

Ysgol Beca

Prospectus



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Address:

Ysgol Beca

Efailwen

Carmarthenshire

SA66 7UX

Telephone number: 01994 419423

E-mail:

admin@beca.ysgolccc.cymru

School website:

<https://www.beca.ysgolccc.cymru/>

Headteacher: Mr. Mark Bowen

Co-chair Persons of The Governing Body
Dr. Erica Thompson and Mrs. Catherine Davies

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Welcome

Dear Parents / Carers,

On behalf of the whole school I would like to welcome you to Ysgol Beca. Ysgol Beca is part of the Beca and Bro Brynach Federation of Schools, a formal partnership between two schools.

If your child is joining us for the first time, a warm welcome to you as parents to Ysgol Beca. We hope that this will be the beginning of a happy and successful partnership between us as a school and you as parents. If you have a child with us already or previously, we are very happy that you have chosen Ysgol Beca as a school for your child.

Ysgol Beca is a happy and caring school. We recognise that each pupil is different and behaves differently, develops differently and requires different levels and strategies of support and guidance. We aim to give each individual the opportunity to reach their full potential within a caring and supportive environment where all pupils are encouraged to behave in a suitable and responsible way and where each pupil will feel valued.

Confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding what is happening within it. We hope you will develop your knowledge further through discussions with me as Headteacher and other members of staff and by taking advantage of parents' evenings, drop-in sessions and school communications. We are very happy to have your child in our school and are eager for your child to feel happy and at home in our environment. We wish for your child to progress in the best possible way. Remember to contact the school immediately if your child, or you as a parent, are unhappy regarding any matter.

Welsh is the official language of the school and the main teaching medium. We try to instil in the pupils a respect for the language and culture of their country and to ensure that each pupil is fully bilingual by the time they transfer to secondary school.

This booklet gives you information about the school, its aims, the curriculum and other activities that take place within it. Remember that we are always available to meet with you as parents. If any queries arise, I as the Headteacher or Mr. Ben Batcup in my absence, will be able to assist you further. We advise that you contact the school to arrange an appointment before hand.

On behalf of the staff and the school's governing body, welcome to Ysgol Beca. We look forward to developing a healthy and collaborative partnership with you as parents / carers for the benefit of your child.

Mr. Mark Bowen
Headteacher Ysgol Beca

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Type of School

Ysgol Beca is a Welsh Medium school for pupils aged 4-11 as detailed in the County Council's "Information for Parents" booklet. Pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh in the Foundation Learning Class. English is introduced when pupils are in Year 3.

The School Site and Location

Ysgol Beca is situated in the scenic village of Efailwen on the boundary between Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Opened in 1972, the school serves the local community and receives many of its pupils from the nearby nursery, Ffynnonwen. Welsh is the language of the school, and we are dedicated to maintaining and promoting a traditional Welsh ethos that defines our community.

Our school features two large, well-equipped classrooms that provide a welcoming and focused environment for learning. The multi-purpose hall is used for various activities, including physical education, performances, and school events. Outdoors, we are proud of our substantial school garden, where pupils engage in hands-on learning, and our extensive grounds offer ample space for play and exploration. These include climbing frames, fitness equipment, and a small woodland area, providing diverse opportunities for outdoor learning and physical activity.

At Ysgol Beca, we are committed to fostering the holistic development of every pupil in a caring, supportive, and Welsh-speaking environment. We strive to uphold our rich cultural heritage while providing pupils with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.



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Vision and Mission

Vision

"Our aim is to guide, encourage and nurture skills providing experiences in a happy and caring atmosphere where all learners can be supported, stimulated and challenged to reach their full potential."

We can achieve this by:

Encouraging independence

Capturing enthusiasm

Enriching Creativity

Mission statement (2022)

We will:

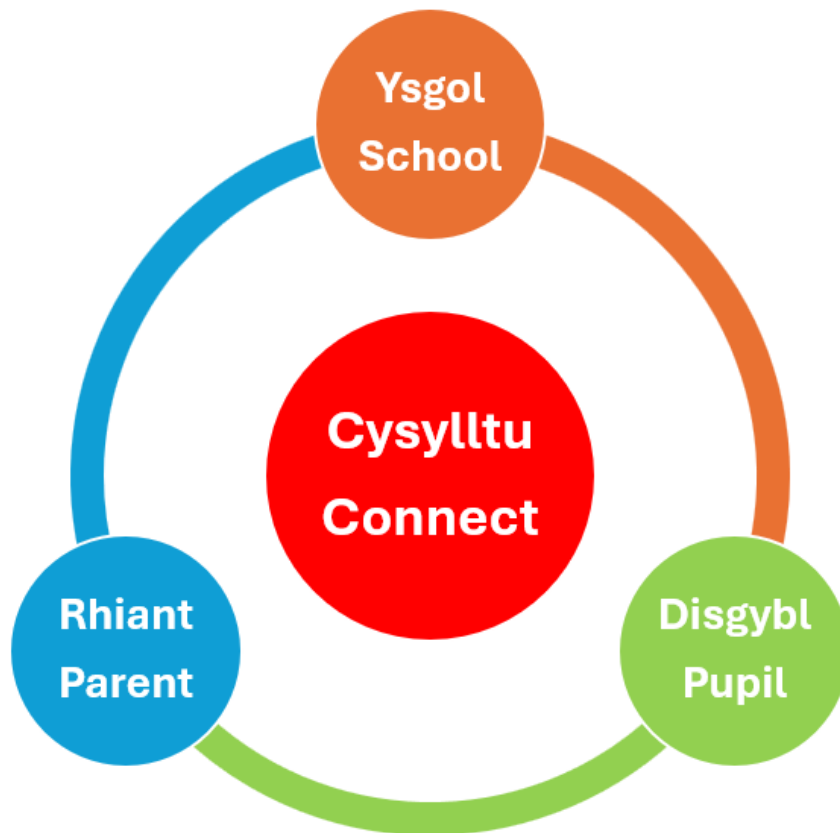
1. Ensure that every pupil is happy here and that every pupil fulfils their potential academically, physically, emotionally and socially.
2. Help pupils to develop lively, inquisitive minds, with the ability to question, contribute and discuss logically.
3. Develop pupils' interest, knowledge and skills in Literacy, Numeracy, Information Technology and in the world around them.
4. Teach pupils to work together and create tolerance in all pupils towards others regardless of their background, ethnicity and belief.
5. Create awareness and appreciation of the environment, language, culture and local area and ensure that the Welsh heritage is presented to all children.
6. Give pupils an understanding of moral values.
7. Create awareness in the pupil of the need for personal hygiene, a healthy diet, politeness and try to foster self-esteem towards others and develop strong attitudes and values.
8. Teach the pupils about the Bible and the Christian beliefs while considering all the main religions represented in Wales.
9. Work closely with parents and the community for the benefit of the pupil.
10. Ensure that all pupils take part in a variety of physical and creative activities in order to develop individual talents and skills.

