

# SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

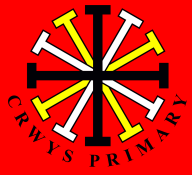
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For Academic Year 2023/2024



*Be all you can be- Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod.*

*UNCRC – Article 29 – Your right to become the best that you can be*



# ***Crwys Primary School***

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***Headteacher:***

Mr D Saer

BA(Hons), NPQH

***Chairman of Governors:***

Mrs B Hansford



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parent,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you some information about Crwys Primary School. Thank you for taking the time to find out what our school is all about.

Crwys is a very caring environment where pupils feel happy, safe and thoroughly enjoy their learning. The school enjoys great success and we are very proud of our enviable reputation both locally and nationally, which was highlighted in our recent Estyn inspection. Such high expectations ensures that pupils, parents, staff, the local authority and the Community are proud of their association with the school.



Our greatest pride are our pupils. They show very positive attitudes to their learning, participating eagerly with high levels of engagement, motivation and interest in their work, while staff work hard to provide exciting and varied learning experiences which ensure that all our pupils 'Be all they can be'.

Outdoor learning is very important to our ethos. We are Swansea's first Outdoor School and every one of our pupils spend at least half a day a week outdoors. Estyn reported that *'the use of outdoor learning to enhance pupils' attitudes to learning and improve their wellbeing is excellent and this ensures that pupils are developing into confident learners.'* As a result, this has been shared as 'excellent practice' with others within the teaching profession, a great compliment to the school.

Environmental education and sustainability is also very important to our school. We have been awarded the highest accolade; The Eco Schools' Platinum Award, as well as being one of the first schools in Wales to be awarded the Surfers Against Sewage, Plastic Free School's award.

It is a school of which I am extremely proud and privileged to be involved with!

Dylan Saer

Headteacher/ Pennaeth

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## Section A – General Information

### A brief History of Crwys Primary School

The first full time school opened in Three Crosses in 1875 on the land the Penclawdd School Board bought from the Duke of Beaufort for £50. They appointed Thomas “Wedros” Evans as the first headmaster at the age of 21 but tragically he was dead a year later. Many of his successors though served for considerable periods of time. John Bevan lived until he was 102. Richard Rees was only 5 foot tall hence his nickname Bantam (see 1915 photographs). Daniel Davies was headmaster for 22½ years from 1926-1958. He was succeeded by T L Edwards 1948-62, Winifred Sainsbury 1962-72 and Glyndwr Davies 1965-72 both of whom moved to new schools in Duvant. Up until that time Duvant children had attended the Crwys School. Then Miall Davies took over for 7 years until 1979 when Howard Rees took charge until 1997 handing over to his deputy Phil Withey who remained at the helm until the Summer of 2015.

None of the headmasters though were associated with the school for as long as Miss Evelyn Davies, Pant y Dwr, who taught at the school for 40 years retiring in 1963.

Over the last 135 years, the school and education in general has changed beyond all recognition and the school log books catalogue these changes. Some of the changes are listed:



1911 – Second building constructed

1913 – Separate infants established

1920s and 30s – School would close for Gowerton Fair, Sunday School trips and Scholarship 11+ exams

1963 – Amalgamation of Junior and Infants to form Crwys Primary School

1968 – Parents Association formed

1972 – Duvant children no longer attend

1977 – Bishopston Comprehensive School opens and Crwys is one of its feeders breaking the long association with Gowerton.

2000-2001 – New Infants building built and demountables demolished

2008/2009 – Link corridor built connecting the Juniors to the Infants and enclosing the toilets. Specialist teaching facility refurbished and new toilet extension built.



Numbers at the school have fluctuated over the years peaking at 317 in 1971 (today there are 160) when the chapel vestry had to be used. Indeed the chapel's facilities were pressed into service on many occasions over the years, none more so than when 130 evacuees and their teachers from Sandwich, Kent had to be accommodated during the Second World War.



Crwys Primary School enjoys a very positive, friendly and welcoming ethos. We are fortunate to have an excellent team of committed staff who meet regularly to allow the school continued development and improvement.

### Who is who at Crwys Primary School?



**Mr D Saer** is the Headteacher. He enjoys taking assemblies and loves visiting the classes and talking to pupils. He is the school's Designated Child Protection person. Mr Saer is also the Chairman of the Swansea Outdoor Schools' Programme. Mae Mr Saer yn siarad Cymraeg.



**Mr S Short** is our Year 5/6 teacher and Deputy Head. He enjoys learning and teaching new skills which he can pass on to his class. He also runs many sports clubs after school. Mr Short is a member of the Senior Management Team.



**Miss L Gay** teaches science and ICT in some of the classes. Miss Gay enjoys planning fun things to help with learning. She's also our resident ICT whizz and looks after the school's ipads and Chromebooks in her role as Digital Leader, She also runs the Coding Club.



**Mrs R. Harris** is the Reception/ Year1 teacher. She's loves planning lots of fun activities to do in the outdoors. Mrs Harris is responsible for helping our school become a Rights Respecting School. She also 'runs' the running club and the Y2 outdoor games club.



