6, children move to the comprehensive schools. Parents need to apply for a place as this doesn't happen automatically.

Pupils

Pupil Wellbeing

Pupil wellbeing is paramount at Cwmaber Junior School and our questionnaires indicate that pupils have a very positive attitude to school.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality is vital and given a high priority at Cwmaber Juniors. Research shows that the more regularly a child attends school, the more they are likely to learn and achieve. The attendance register is taken, electronically, at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session and follows the attendance codes from Caerphilly Council.

Absences

If your child is unable to attend school please contact the school before 9:15am. We request that parents do not book holidays during term time, but if it is unavoidable, please ask in advance for a holiday form.



Medical

The school has a number of staff qualified in First Aid and also has a medical room, so that first aid for minor injuries can be dealt with in school. If a pupil becomes ill, parents will be contacted with a view to the child returning home as soon as possible. Please make sure the school has up to date emergency contact details. Occasionally, medical and dental screenings are arranged by the School Health Service. Parents will be informed of this and treatment would not be administered without parental knowledge or consent.

School Meals

Full, balanced meals are available every day at no cost. The menu is available on the school website. Facilities are also available for pupils wishing to bring a packed lunch. All pupils remain on site at lunchtime. Pupils on low incomes can apply for free school meal status, which entitles them to a uniform grant. Application forms are available online at <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

School Security

Pupils and staff are secure on our school site. This is ensured by security fencing and the necessity for all visitors to sign in and out at the main school office. The grounds and buildings are monitored with CCTV. The school has a robust safeguarding policy in regards to visitors on site

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The policy is available on our website

Policy for charging and remissions

The policy is available on the school website.

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying

The policy is available on our website

Parental access to documents

In accordance with the Education Reform Act of 1988, copies of the local education authority's Curriculum Policy Statement, Estyn reports on the school, a full copy of the arrangements made by the local education authority for the consideration of complaints about the school, circulars and administrative memoranda relating to powers and duties under Chapter 1 of E.R.A. (The Curriculum) which are sent to schools by the DfES, the local education authority's agreed syllabus for Religious Education are available for inspection at the school.

Complaints Procedure

Stage A : If you have a concern, you can often resolve it quickly by talking to a teacher or a member of the office staff.

Stage B : In most cases, we would expect that your concern is resolved informally. If you feel that your initial concern has not been dealt with appropriately you should put your complaint in writing to the headteacher.

Stage C : It is rare that a complaint will progress any further. However, if you still feel that your complaint has not been dealt with fairly, you should write, to the chair of governors (at the school address)



Curriculum

Relationships & Sexuality Education

We teach RSE through Jigsaw at an age-appropriate level. For more information, please see our policy is on the school website.

Physical Development

The school promotes a healthy lifestyle, and all pupils are encouraged to take part in physical activities, such as dance, gymnastics and games. Parents are invited to our annual sports day.

Extra-Curricular activities

The school has a wide and varied programme of activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to take part, and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Clubs over recent years have included Stop Animation, Mindfulness and Football.

Cross Curricular

Links between topics and Areas of Learning are planned carefully to ensure a deeper understanding of concepts and application of skills through a range of contexts.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Each child is treated as an individual and the progress they make is celebrated. The school has a policy in place for all pupils who are placed on the Additional Learning Needs register. The school will determine appropriate courses of action for each pupil in consultation with parents/carers and with appropriate professionals.

Looked After Children

The progress of Looked After Children will be monitored by both the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team.

Performance Opportunities

Pupils all take part in assemblies, concerts and plays, progressing from whole class singing, to small group and individual "moments to shine".

Diversity

We celebrate diversity through assemblies, topics and themes, displays, stories, music and dance.



Curriculum

Curriculum Statement

This can be found at

<https://express.adobe.com/page/Har8dEmaSGWce/>

Structure

Teaching time is at least 23½ hours per week, in line with government recommendations.

Differentiation

Lessons and activities are carefully planned to ensure all learners are supported yet challenged through differentiated work.

Equal Opportunities

Equal opportunity will be given, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief. In accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable.

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)

Religious Education is provided for all pupils and is inclusive and broadminded. There is now no parental right to withdraw from RVE as the new Curriculum for Wales is implemented.

Collective Worship

All pupils are expected to take part in collective worship. The Collective worship sits outside the curriculum and has its own legal standing and requirements. Parents may still request that their children are withdrawn from collective worship if they wish



Cynefin

All pupils will be helped to understand and celebrate the distinctive quality of living and learning in Wales - what we call Cynefin. This is integrated into our themes and topics and linked to the local area wherever possible.

Learning Logs

Learning logs are sent home weekly with homework tasks related to the work done in school that week. These logs have been enthusiastically welcomed by pupils and parents. The tasks are as open ended as possible to give scope to children's and adults' imaginations.

Awards and Accreditations

We have gained a number of accreditations - We are a National Nurture School and have been awarded the national Quality Award for Healthy Schools. We have recently achieved the Gold award for Rights Respecting Schools as well as the Platinum award for Eco Schools. We achieved the Silver award for Campus Cymraeg and are currently working towards the Gold award.

Use of Welsh Language

All pupils are taught through the medium of English, but Welsh is an integral part of our teaching. Welsh is taught discretely as well as incidentally during the day. We have weekly Welsh assemblies where Criw Cymraeg help to lead the assembly.



Curriculum for Wales

In line with the implementation of The Curriculum for Wales in 2022 for all pupils from 3 to 16, the staff at Cwmaber Juniors ensure that The Four Purposes are at the heart of everything that we do. We plan learning experiences that help our children to become:

ambitious, capable learners
ready to learn throughout their lives

enterprising, creative contributors
ready to play a full part in life and work

ethical, informed citizens
of Wales and the world

healthy, confident individuals,
ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued
members of society.

Our curriculum is made up of six
interconnecting areas of learning and
experiences (AoLE):

Our Four Purpose Characters

The Four Purposes drive the curriculum so we linked each of the Purposes to a character so that the children could relate to them more easily. We encourage our learners to link their learning to the characters, so that they are at the heart of everything we do.



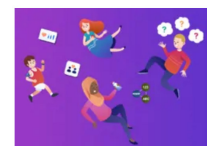
Health and Well-being- The fundamental components of this Area are physical health and development, mental health, and emotional and social well-being.

Mathematics and Numeracy- In the early years, play forms an important part in the development of mathematics and numeracy, enabling learners to solve problems, explore ideas, establish connections and collaborate with others.

Languages, Literacy and Communication- It aims to support learning across the whole curriculum and to enable learners to gain knowledge and skills in Welsh, English and international languages as well as in literature.



Expressive Arts



Health and Well-being



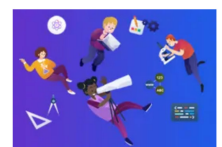
Humanities



Languages, Literacy and Communication



Mathematics and Numeracy



Science and Technology

Expressive Arts- This covers the areas of art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music

Humanities- This encompasses geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies and social studies.

Science and Technology- This Area draws on the disciplines of biology, chemistry, computer science, design and technology, and physics to enhance learners' knowledge and understanding of the world.