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Home School Agreement

At Ysgol Beca, we place great emphasis on fostering a strong partnership between the school and home. Central to this collaboration is our 'Home / School Agreement,' which articulates our shared expectations regarding pupil and parental involvement. This agreement serves as a blueprint for mutual engagement, outlining both the school's commitment to providing the best possible service for your child and the expectations we hold for parents or carers in supporting their child's educational journey.

To ensure clarity and accountability, the Home-School Agreement is distributed annually and requires signatures from the teacher, child, and parent or carer. By affirming this agreement, all parties demonstrate their commitment to working together to facilitate the academic success and overall well-being of each pupil.



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Attendance and Punctuality

We expect all pupils to attend school regularly and punctually. Even a short absence can impair on their learning. Except for illness or a family emergency, please ensure your child attends school. On the first day of illness you are required to contact the school to inform of your child's absence. Please notify the school by telephone, email or through the school app. The school must record a pupil's absence as either: 1) A valid reason for absence 2) No explanation for the pupil's absence (unauthorised) or 3) Late attendance. We expect pupils to arrive at school punctually as this is vital for your child's educational development and for the school and classroom organisation. The school opens at 8:40am and all pupils are supervised from this time.

Prior to this, the school's breakfast club is open every morning in the school hall from 8:00 - 8:45. Please accompany your child to the designated entrance and sign-in your child. This allows a smooth handover and an opportunity for parents to share relevant information.

Details of holidays, activities and staff training days are distributed to parents through the school app, email or paper copies upon request. We do encourage parents to use the school app as this provides instant relay of messages and information. However, please notify the school office if you require paper copies of correspondence from the school. We monitor pupils' attendance at school and if at any time your child's attendance is of a concern, we will contact you to arrange an appointment to discuss and try to resolve the issue. You may contact Mr. Mark Bowen on the school's telephone number or via e-mail - mark.bowen@beca.ysgolccc.cymru to discuss attendance matters.

If the situation does not improve after the initial appointment then it will be directed to the County's Education Welfare Officer for further support.

Lateness

Please ensure your child arrives and is collected punctually. We do understand that sometimes this will happen for various reasons, therefore we would appreciate notification in such instances.

Holidays

Headteachers do have the discretionary power to grant leave for the purpose of a family holiday or trips. The school will grant 10 days leave as holiday if a pupil's attendance meets the school's expectations. Holiday leave forms are available upon request from the school office. Each application is considered on an individual basis when giving authorisation.

School Hours

Foundation Learning

Morning : 9:00 - 12:00 Afternoon: 1:00 - 3:00

Year 3 - 6

Morning : 9:00 - 12:15 Afternoon : 1:00 - 3:00

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School Admissions and Registering a Child

Full-time Primary Applications

Applications can only be submitted online using Carmarthenshire County Council admissions platform which is:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-admissions-and-changing-schools/>

You must complete a full time primary school application to ensure your child is offered a place at Ysgol Beca.

Only when you have made an application and had confirmation from Carmarthenshire County Council that your child has been accepted, can your child start at Ysgol Beca.

Your child can begin full time education in the term of their fourth birthday. However, in September 2025, this will be the term after their fourth birthday. You do not have to send your child/ren to school until they are 5-years old, but many parents find this early start beneficial. We recommend that you contact us at the school before you apply.

Free transport to the school is available for eligible pupils.

The school's 'Admissions Policy' can be viewed on the school website or requested from the school office.

An individual appointment will be arranged for parents of new starters to meet with the Headteacher and new starters will be invited to attend welcoming sessions before they are due to start at the school.



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Transfer of Pupils to Secondary School

At the end of Year 6 the pupils will transfer to Ysgol Dyffryn Taf or Ysgol Bro Preseli. We work closely with the comprehensive schools. Established administrative links and sharing of data ensure that the pupils are transferred effectively. During their final year at Ysgol Beca, numerous days are organised for pupils to visit their secondary school and to meet their prospective teachers. Also in the month of July a transition week is organised where pupils will meet and engage with pupils from the other primary schools. Additional taster days are organised for pupils with additional learning needs or pupils whom require further support to transfer smoothly.



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Curriculum for Wales

The Curriculum for Wales has been statutory since September 2022. The purpose of the Curriculum is to support the pupils to be:

1. Ambitious, capable learners
2. Enterprising, creative contributors
3. Ethical, informed citizens
4. Healthy, confident individuals.

The Curriculum is organised into 6 Areas of Learning and Experience: Expressive arts; Health and Well-being; Humanities (including Religions, Values and Ethics) which should remain compulsory to age 16); Languages, Literacy and Communication (including Welsh, which should remain compulsory to age 16, and modern foreign languages); Mathematics and Numeracy; Science and Technology (including computer science); Expressive Arts. Each Area of learning is taught with the same level of importance. Also Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency skills are taught across all Areas of Learning. The curriculum will also include: • human rights • diversity and respecting differences • experiences and skills for careers and the workplace • learning about things on a local, national and international level • relationships and sexuality education appropriate to pupils' development.