**Mrs S Davies** is the Year 1/2 teacher. Mrs Davies looks after the School Choir and is also responsible for the Criw Cymraeg who are working hard to achieve the Silver Siarter Iaith Award. Mrs Davies is a member of the school's Senior Management Team.

**Mrs H Crombie-Davies** teaches Year 3/4. She is subject leader for Maths and coordinates our Outdoor School's Programme. She loves taking classes to the nearby woods. Mrs Davies also looks after the netball club and Eco Club who have achieved the Platinum Eco Award and the SAS Plastic Free School Award!



**Mrs M Howells** is the Year 4/5 teacher. Mrs Howells is always looking for new ways to make her lessons interesting and challenging. She runs the Gardening Club and looks after the extremely hardworking School Council. Mrs Howells also coordinates our International School Links and developed relationships with schools in Sweden, Finland, Italy and Ireland.



**Mrs C Deslandes** teaches in our Special Teaching Facility. She is also our SENCO/ALNCO. As well as planning lots of fun activities for our STF pupils, Mrs D, as she is affectionately known, also helps Mrs Davies with the School Choir.





## **Support Staff**



**Mrs A Pearson**  
Nursery Lead



**Mrs V Evans**  
School Admin/Clerk



**Mr I Tolley**  
IT Support



**Miss L Short**  
Maternity Cover

## **Teaching Assistants**



**Mrs E Bevan**



**Mrs J Crook**



**Mrs W Cornelius**



**Mrs F Chourot-Morris**



**Mr R Egan**



**Mrs D Harvey**



**Mrs H Holt**



**Miss C Lanfear**



**Mrs D Smith**



**Mrs S Williams**



**Mrs S Coleman**

School Cook	Mrs J. James, Mrs J. Kelly
Kitchen Staff	Mrs. P. Boat
Road Crossing Patrol	Mrs D. Demock
Caretaker	Mr. D. Driffiths
Cleaner	Mr J. Bennett
Violin Teacher	Mrs B. Whitehead
Woodwind Teacher	Mrs C. Gibbs

## **The Governing Body**

At Crwys, we have a very hard working and supportive Governing Body. Their good practice was recognised in 2015 when they were awarded 'The Quality Mark Bronze' and in the summer of 2019, Estyn commented that they '*make an effective contribution to the school's development*'. They meet regularly and comprises a number of sub committees, e.g. finance, buildings, curriculum, appointments, performance management, complaints etc. An Annual Report by the Governing Body is made available to all parents in the autumn. This details clearly the developments that have taken place in the school over the previous academic year.



In addition, individual Governors are attached to different classes. They visit the school in order to develop a fuller understanding of the everyday functioning of the school and develop their roles as critical friends.

The following representatives comprise the full Governing Body of Crwys Primary School:

### **Co-opted Members**

#### **Exp Date**

Mrs Belinda Hansford - Chair	13/07/2023
Mr Warren Smart	02/10/2023
Mr Oliver Lake	20/05/2023
Mrs Sue Dennis	01/07/2026

### **Local Authority Representatives**

Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams	31/08/2023
Mrs Linda Place	22/10/2023
Mr Mike Clinch	30/03/2026

### **Parental Representatives**

Mrs Rachel Smith	03/10/2023
Mrs Laura Mason	18/10/2025
Mr Regan Craig	29/09/2026

### **Headteacher Governor**

Mr Dylan Saer

### **Teacher Representative**

Mr Simon Short	21/03/2026
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### **Staff Representative**

Mrs Stephanie Williams	23/03/2026
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### **Clerk to Governors**

Mrs Victoria Evans

In the front entrance of the school are photographs with accompanying name and position labels of all members of staff and the Governing Body. It's worth taking a look at these photos to familiarise yourself with the staff and governors.

### **Our Mission Statement**

At Crwys we believe that each child is special. Each has a special talent to bring to the School, or an additional need to be accommodated. We aim to provide the very highest standard of education for all children.

The school mission statement is:

*Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod*

This statement reflects the belief that every individual has the potential to grow and improve, both individually and collectively. Our school is always striving to improve, grow and move forward. This school is about learning and celebrating achievement and success. It recognises that self-esteem is crucial for achievement. Our philosophy of Education is always to help every child fulfil his or her potential, whatever that may be.

*UNCRC – Article 29 – Your right to become the best that you can be*



## School Aims

Our aims for the children can be found in the School Prospectus. They are as follows:

- Provide a caring, secure, happy atmosphere in which each individual's progress, development and pupil wellbeing is of utmost importance.
- Deliver and provide a high-quality, relevant, exciting and challenging curriculum that promotes an enthusiasm for learning.
- Prepare for Wales' new curriculum, ensuring that our pupils have opportunities to become 'Healthy, Confident Individuals', 'Ethically, Informed Citizens', 'Enterprising, Creative Contributors' and 'Ambitious, Capable Learners'.
- Have a very good understanding of our children's emotional needs and ensure a high level of provision for emotional wellbeing.
- Provide a spiritual dimension and multi-cultural awareness to the life of the school, which will be reflected in the children's attitudes, tolerance and behaviour.
- Establish an environment within which teaching and support staff, governors, advisors, parents, future parents and friends of the school can work with each other to fulfil our potential and for the successful achievement of these aims for the benefit of the children.