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Our School Curriculum

Teaching and Learning

Each term's work is carefully planned by the class teacher in response to parent input and pupils' ideas and needs. The work is based on a thematic approach to learning, where curricular areas are integrated into a widely embracing theme. This method provides the most relevance for pupils and ensures that we embed knowledge, skills and experiences across the Curriculum, and ensures the appropriate breadth and depth for each topic. The teacher will differentiate the work in order to meet the needs of every pupil. Also, a variety of teaching strategies will be used to ensure that the work and its presentation to the pupils are motivating and challenging. The learning experiences provided in each year will build on the pupils' previous learning and skills. Across the school, the teaching is child centred and we respect the 'Voice of the Child' in the teaching and learning. The work in each class is based on a variety of themes and you will receive details of your child's theme at the beginning of each half term. Parents will have the opportunity to share learning ideas and offer support or expertise for the following theme. Teaching staff and support staff plan structured experiences for pupils that target their numeracy, literacy and digital skills. These skills are interwoven across the areas of learning during afternoon sessions.

From Nursery to Year 6 we firmly support the principle that children learn through activities which offer first hand experiences. Through their play and first hand experiences, pupils practise and consolidate their learning, play with ideas, experiment, take risks, solve problems, and make decisions individually, in small and in large groups. First-hand experiences allow pupils to develop an understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. Nursery to Year 2 pupils participate in structured 'Messy Monday' sessions whilst pupils in Year 3 to 6 participate in structured 'Wild Friday' sessions. These timetabled sessions allow pupils to learn outside the classroom where the pupils are encouraged to research, observe, record, experiment, develop ideas, use their imagination and to create. Our approach also supports the Curriculum by encouraging pupils to follow their own line of enquiry and to make decisions.

We provide a curriculum that ensures that every pupil develops an awareness of Welsh culture and its associated heritage. The school has an equal opportunities policy. An effort is made to promote this policy by including it in the curriculum and at every opportunity during the lessons taught.



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Outdoor Learning Experiences

At Ysgol Beca, we recognize the invaluable role of outdoor learning experiences in enriching our pupils' educational journey. Our school embraces the vast array of learning opportunities that the outdoors provides, both within our own grounds and through off-site excursions. Onsite, our school boasts a well maintained garden, a field, and outdoor learning spaces that compromise climbing frames and fitness equipment. These resources serve as dynamic extensions of our classrooms, offering pupils a stimulating environment to explore, discover, and engage with the natural world.

Our school garden serves as a living laboratory where pupils can immerse themselves in hands-on experiences, learning about plant life cycles, ecosystems, and sustainable gardening practices. Additionally, our field provides ample room for physical activities, outdoor games, and scientific investigations. Purposefully crafted outdoor learning spaces offer versatile settings for collaborative projects, group discussions, and creative expression, fostering a holistic approach to learning that integrates both academic and practical skills.

Research has shown that outdoor learning experiences offer a multitude of benefits for pupil's physical, mental, and emotional development. Exposure to nature promotes curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills, while also enhancing overall well-being and reducing stress levels. Outdoor learning encourages pupils to develop a deeper connection with the environment, fostering a sense of stewardship and responsibility for the natural world. By harnessing the power of outdoor education, we aim to inspire a lifelong love of learning and instil in our pupils a profound appreciation for the wonders of the outdoors.



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Assessment and Progression

Assessment is an integral part of our curriculum plans at Ysgol Beca.

We are clear that the purpose of assessment is to support each individual pupil to progress appropriately in development and learning, ensuring that they are supported and challenged accordingly.

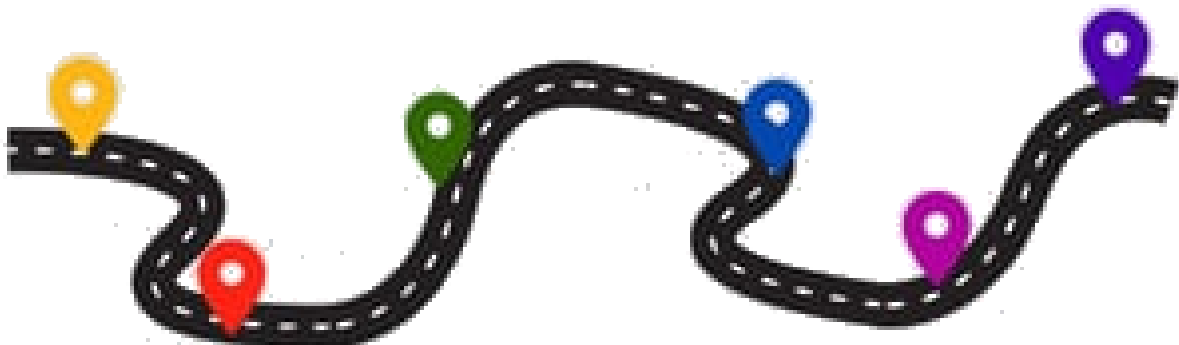
Our curriculum, supported by effective teaching and learning, enables pupils to make meaningful progress. Over time our pupils will develop and improve their skills and knowledge. Our curriculum focuses on understanding what it means to progress in a particular field or discipline and how pupils should deepen and widen their knowledge and understanding, and their skills and abilities, and their attributes and trends, and is informed by the Code of Progress. This in turn supports our approach to assessment, the purpose of which is to inform planning for future learning. Assessment will be embedded as an inherent part of learning and teaching. All pupils will be assessed on entry to the school. Progress is supported and all pupils are continuously assessed.

We make use of a variety of formative and summative assessment strategies when focusing on the progress of each individual pupil through:

Purposeful planning that includes the pupil's voice, constantly evaluating and refining ·
A variety of constructive feedback strategies · Continuous assessment that feeds the planning · Observations of tasks and individuals · Discussions with learners and staff ·
Purposeful differentiation to target and extend learning · A variety of assessment strategies for learning · Use of personal assessments from Year 2-6 and the Nursery and Reception Baseline assessment.

We assess to:

- support individual pupils continuously, day to day
- note, capture and reflect on the progress of individual pupils over time
- understand group progress in order to reflect on best possible practice in place for everyone
- track the progress of our pupils in order to support everyone to develop constantly, and ensure that the best possible provision is in place for everyone



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School Uniform

Setting standards is very important to us as a school and the general appearance of the pupils leads to a pride in the school. This, together with good discipline, will be an aid to maintaining academic standards. We expect pupils to wear the school uniform every day to instil a respect for, and create a positive attitude to school.

All pupils:

- Green sweatshirt or cardigan with the school badge
- Yellow polo shirt with the school badge
- Trousers, joggers, skirt or pinafore dress
- Appropriate footwear
- Suitable coat

In addition:

- Green gingham dress for girls in summer (if you wish)
- Socks must be worn at all times

School uniform can be purchased:

www.uniforms4school.co.uk



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Physical Education and Sport

Physical Education is the aspect of the curriculum concerned with the development of physical skills, knowledge and understanding in games, swimming, gymnastics, dance, athletics, and outdoor activities. Swimming is taught for years 3, 4, 5, and 6 during the Autumn Term. These activities are arranged on a modular basis. Activities are carried out at the school's hall, the school yard and field, and Crymych Swimming Pool.

Competitions in athletics, rugby, rounders and netball are arranged with neighbouring schools. A school sports day takes place in the summer term. Each pupil is encouraged to take part in all sports. In the interest of promoting personal hygiene, all pupils are requested to bring appropriate clothing and footwear for games lessons. Jewellery should not be worn at all during physical education lessons. If your child is unable to participate, we kindly ask you to notify the class teacher or school office.

Extra-curricular Experiences

At Ysgol Beca, our pupils are offered enriching opportunities beyond the classroom. They can engage in a variety of extra-curricular activities, including after-school clubs and residential courses, such as those held at Llangrannog. These experiences are designed to broaden their horizons, foster teamwork, and develop new skills. At the beginning of each term, parents will receive a timetable of after-school clubs, ensuring that parents can support their child's participation in these exciting experiences. We believe that these activities play a vital role in our pupils' holistic development, complementing their academic learning with real-world experiences and memorable adventures.

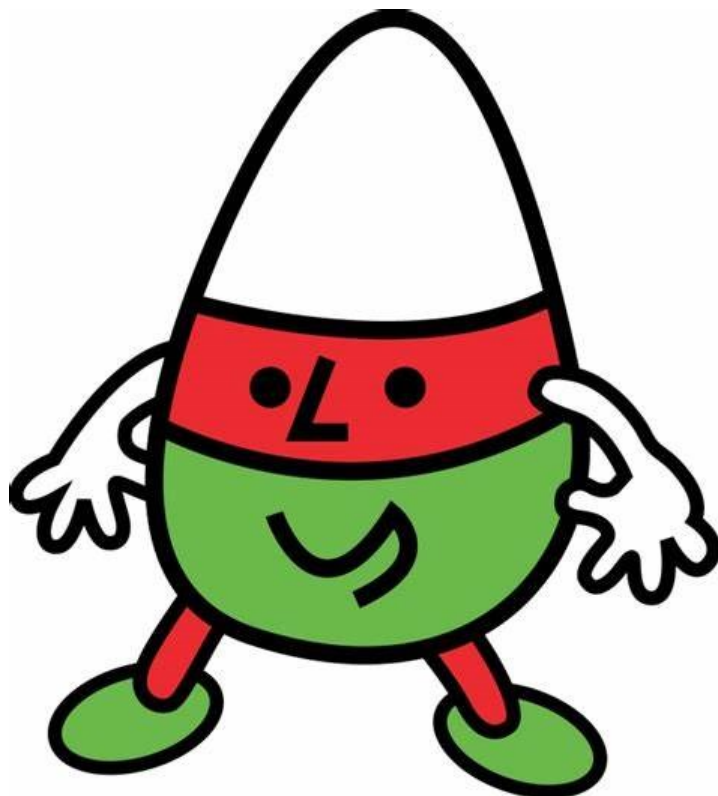


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Urdd

The Urdd or Welsh League of Youth is an organisation for children and young people in Wales. The Urdd organises various activities and competitions for pupils and has residential centres across Wales. Its various activities include clubs and sports competitions. The Urdd National Eisteddfod, a cultural festival, is held annually after competitions at local and county levels. The school organises an eisteddfod every year to showcase their talents. Pupils participate in the local area Eisteddfod. If they are successful here they go on to the County Eisteddfod and perhaps the Urdd National Eisteddfod. We have two houses in the school - Taf and Gronw, and the teams compete enthusiastically in the school Eisteddfod and during the school's sports day.

Throughout the academic year, our pupils are encouraged to participate in Urdd competitions, including sporting festivals and the Eisteddfod. To compete in these events, pupils must be registered members of the Urdd. Membership subscription details can be found on the Urdd website, ensuring accessibility for all interested pupils. These competitions provide valuable opportunities for our pupils to showcase their skills, teamwork, and cultural pride on a wider platform. We believe that engaging in Urdd competitions enriches our pupils' educational experience, fosters a sense of community, and instils a lifelong appreciation for Welsh heritage, the language and achievement.