At Crwys we aim for pupils to:

- Develop the necessary skills to read, write and speak effectively and successfully
- Develop independence in their learning and enquiry so that each individual has the necessary skills and attitude to succeed.
- Use mathematical skills and ideas in everyday situations and learning
- Develop creativity, critical thinking, curiosity and problem solving skills so that each child has the ability to explore and find out more
- Develop an awareness of the need for personal hygiene, good manners and courtesy towards others.
- Develop the ability to participate fully and sensitively in a society where both English and Welsh are used as a means of communication, and to develop an understanding and empathy with Welsh heritage and culture.
- Embrace new ideas and accept differences with understanding and respect
- Be aware of the fragility of the our planet and the importance of living in a more sustainable way and how each person in society can 'make a difference'





- Live a healthy and physical lifestyle and understand the importance of healthy living through a variety of means including regular use of the outdoors.
- Gain and discover the necessary skills in using ICT and ICT devices for communicating, embracing new technologies to benefit their own learning
- Persevere and take pride in all that they do in school and as part of the wider community
- Identify, recognise and achieve their own attainable goals and to take pride in their achievements with an awareness of how to further improve their skills and attitudes.
- Cooperate and collaborate with others, developing the necessary skills for teamwork
- Develop resilience with a hard working attitude and the security of trialling different methods and approaches.
- Be aware of and appreciate their locality, its language, culture, traditions and environment.
- Be able to make informed decisions and gain an awareness of how to be responsible and honest.
- Believe in themselves, have confidence and good self-esteem

### **School Start and Finishing Times**

1 <sup>st</sup> Session	8:50am – 10:20am
Break	10:20am – 10:35am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	10:35am – 11:50am
Lunch	11:50am – 12:50pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	12:50pm – 2:20pm
Break	2:20pm – 2:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Session	2:30pm – 3:20pm

### **Routines for the beginning and end of the school day**

At the start of the day it is very important that the children arrive in school in time for the bell ringing to start the day at 8.50 a.m. The children line up and go quietly into their classes to begin the school day. It is unfair to the children and the staff for children to arrive after this time. Late arrivals are recorded. Please telephone the school if you have been unavoidably delayed.

If it is very wet or cold, children may enter school immediately where they will be supervised at all times. Children are encouraged to be independent as early as possible. Parents are requested not to enter the school building unless they have a specific purpose in order to reduce congestion, particularly with junior pupils. It also enables us to keep track of who is in the building and for the school day to start promptly.

However, parents of the Nursery/Reception children are encouraged to come in with their children each morning to hand them over to staff.

At the end of the day Parents collect children from the collecting area outside the inner school gates. Teachers and Learning Support Assistants will lead the children to this collecting point where they ensure that the children are passed over to their parents or guardians at the school gate.

Children are not allowed to go unless staff have actually handed them over to a named adult.

The parents of the Nursery children meet outside the Nursery where the children are handed over by a member of staff only once the parent or guardian has arrived.

It is very important that parents collect the children punctually at the end of the day (i.e. 3.20pm) as staff often have meetings and extra-curricular clubs after school and these need to start on time. Please telephone the school if you have been unavoidably delayed.

### **Valuables and Lost Property**

On occasion children bring sums of money or valuables to school. Official money should be placed in a clearly marked envelope with the child's name, class and amount. Any valuable personal items should also be clearly marked. If it is a large amount of money then a cheque is a safer method of money transfer. Please make cheques payable to Crwys Primary School unless informed otherwise. Any loss of items should be reported to the teacher without delay. Every effort will be made to find the lost item.



### **School Ethos**

Crwys Primary School enjoys a happy, safe, friendly, family ethos where mutual respect exists at all levels, staff to staff, children to staff and staff to children.

Within the development of our ethos we consider the following:

1. Religious Education and Collective Worship
2. Behaviour and Discipline
3. Pastoral Care
4. House system.
5. Wearing school uniform to develop the feeling of belonging.



## **Religious Education and Collective Worship**

Religious Education - R.E. is part of the school's curriculum, provided in accordance with the agreed RE Syllabus introduced by County Council. The aims of the syllabus are: -

- To help promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.
  - To develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity as the predominant religion of Wales and, as appropriate, the other principal religions.
  - To encourage respect and empathy for the beliefs and practices of other people.
- Crwys is a community school and children of all denominations are welcome.

RE is taught as a discrete subject to all classes throughout the school. Class lessons include a study of people, past and present, who practice Christian principles and other religious beliefs.

School Assemblies/Collective Worship - It is a statutory duty to hold an assembly on each school day. We offer broadly Christian Acts of Worship that involve the whole school.

The Assemblies combine Bible stories and issues relating to moral development and to our community. They take place in the School Hall and are led by the Headteacher and staff on rota with the exception of Wednesdays. All assemblies start at 9:00am for Junior pupils and 10:00am for Foundation Phase, Nursery and STF pupils.

Whenever possible we invite visitors to speak at our assemblies. This encourages our community links and gives our children a wider range of experiences.

A special 'Achievement Assembly' is held every Friday morning to celebrate the special achievements of our pupils.

The parent of a pupil may request that he/she is wholly or partly excused from Religious Education (and Worship); in such a case the pupil shall be excused until the request is withdrawn and appropriate arrangements made by the school.

## **Behaviour and Discipline**

Crwys Primary School has a very positive behaviour culture. We are very proud of the excellent behaviour of our children who are frequently praised by visitors and when visiting other places for their beautiful manners and general behaviour. Good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective teaching and learning to take place.



We expect children at Crwys to be courteous and polite, give their maximum effort at all times and to develop a sense of pride and caring attitude towards their environment and towards each other. Each class develop their own 'Class Rules' which impart on the day to day habits within the school environment. These rules have good moral values at the core, including being polite, looking after property, being kind and helpful and working hard.

The most meaningful and positive form of discipline is self-discipline. We work hard at Crwys School to instil a strong sense of self discipline in our children.

Children of all ages are encouraged to behave sensibly and older children are encouraged to adopt a caring attitude towards younger ones. Particular emphasis should be placed on good manners, orderly movement about the school, taking care of our school environment and caring for others rather than self-first. The school seeks to promote self-discipline and proper regard for authority and respect for others.

Staff are continually on the lookout for good behaviour to praise and reward. We believe that children in an environment where staff are friendly and fair, yet firm, where there is positive encouragement for the learner, where achievement is recognised, where self-dignity, self-esteem and a good self-image is nurtured and fostered will always grow in confidence and esteem and 'Be all they can be'.

We believe the school should be a caring community; we care about the needs of each individual child. We endeavour to create a friendly and secure atmosphere in which the children will fulfil their potential without undue pressure. There will be a quiet but firm insistence on high standards of behaviour. Children will be encouraged to care for their school, its surroundings and for each other. We hope that the caring environment within the school will be conducive to good behaviour and a self-appreciation of what is right or wrong. The expectations of the Headteacher and his staff of high standards of behaviour, and the examples the children are set by adults in the school and at home will help them to develop courtesy, good manners and respect for others. Our aim is to praise rather than to censure, to commend successes, emphasise potential and highlight good behaviour.

The response to misbehaviour is always positive and will depend on the nature of the misdemeanour, and the age and maturity of the child. Whenever possible, it is desirable that the pupil appreciates the reason why he/she is being reprimanded. Discipline is arrived at through respect and encouraging a child to think through their actions. If an incident of misconduct becomes a serious issue we feel the co-operation of parents is crucial and will enlist their support in dealing with the matter.

### **Pastoral Care**

The Headteacher has the overall responsibility for the school, depending closely upon the cooperation of all members of staff in caring for the pupils. Each child is primarily cared for by his or her class teacher. Members of staff deal with minor incidents, cuts and abrasions. If a child becomes ill or has an accident in school, we often need to contact the parent. For this reason we ask you to supply us with up to date home, mobile and emergency (work) telephone numbers and numbers of relatives or friends who can look after your child until you return.

The final decision as to whether or not a child is sent home lies with the Headteacher or senior member of staff delegated this responsibility. In the event of a serious problem, medical assistance and treatment will be sought from a doctor or local hospital. We will make every effort to inform parents immediately.





During break times, members of staff are on playground duty and the children are supervised in their classrooms if the weather is inclement. During the lunch period, the Lunchtime Supervisors carry out supervision.

When inclement weather necessitates the early closure of the school, an extremely rare occurrence, as many parents as possible are informed of the early departure. A system of contacts is implemented; website, text to parents, twitter, to spread the word of the school closure.

### **House Point System**

The children of Crwys Primary School each belong to one of three houses; Green/Gwyrdd, Blue/Glas and Yellow/Melyn. We feel this allows children to feel valued as part of a house team, develops a sense of belonging and encourages teamwork between older and younger children.

### **Uniform and P.E. Kits**

Crwys Primary School uniform consists of white polo shirts, red sweatshirts and grey trousers/skirts. All of these items are available from RCS Teamwear in Llanelli. Items can be purchased over the telephone 01554 785045 or online along with reading folders, jackets, hats and other accessories, all of which bear the school logo. There is also a formal uniform which consists of a white shirt/blouse and a 'Crwys' tie, which is available from the office. The formal uniform is worn if pupils are representing the school, e.g. choir concerts.

Although school uniform is not compulsory, parents are strongly encouraged to dress their children in it. The benefits of wearing uniform have been clearly identified in terms of better discipline and pride taken in the school and a greater sense of identity and community within the school.

There is also less competition between children in terms of what they wear to school, and there are no disagreements between parents and children about what a child should wear to school.



All children are expected to wear school uniform when representing the school in various competitions, concerts and open days.

Footwear - We would ask that you exercise restraint in the type of footwear your child wears. High-heeled shoes and /or Crocs, flip flops etc. can be a safety hazard and, therefore, are not allowed. Sensible shoes are the preferred option to be worn.

Jewellery - If earrings must be worn to school, they must be restricted to small 'stud' or 'sleeper' type. These should be removed before P.E. and Games as there have been some nasty accidents documented where children have suffered torn ear lobes. All other jewellery is discouraged in the interests of safety and to avoid problems if an item is lost.