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Pastoral Care

The staff are responsible for the safety of children 20 minutes before the commencement of the morning session. Of course, when certain circumstances or extra curricular activities are arranged, then the staff concerned will assume responsibility during these periods. All children are asked to attend school on time to foster good habits of punctuality. Despite supervision of children by staff, accidents do occur from time to time. Every care and attention is given in these cases, and First Aid is administered when required. Parents are contacted regarding such an occurrence. If it is thought that injuries need immediate medical treatment then arrangements are made to contact the emergency services and parents. If a child becomes unwell during the school day we will contact parents and ask them to collect their child. When a child is thought to be suffering from an infectious disease the same arrangements apply. It is important that children suffering from infectious diseases be kept at home until such time as the condition improves.

Medical examinations are periodically carried out at the school, and visits by speech therapists and educational psychologists are arranged when the need arises. Parents are informed accordingly.

The school requests that parents kindly forward communication to the Headteacher: a) when a child has to leave school early b) to provide an explanation for non-attendance at school on the first day back at school (failure to communicate within a reasonable time - span will mean that a child is entered on the attendance register as absent without permission) c) if a child has to take essential medicines, and to give permission for a member of staff to administer the medication d) to provide a reasonable explanation why a child cannot attend a swimming or physical education lesson e) to ask permission to release a child from school during term time in order to go on a family holiday.

When certain educational or other visits are arranged for the children, permission is first requested from parents. Parents are informed of the dates of school holidays, as well as every extra curricular activity.

Parents / Carers are asked to fill in numerous forms at the beginning of the academic year. We would appreciate it if these could be returned to the school promptly. If there are any changes to an individual's situation within that year, please inform the school. One photography consent form will be sent home. By signing this, permission will be granted by parents/carers for the school to take photographs of the children for the whole academic year. This may include photos taken for the use of, for example, newspapers and the school prospectus, video recording of various school activities, TV filming, and possibly pictures of children for the school website, if not objected by Parents or carers. We will not be able to inform parents or carers beforehand of every individual activity.

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Discipline and School Rules

The primary purpose of our school is to equip children with the necessary skills and values to become responsible, ethical, and contributing members of society. As such, it is imperative that each pupil conducts themselves in a manner that reflects courtesy and respect, both within the school environment and in the broader community. By upholding these standards of behaviour, pupils not only enhance their own personal development but also contribute positively to society as a whole.

Children are expected to co-operate with the following:

- Show courtesy and respect towards each other and adults both inside and outside the school premises. We believe in nurturing a culture of kindness, empathy, and mutual respect among all members of our school community
- Demonstrate respect for the school building, its furniture, and equipment. Taking care of our learning environment ensures that everyone can thrive in a clean, safe, and conducive space for learning and growth.
- Develop a sense of responsibility for their own actions and the well-being of others.

Emphasis is laid upon good behaviour and a healthy attitude by our pupils towards all facets of school activities. An interview with the pupil's parents or carers is arranged when behaviour does not meet the school's expectations. The school has policy statements on behaviour and bullying.

Preventing Bullying

At our school, we hold all pupils to high standards of behaviour and prioritise the promotion of positive conduct and values. Central to our ethos is the principle of treating others with respect and consideration, demonstrating maturity in our interactions.

Bullying is regarded with utmost seriousness, and our school maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of bullying. We define bullying as the deliberate and repetitive attempt to harm, threaten, or intimidate others, whether physically or verbally. To address this issue, we provide opportunities for open discussions on bullying as part of our Personal and Social Education Curriculum, as well as during circle time and assemblies. By fostering a culture of mutual respect and empathy, we strive to create a safe and inclusive environment where every pupil feels valued and supported. Bullying concerns should be reported to the school. The school has an anti-bullying policy.



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Additional Learning Needs

The careful planning of a differentiated curriculum ensures that all pupils have access to activities which are suited to their ability and which allow all pupils to reach their full potential. Continuous assessment and observation enable our teachers to plan activities and strategies which are suitable for all children. Our aim at all times is to ensure that we know our children well so that we can plan for the needs of all children, including those recognised as having additional learning needs. At times, some pupils may need additional or different support. This may take many different forms, including using specific strategies, providing additional support or seeking the advice of specialist agencies. School staff will work closely with children and parents or carers to plan provision for children with additional learning needs and will include parents and children in the decisions which are made. We very much see this as a joint process. Classroom staff will work closely with the school's Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo), when identifying needs, monitoring and planning provision for children with additional learning needs, in line with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We believe that each individual, regardless of ability, race, religion or background deserves equality of opportunity. We are proud to be a school that welcomes pupils, staff and parents or carers from different social backgrounds, race, sexuality, disability, religion, language, sexual orientation and age. We strive to create a community that celebrates diversity and stands against prejudice.

Disability

The school building is designed to provide access to pupils and staff with physical disabilities, as follows:

- easy access from road
- main entrance is easily accessed
- doors are easily opened (low handles)
- disabled toilet
- wide corridors and wide classroom doors
- easy access to school hall



Access to the Curriculum

The school curriculum is balanced and broad, and offers opportunities for all to succeed. Activities are organised carefully with consideration given to the following:

- academic ability of each pupil
- physical ability of each pupil
- interest and talent of each pupil
- religious and/or ethnic background of each pupil
- social background of each pupil

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Working in Partnership

We believe that it is only through working in partnership with parents and carers that each pupil can be at their best. Co-operation between school and home is essential for the wellbeing and progress of all pupils. If parents or carers have any concerns about their child we ask that they contact the class teacher immediately. It is only through discussion and working together that we can attempt to solve problems. In the same light, if the school has concerns over a pupil we will contact parents and carers. In order to ensure that enough time may be given to any parent wishing to discuss a problem with the class teacher we ask that you contact the school office in the first instance. We can then arrange a mutually acceptable time for both in order to have a meaningful and respectful discussion.