Occasionally, children lose or misplace articles of clothing. Please do help us by marking all garments, P.E. kits, shoes etc with your child's name.

### **Games/PE Kit**

On PE days please ensure your child brings PE kit to school i.e. T-shirt, shorts and appropriate footwear. They will change back into their school uniform after the lesson. It is very important that the children bring kit on the correct day. They are not permitted to take part in PE lessons without appropriate kit.



## **Section B – Health, Safety and School Security**

### **Parking and Road Safety**

The following suggestions will help reduce congestion and are made with child safety foremost in mind.

- Please park safely and appropriately if you wish to come into school for any reason. Avoid parking right in front of the school gates to avoid congestion and accidents.
- Always park for the shortest time necessary.
- Share a car with a neighbour or a friend, taking it in turns to do the school run.
- Make sure you fully supervise your children whilst moving from the collection point i.e the School Gate to the car parking areas.
- When parents walk home with their children it is strongly advisable that the child walks on the inside away from the road.
- Take extra care when crossing the road and moving through parked areas and use the pedestrian crossing area when coming in to school.
- Keep reversing to a minimum and take special caution when doing so.
- Pupils who wish to bring cycles to school are requested to provide the school with a letter of parental permission. Please make sure that the bike is road worthy and a helmet is worn at all times. Cycles must not be ridden in the school grounds.



### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

We have very comprehensive and extensive procedures for the safeguarding of children. All staff and volunteers have DBS checks, two references and receive child protection training. The Headteacher is the designated officer for child protection or the Deputy Headteacher in his absence. We have a child protection policy that has been agreed by the Governing Body and is available from the school office.

The safeguarding of children is an absolute priority at our school!

### **School Security**

Security is a priority for schools and Crwys Primary School operates within security guidelines laid down by Swansea County Council. The key is finding a balance between keeping safe and not creating a prison-like situation.

During the school day the following security measures are in place:

- The front door is locked and visitors must ring the doorbell. A Reception Area is to be found at the front door entrance where visitors are requested to sign the 'Visitors' Book'.
- All outside gates and doors are locked during the school day to ensure that the school site is secure so that unwelcome visitors are prevented from entering as well as children being unable to get out and wander off.

The school Health and Safety Policy and School Security Policy can be inspected in school at any time.

### **Health Matters**

Children are not allowed to keep medicines on their persons; the Headteacher keeps all medicines, including asthma pumps. We can administer medicines, usually, but relevant consent forms must be filled in. These are available from the office. We ask that only essential medicines be administered in school.

If a child becomes unwell during the school day, one of our qualified first aiders will assess the child to decide whether they should be sent home, in which case parents/guardians will be contacted to come to school to collect the child. However, we strongly recommend that if a child is feeling unwell before school in the morning then it is in the interest of the child to keep him/her at home until the child recovers.

Children showing symptoms of sickness should be kept at home. It is also unwise to send your child back to school too soon after illness. If the child's illness is infectious, please inform the school immediately.

If your child has been ill, e.g. with chicken pox etc, there is often conflicting advice on the amount of time they should be absent from school, depending on the doctor they see. To make things easier for you, we have asked the Health Protection Agency for guidance and have set out below advice about the most common illnesses and infections.

<b>Disease or Condition</b>	<b>Period of absence from School</b>
<i>Chicken Pox</i>	<i>Five days from onset of rash</i>
<i>German Measles</i>	<i>Six days from onset of swelling</i>
<i>Impetigo</i>	<i>Until lesions have crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics</i>
<i>Measles</i>	<i>Four days from onset of rash</i>
<i>Slapped Cheek</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Diarrhoea/ Vomiting</i>	<i>48 hours from last episode</i>
<i>Conjunctivitis</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Mumps</i>	<i>Five days from onset of swelling</i>
<i>Threadworms</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Tonsillitis</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Covid</i>	<i>5 Days</i>

**HEAD LICE:** Outbreaks of lice occur frequently in all schools. Parents are strongly advised to check their child's hair at least once a week and inform the school immediately if lice are found. A blanket letter will be sent to the children of the class where an outbreak occurs, informing parents and asking them to treat their child's hair if lice are found. Confidentiality is assured. Individual parents will be contacted if their child has head lice and is not treated immediately.

### **Medical Information**

Please ensure that the school is informed about any medical condition known to you that is likely to affect your child's education. This information will be added to your child's record card. At various stages throughout the school, the children will receive medical examinations including eyesight and hearing tests by the school nurse.



The School Health Authority notifies parents if follow up treatment is recommended and they may be present if they wish.

The School Nurse visits Crwys Primary School regularly and may make home visits if considered appropriate. Responsibility for checking children's hair for head lice now rests with the parent, and should be done on a weekly basis. If an outbreak is found, please inform the Headteacher, who will deal with the matter in confidence and will ensure that the standard note is sent to every child's parent in the class.

### **Healthy Schools**

Crwys Primary School is very involved in the Swansea Health Promoting Schools Scheme.

### *UNCRC – Article 24 – Your right to good food and water*

All food and drink prepared for the children during school time and After School Club is expected to follow Swansea County Council healthy eating guidelines.

During break times we have a 'fruit only' policy, as decided upon by the School Council. We work hard to promote the health and wellbeing of the children and staff at school.