Examples of working in partnership:

The Role of the School	The Role of Parents or Carers
Regular communications through the school app / school website / social media / newsletters	Checking your child's bag for correspondence every night and regularly checking emails
Ensuring that every pupil feels happy and safe in school	Contacting school if you have concerns about your child's happiness or safety at school/home
Sending home learning tasks regularly	Supporting your child to read at home and complete home learning tasks
Ensuring that each pupil makes satisfactory progress	Informing the school if you have any concerns regarding your child's progress
Ensuring that each pupil is encouraged to make friends	Inviting your child's friends home for tea or to play
Contacting parents and carers if there are concerns over a pupil's general development	Contacting the school if you have any concerns over your child's general development
Listening and responding to any concerns a pupil may have	Listening and responding to any concerns your child may have
Providing regular feedback on wellbeing and progress	Attending scheduled meetings to discuss your child

During the academic year, we will hold several engagement events with parents and carers such as coffee mornings, open evenings, parent meetings and drop-in sessions. We extend a warm welcome to everybody and would appreciate representation from each family - the children thoroughly enjoy seeing parents or carers in school in their classrooms. We also recognise the role of grandparents or supportive relatives and welcome wider

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Safeguarding and Child Protection

Mr. Mark Bowen (Headteacher) is the Designated Senior Person (DSP) for safeguarding and child-protection. In Mr. Mark Bowen's absence, Mr. Ben Batcup is responsible. The Designated Governor for Child Protection is Mrs. Abigail Duggins. All school staff receive training in matters of safeguarding and child protection. Where concerns arise, the staff will refer to the Headteacher in the first instance, or to the Deputy DSP in his absence. The Headteacher and staff will refer to the county's safeguarding officers where advice or further support is needed. Where parents have concerns relating to any aspect of their children's well-being, they should contact the school to discuss. Where there are concerns relating to child protection, contact should be made with Mr. Mark Bowen or Mr. Ben Batcup immediately. Any safeguarding concerns relating to the Headteacher should be raised with the Chair of Governors, Dr. Erica Thompson

(erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru). The school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available from the school office and on the school website.

Health and Safety

The school's Health and Safety Policy and national guidelines are followed to ensure, within reason, the health and safety of all on the school site. The Headteacher regularly undertakes a risk assessment of the school premises to ensure that it is maintained in good condition. Any necessary repairs are carried out immediately. Each educational visit outside school is also subject to a risk assessment. A fire drill is held each term. The fire alarm system is checked on a regular basis, the fire extinguishers are regularly serviced and a fire officer undertakes a fire risk assessment. The school premises are in good condition and bounded by a secure boundary.

Medicines and Accidents

The school staff will administer medicines to the pupils during special circumstances - please contact the school office for further information. We require you to give permission in writing by completing relevant forms. If your child has a medical condition that requires regular medication (e.g. epilepsy, asthma etc) please contact the Headteacher or school office in order to make special arrangements and to complete relevant forms.

Members of the staff have received first aid training and hold up-to-date certificates. In a serious emergency the school will call for professional help first and will then make every effort to contact the parents or carers.



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School Visits

When arranging visits e.g. educational trips, parents' permission is requested beforehand. Parents or carers are asked to complete the relevant permission and medical forms and it is appreciated if these forms can be returned promptly to school.

Blanket consent forms are signed for local excursions and visits around the village e.g. to the local chapel or nature walk.

Individual consent forms are provided for trips, excursions and residential visits that occur further afield. Letters or 'mySchoolapp' messages outlining the nature of the activities and their location are always provided.

Charging Policy and Financial Contributions

In order to enrich the curriculum and to extend the pupils' experiences the school organises a number of visits and invites visitors to the school.



There is no charge for school activities except for the following:

- Music lessons conducted by peripatetic music teachers, for which parents are asked for a contribution to enable the school to offer a wide range of instrumental lessons
- Educational visits and visitors, for which contributions from parents are sought
- Residential courses e.g. Llangrannog Urdd Camp
- Extra-curricular activities run by outside organisations.

The school is always prepared to discuss the relevant charges when a parent or carer is concerned about the costs involved in participating in these school activities.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Fruit Stall

Fruit is available on a daily basis, and the fruit stall is run by the School Council. A piece of fruit costs 30p per day. Parents are asked to put the money in an envelope, clearly marked with the child's name. Alternatively, children may bring fruit to school.

Milk

Free milk is offered to all pupils between Nursery and Year 2.

School Meals

Mid-day meals are prepared in the school kitchen. Meals are ordered by using the 'Parent Pay' online system (more information is available at the school office). Please ensure that you order your child's meal each day / weekly so that kitchen staff receive the relevant meal numbers.

If parents believe that they are entitled to eligible free school meals, use this link to apply online.

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-meals/free-school-meals/#.X6AkqJP7Sko>

Universal Primary Free School Meals and Free School Meals

Free School Meal (eFSM)

The Free School Meals scheme (eFSM) requires eligible parents and carers to apply. A free school meal (eFSM) does depend on your household income and if you receive certain benefits. If you meet the eligibility criteria it is extremely important that you claim for this. The meal your child receives will be no different and it will mean you are eligible to receive additional financial support such as a schools essential grant.

Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)

All primary aged pupils are now entitled to receive Universal Free School Meals. If your child / children do not currently have school meals and they would like to start having school lunches, we request that you contact the school immediately if they have any special dietary requirements.

Packed Lunch

If parents or carers provide packed lunches, we kindly request your cooperation in aligning with our healthy school policy by ensuring that the meals are balanced and nutritious. Additionally, we ask that pupils place any leftovers or packaging from their packed lunch in their bags and dispose of them at home. Thank you for your support in promoting a healthy lifestyle within our school community.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Safe Parking Arrangements at the School

We respectfully request that all stakeholders responsible for transporting children to school adhere strictly to traffic laws and regulations. Additionally, we kindly ask for your co-operation in refraining from parking in or obstructing private entrances of our neighbours. To facilitate the safe arrival and departure of school buses, we urge drivers to keep outside the school clear between 2:45pm and 3:15pm.



Furthermore, children are expected to walk along the designated paths at all times. Your adherence to these guidelines contributes to the overall safety and well-being of our school community.