We ask parents of children who bring a packed lunch to school to make every effort to ensure that the packed lunch contains a healthy eating and drinking selection. This is consistent with our Health Promoting Policy. Healthy options are always made available during PTA functions. Staff are also encouraged to follow Healthy Schools guidelines.



If you wish to know more then please see our Healthy Schools co-ordinator, Mrs Rachel Harris . Drinking water – Drinking plenty of cold, fresh water helps to develop concentration skills and the well-being of the individual. We ensure that our children have access to cold, fresh drinking water throughout the school day.

## **Section C – The Curriculum**

### **How do we facilitate learning?**

The aim of any good school must be to provide a quality education for its pupils and Crwys Primary School strives to do its best for each and every pupil in a pleasant working environment where children are able to work to their full potential. It is a community where pupils and staff have the opportunity to flourish in a climate of learning, which seeks to develop integrity, honesty, tolerance, truth and compassion.



Crwys Primary School has an excellent reputation for delivering a dynamic, varied and exciting curriculum to its learners. Teaching and learning is a major strength at Crwys. We aim to provide a quality education for our pupils. We strive to do its best for each and every pupil in a pleasant working environment where children are able to work to their full potential. It is a community where pupils and staff have the opportunity to flourish in a climate of learning, which seeks to develop integrity, honesty, tolerance, truth and

compassion. The curriculum is the whole learning experience offered by our school. It is not only the lessons and activities which are planned, organised and provided while the children are at school but also the attitudes and values we put forward. This is referred to as the 'Hidden Curriculum' and has a great influence on children's development. How children learn is as important as what they learn. Our curriculum is broad and balanced offering children many exciting and wonderful learning opportunities to develop their spiritual, social, aesthetic, linguistic, mathematical, scientific and technological skills and knowledge. We are also equally concerned with the development of personal qualities, behaviour and conduct.

For this reason, Crwys Primary encourages:

- High moral standards and personal qualities of good character and behaviour.
- Good personal relationships, a sense of responsibility, teamwork and loyalty.
- Such qualities as inventiveness, curiosity and imagination, which can lead to self-fulfilment and the best use of leisure time.
- Self-awareness, knowledge and a basic knowledge of health and safety and the development of independence.
- An understanding of how to contribute to and benefit from living in a well organised community.

We follow a thematic approach to planning the curriculum, which motivates pupils and encourages them to investigate and learn new things successfully. These plans clearly show the lesson objectives to be covered and a range of teaching and learning activities to allow these objectives to be taught. We study a particular theme each term and all the different subject areas are taught through the theme. We ensure that the children are able to make a

contribution to their curriculum in this way ensuring that they have ownership over their learning. We teach skills based curriculum with a strong emphasis on the acquisition of skills and knowledge throughout all areas of learning.

## Our School Curriculum

Our school follows the guidance laid by the 'Curriculum for Wales (CfW)' which is statutory for all maintained schools in Wales. The curriculum has been developed and planned by our teachers to create a vibrant and bespoke curriculum for our learners providing a balance of knowledge, skills and experiences. Underpinning our curriculum is the development of the 'Four purposes', using these we aim for our pupils to become:

**Ambitious, capable learners** who are ready to learn throughout their lives.

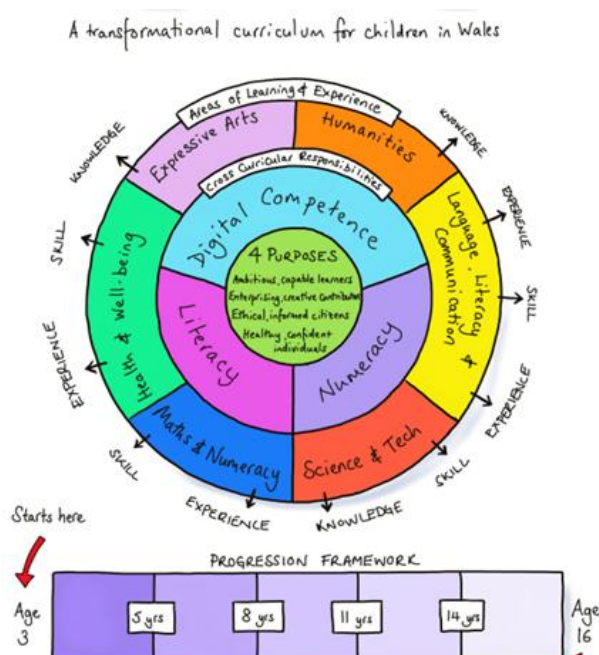
**Healthy, confident individuals** who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

**Enterprising, creative contributors** who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

**Ethical, informed citizens of learning** who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

The Curriculum for Wales has six Areas of Learning and Experiences (AoLEs). Individual members of our teaching staff have a lead responsibility for the development of each of these areas at our school:

1. **Expressive Arts** - incorporating art, dance, drama, film and digital media, and music. It encourages creativity and critical thinking, and includes performance.
2. **Humanities** - incorporating geography, history and RE. It is based on human experiences and also covers Welsh culture.
3. **Health and Wellbeing** - covering the physical, psychological, emotional and social aspects of life, helping pupils make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing and learning how to manage social influences.
4. **Science and Technology** - incorporating science, computer science and design and technology.
5. **Mathematics and Numeracy** - involving learning through play in the Early Years and in the later stages, includes working both independently and collaboratively with others.
6. **Languages, Literacy and Communication** - including Welsh and English, literature and international languages. Welsh language teaching continues to be compulsory, as an additional language, for children who don't use Welsh as their first language.