Smoke Free School

Ysgol Beca is a smoke free school. Smoking is not permitted in the buildings or on the school site.

School Closure Due to an Emergency

The decision to close the school rests with the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors and with the advice of the Local Education Authority. Every effort will be made to inform parents or carers and the bus company if a decision is made to close the school. Parents can also access the Carmarthenshire Council website for information on school closures. When the weather necessitates the early closure of school, parents or carers will be contacted to collect their children via 'mySchoolapp', social media or telephone.

Head Lice

To eradicate the problem everyone has to co-operate. Comb for lice, parting hair in small sections, and return from time to time to areas you've already covered just to make sure.

Where to look:

- Close to the scalp
- Behind the ears
- Back of the neck
- Top of the head
- Under the fringe.

Check your child's hair every week and treat immediately if any live lice are discovered. The school will inform all parents within a specific class if head lice are discovered among any of the pupils.

'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

Relationships and Sexuality Education is one of the statutory requirements of Curriculum for Wales for all learners. This includes learning about healthy relationships, keeping safe, online and offline, and being confident to raise issues with responsible adults. RSE is designed to safeguard all our children and young people, supporting them to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours that will assist in protecting them throughout their lives. We will present aspects of RSE in each year group. The school nurse also deals with some aspects in Year 6. The sessions are presented in a sensitive and objective manner targeting specific aspects for whole class sessions with other topics being addressed in separate sessions. The RSE Policy is available upon request. Further reading can be found at:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/24d21ea4-fe27-470b-8e39-7d2b7f227737/220804-rse-leaflet-en.pdf?preview=true>

Health Education

As part of our comprehensive curriculum, pupils are instructed on the significance of self-care and personal well-being. This



encompasses crucial lessons on maintaining a nutritious diet, dental hygiene, and the hazards associated with smoking, drug, and alcohol consumption. To promote healthy eating habits, all pupils have access to fresh fruit during break times, and regular water consumption is encouraged throughout the day.

Furthermore, every pupil within the Foundation Learning Phase (Nursery - Year 2) is provided with the opportunity to receive free milk. In addition to these practical measures, pupils participate in Personal and Social Education (PSE) lessons, where they engage in meaningful discussions and activities aimed at fostering self-awareness and empathy towards others.

These invaluable lessons are often conducted during "circle time," allowing for open dialogue and the development of essential life skills. By emphasizing the importance of self-care and promoting healthy habits from an early age, we empower our pupils to make informed choices and lead fulfilling lives both within and beyond the school environment.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Religion, Values and Ethics

The fundamental values of Ysgol Beca are central to the school's activities and these include our Religion, Values and Ethics curriculum and Collective Worship. These include:

- Respecting each other and treating all people as we would wish to be treated
- Understanding and respect for our environment
- Being active in our community
- Caring for those in need
- Treating everyone equally
- Working for a peaceful society.

Many would recognise these values as being shared by followers of the world's religions, including Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism. Religion, Values and Ethics is one of the statutory requirements of Curriculum for Wales for all learners. We will consider the agreed syllabus published by the local authority when planning our syllabus. This will help us to design a curriculum that fulfils the four purposes and prepares learners to be responsible and informed citizens in a diverse and rapidly changing world. Pupils will study and discuss various religions during their time at school.

Collective Worship

We will hold a collective worship assembly daily. The assemblies will be based on Christian principles but will be inclusive and open to children of all religions. The requirement to carry out such assemblies is a legislative requirement. Our assemblies aim to give our children a chance to:

- reflect on these spiritual and moral values
- worship and explore their own beliefs
- respond and participate
- develop a sense of community spirit
- promote a common ethos and values and reinforce positive attitudes.

During the year, the school organises family assemblies and parents are invited to join the pupils in the act of worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship assemblies. Please contact the Headteacher or in his absence a member of staff if you wish to withdraw your child from these activities. If any pupil does not participate in assemblies the school will ensure that adequate supervision is provided for the pupil.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Homework

Homework serves as an integral part of the learning experience for pupils in the Foundation Learning, with occasional tasks such as learning simple songs or poetry at home. Additionally, children are encouraged to take their reading books home daily and engage in regular reading activities.

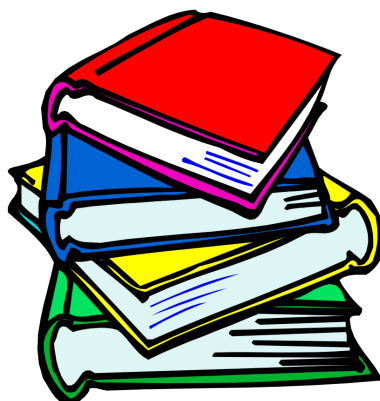
For pupils in Years 3 to 6, a structured approach to homework is implemented to support their academic progress. This includes daily reading sessions at home to foster literacy skills. On average, homework is assigned once a week, often complementing classroom learning and encompassing activities such as spelling tests and investigative tasks. Moreover, to ensure differentiation and tailored learning experiences, pupils in Years 5 and 6 receive individualised topic work. This not only aids in teacher assessment but also promotes deeper understanding and engagement with the curriculum.

In line with contemporary educational practices, we are embracing a blended learning approach by developing pupils' ICT skills and incorporating online tasks using HWB (Hwb is the All Wales Digital Learning Platform). This initiative aims to enhance digital literacy and prepare pupils for the technological demands of the 21st century. Each pupil has a unique username and password to access Hwb. For additional information, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or the school office. They will be happy to assist you with any inquiries or concerns you may have.

Reading

Each pupil will receive a reading book to take home alongside a reading log and bookmark to record effort and attitude towards reading. We encourage you as parents to read daily with your child, both in Welsh and English as required. Daily reading has been consistently linked to improved academic outcomes and overall cognitive development in children. According to a study conducted by the National Literacy Trust, children who read for pleasure daily, perform better in reading tests than those who never read for pleasure.

Please contact your child's teacher or the school office if you require support with your child's reading at home.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Language Policy – Welsh Medium Primary School

Our aim is to teach children to be able to use Welsh and English when they leave school to enable them to be full members of the bilingual community in which they live. Welsh is the main medium of teaching in the Foundation Learning. If your home language is English, your child will be introduced to Welsh in a sensitive way. English is introduced in Year 3. Most knowledge, skills and experiences are taught through the medium of Welsh across Years 3 - 6.

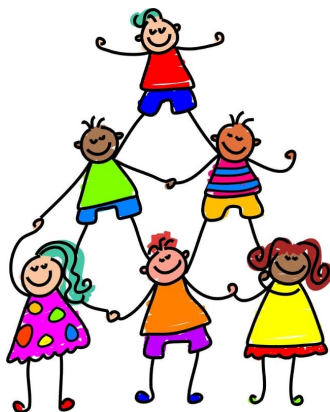
Pupil Voice

It is important to use that our pupils' voices feed into our school activities and curricular planning. At the beginning of each half term we will inform you of our context for learning and activities for that period. We will contact you at the beginning of each term to ask you to discuss the term's context for learning with your child and to send your child's ideas back to school. This is important so that we can ensure that our children's voices are taken into consideration when planning the term's activities. If you go on holidays or have a special celebration in the family, please don't forget to send photographs or artefacts to school. We are interested to know what your child is doing outside school.

School Council and Pupil Groups

The School Council comprises pupil representatives tasked with voicing the collective opinions and ideas of all pupils, with the aim of enhancing our school community. Each year, representatives are elected from every class to serve on the council. Additionally, the council organises various events across the academic year. Through the School Council, children feel empowered as their voices are heard, influencing decisions and actively contributing to the ongoing improvement of our school environment.

Furthermore, various pupil groups play significant roles in shaping school decisions. For instance, the Eco Council, where they can champion environmental initiatives and sustainability efforts within our school and beyond. This collaborative approach ensures that pupils are actively engaged in shaping the ethos and direction of our school, fostering a sense of ownership and community involvement among all members.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Ysgol Beca PTA

The Parents and Teachers Association meet once per half term to discuss fundraising initiatives and addressing any pertinent school matters. To ensure smooth proceedings, individuals wishing to raise a matter during these meetings are kindly asked to notify the chairperson in advance.

Our dedicated members organise a variety of engaging events annually, all in support of raising funds for our school. These events range from a vibrant summer fair to festive gatherings like Christmas bingo and raffles.

The proceeds from these endeavours enable the acquisition of valuable resources for our school community, including digital equipment, learning materials, books, and specialised resources tailored to the needs of our Foundation Learning pupils. Your ideas and contributions are invaluable to us, and we warmly welcome any input or support you may offer.

For further information or to connect with the chairperson, please reach out via email at admin@beca.ysgolccc.cymru

Your active participation and involvement are greatly appreciated as we work together to enhance the educational experience for all our pupils.



'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Complaints

Our definition of a complaint is 'an expression of dissatisfaction in relation to the school, a member of its staff or the governing body that requires a response from the school.'

Should a problem or difficulty arise concerning your child's education and wellbeing, or the provision in general, please contact the Headteacher, Mr. Mark Bowen. In the unlikely event that the situation is not resolved, parents should follow the school's complaints procedure included in the school's Complaints Policy. A copy is available on the school website or on request from the school office.

We believe that all complainants have a right to be heard, understood, and respected. School staff and governors have the same right. We expect you to be polite and courteous. We will not tolerate aggressive, abusive, or unreasonable behaviour.

Complaints Procedure

In accordance with the Welsh Government Complaints Procedure, the school follows the complaints procedure suggested by Carmarthenshire Education Authority. It is a three-step process.

Step A - An informal consideration of the complaint

In the main this includes informal discussions with the Headteacher and other members of staff. This is the start of the process and it is expected that the majority of complaints are resolved here.

Step B - A formal complaint to the Headteacher

In most cases, we would expect that the issue which is the cause for concern would be resolved informally. If you feel that the matter which initially caused you concern has not been properly dealt with, you should submit a complaint in writing to the Headteacher.

Step C - A formal complaint to the Governors

This last step is initiated if the first two steps have failed to resolve the complaint satisfactorily. A copy of the full Complaints Policy and Procedure is available on the school website or from the school office.

'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Ysgol Beca

Who's Who?

School Staff

Mr. Mark Bowen

Headteacher

Mr. Ben Batcup

Senior Teacher / Year 3 - 6 Teacher

Miss Mared Dafydd

Foundation Phase Teacher

Mrs. Alicia Williams

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Miss Madison Carey

Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Irene Davies

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Helen Bourton

Cartaker / Breakfast Club Supervisor /
Lunchtime supervisor / Kitchen Assistant

Mrs Joanne Williams-Parker

Cook

Dr. Erica Thompson /

Mrs. Catherine Davies

Co-chair Persons of The Governing Body

'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'

Ysgol Beca's Song

Rhwng Efailwen a'r gorwel,
Mae bro sy'n werth y byd,
Ac olion hen amserau,
I'w gweled 'na o hyd.

Mae'r niwl yn for o ledrith,
A theimlir yr un ias,
A deimlai'r rhai fu'n codi,
A naddu'r garreg las.

Fan draw mae Foel, Cwm Cerwyn,
A bwthyn syml Twm,
A llif hen afon Cleddau,
Yn canu yn y cwm.

Mae cromlech Gwal y Filiast,
Mewn llannerch yn y gwydd
A Chlychau'r Gog yn dawnsio,
I rhythmau'r awel rydd.

Pan fyddaf wedi tyfu,
A'r gwersi i gyd ar ben,
Mi hoffwn i gael aros,
Yn ardal Efailwen.





'Ni ddylai ddim eich rhwystro'