In addition, literacy, numeracy and digital skills are embedded throughout all curriculum areas.

## **Languages, Literacy and Communication**

The Curriculum for Wales requires us to teach your child the skills of reading, oracy and writing. These elements are taught in a continuous and progressive way to develop your child's literacy and communication skills.

From the youngest age we work on developing language and preparing your child for reading and writing. We use Jolly Phonics and Ben and Betty schemes to help develop reading, and spelling skills, which in turn are used to develop your child's ability to write independently. The children are taught to form letters correctly and to use joined up writing at the appropriate time. As your child progresses through the school they will be using their literacy skills in a wide variety of forms and for different audiences.



As the children progress through school, you can quickly expect to see improvements in the fluency of their reading. We monitor very closely your child's reading age and the progress made. We may involve other professionals if we feel there may be a specific difficulty. You will be fully involved in this process.

Reading books will be sent home regularly with your children. Parents are asked to assist by listening regularly to their children reading at home.

All parents can help by encouraging their children to read for information and enjoyment in their leisure time and to share this experience with their children. If you need some ideas on how to support your child's reading, then please come to school and see your child's class teacher.

From time to time, pupils prepare a presentation to deliver to the class on a subject that particularly interests them. During their presentation they practice skills such as interacting with the audience, sequencing, articulation, holding eye contact and presentation structuring. This is a fantastic way for children to develop confidence in speaking to an audience. We are always very careful to go with the child and how they are feeling at a given time as we do not wish for anyone to feel under pressure. Public speaking can be quite challenging so we aim to build confidence at the appropriate pace for each child.

## **Mathematics and Numeracy**

At Crwys Primary, we are committed to continually improve the standards of teaching and learning of Numeracy. Tasks and enrichment activities provided in all classes ensure that 'Numeracy' and 'Reasoning' are embedded within all aspects of the curriculum.

We aim for all children to become mathematical 'thinkers', to have the confidence to have a go at





problem solving, to have a positive attitude to maths and essentially to gain enjoyment from exploring mathematics and to be able to use mathematical knowledge in all areas of the curriculum with confidence.

Numeracy is taught by using a Mathematics scheme, a very comprehensive collection of mathematical resources which allows effective continuity and progression in mathematical skills throughout the school. The Numeracy curriculum involves a detailed understanding of number systems and problem solving with a great emphasis on mental as well as written methods of calculation; it also demands practical understanding and application through the study of shape, pattern, space, measures and handling data (graphs, diagrams and charts).

### **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**



***'The use of information and communication technology (ICT) is a strength of the school' (Estyn June 2019).*** All classes in the school are equipped with interactive whiteboards and networked PCs. All work stations have broadband internet access. The interactive whiteboards contain numerous resources to enhance the delivery of Maths, English, Science and all other subjects. It is our aim to use ICT extensively across the curriculum.

In addition to our computer suite, to further develop IT skills we have a trolley containing 20 Chrome Books complete with wireless broadband access which serves as a mobile computer suite. It can be transported throughout the school to allow the children to develop specific ICT skills through the elements outlined in our ICT scheme of work as well as using their IT skills in other subject areas. We have a number of I-pads which are used to develop skills across the curriculum to further develop their learning.

The children use the internet regularly for a range of different activities. The internet is blocked and filtered by Swansea County Council to allow safe use. We have a 'Safe Internet and Email' policy which is strictly adhered to.

In addition we have a wide range of periphery equipment – microphones, cameras etc – to bring a wealth of exciting



### **Class Teachers and Learning Support Assistants**

We are blessed with very talented and committed staff. They are a real strength of our school. Class teachers have responsibility for teaching all aspects of the curriculum to their classes. Class teachers teach in a variety of styles, reflecting the abilities, attainment, aptitudes and interests of the child.

The variety of teaching styles and the organisation of the class for individual, group or class teaching groups reflect what it is felt appropriate to facilitate pupil learning at any given time

or context. We are very fortunate to have excellent learning support assistants who work alongside the class teachers to help deliver the curriculum by working with small groups etc.

### **Areas of Learning Co-ordinators**

In addition to their considerable class responsibilities, each member of staff has whole school, areas of learning, curriculum responsibilities. The role of each AoL Coordinator ensures that good practice is maintained and built upon and that the school keeps up to date with developments.

There are AoL Co-ordinators for each of the six areas of the curriculum, as outlined in the new curriculum for Wales, as well as an Additional Learning Needs Coordinator, Healthy Schools, Eco Schools, Rights Respecting, Welsh Language co-ordinators etc.

### **Assessing children's learning**

Each child's progress is monitored and recorded by the class teachers. This process is carried out from the time your child starts at Crwys Primary School until they leave whereby assessment information is passed onto the Secondary Schools.

All assessment information is used to develop appropriate learning programmes for your children. The school has an assessment policy, which provides a clear framework for the process of assessment, recording and reporting. It establishes:

- ✓ Routines for the planning of assessments
- ✓ Routines for assessing pupils at work and assessing their work
- ✓ Monitoring and recording pupil progress in a consistent manner
- ✓ Encouragement of self-assessment and self-editing
- ✓ Regular reporting to parents through opportunities to attend twice yearly meetings with class teachers and the annual written report.



There are arrangements for assessing pupils' progress and measuring standards of achievement against the requirements of the National Curriculum and Areas of Learning.

A rigorous process of Teacher Assessment takes place where pupil performance is measured.

Crwys Primary School consistently achieves very high standards, above the County and National averages.

**On Entry Assessment** – It is a Welsh Government requirement that children are assessed in key developmental areas on entry to school. These assessments are carried out by the class teacher in order to provide a 'baseline' of where the child is when they start school and to identify the next steps in their development. Most aspects of the assessments are made through observation, with all practitioners in the class setting providing information about each child and his/ her preferred learning style and the skills that the child presents.

The class teacher collates the evidence within the first month of the children starting at the School. Each child is assessed in accordance with the Foundation Phase skills within each continuum for all areas of learning.

### How are parents informed about how their child is progressing?

We are very committed to ensuring that parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress. This takes place in the following ways:

- ✓ Twice yearly meetings with class teachers are arranged to discuss progress and set targets for future development. These take place in the autumn and the spring term.
- ✓ A written Annual School Report which comments on the progress made in every area of the curriculum will be issued in the summer term.
- ✓ Class teachers make themselves available to parents whenever possible at the beginning and the end of the school day. If you do have any concerns please come in and talk to the teachers. They will be happy to discuss and help sort out any problem or concern you may have. It is advisable to make an appointment as sometimes teachers are not available due to meetings, courses etc.

### How well does Crwys Primary cater for children with additional learning needs (ALN)?

- ✓ We have an excellent reputation for supporting pupils with additional learning needs. We were a lead school for the implementation of the ALN statutory reform in 2022 and very carefully follow the principles and processes outlined by the reform.
- ✓ A child has additional learning needs when she or he finds it significantly more challenging to learn than other children of a similar age. He or she may have difficulties which are of a physical nature, connected with sight, hearing or speech, emotional or behaviour difficulties or specific learning difficulties related to aspects of language and/or mathematics.
- ✓ The school's policy and practice aims to help our pupils with additional learning needs and to identify individual learning difficulties, with emphasis on early intervention and a flexible structure to provide support once the child has been identified.
- ✓ We regularly hold **Person Centred Planning (PCP)** meetings for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), in these meetings it is established whether the child's needs are met through 'Universal level Provision' i.e. differentiated support within the classroom or whether their need is escalated to requiring an **Individual Development Plan (IDP)**
- ✓ IDPs tend to be designed for pupils with additional learning needs requiring support additional to what can be provided within the classroom, i.e. specialist support, 1:1 provision, targeted intervention etc.
- ✓ We work very closely, and enjoy excellent relationships with, the inclusion service of the Swansea Local Authority who offer us high quality support to ensure the best provision for our learners. Professionals such as educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, autism specialists and behaviour support teachers, regular visit and work with our school.





- ✓ **Informing Parents** – We ensure that parents are kept fully informed at every stage of the ALN process.

### **Special Teaching Facility (STF)**

The Facility caters for children with special educational needs and is supported by regular visits from speech therapists, the school psychological service, welfare officers and the school doctor.

The Facility provides education to Foundation Phase pupils and is currently full with the 8 pupils being looked after by three members of staff. It has a special place within the school and wider community and pupils are integrated into mainstream classes whenever possible

### **Physical Education**

Crwys Primary School knows the value of healthy bodies. Therefore, we put great importance on the PE curriculum. Your child will experience a full range of physical activities including gymnastics, dance and games. P.E. is compulsory for all children except those permanently excluded on health grounds. A note from your G.P must support such cases. Children suffering from minor ailments may be excused when parents request it, but we would appreciate a brief explanation in writing.



In the interests of health and safety, it is essential that appropriate kit should be worn and any jewellery or personal effects removed for any PE lessons. A letter at the start of term will inform parents of the day their child will need to bring kit. The standard kit is as follows:

- (a) Indoors – Shorts, School PE t-shirt or plain t-shirt, bare feet.
  - (b) Outdoors – Shorts, School PE t-shirt or plain t-shirt, netball kit, rugby/football kit – depending on season, together with appropriate footwear.
- Children are allowed to keep their PE kit in school. Parents will be contacted when children do not bring kit repeatedly.

Boys and girls need football boots and shin pads from the age of seven upwards if they wish to take up the option of football and/or rugby tuition in the extracurricular clubs. We have



school netball, rugby, football, cricket, rounders, cross-country and athletics, swimming teams and they regularly compete in interschool competitions.

### **Crwys as an Eco School**

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been an important and high-profile initiative which we have embraced whole heartedly. We have an Eco-Club which are very proactive and meet



regularly. We are very involved in the Sustainable Schools Award Scheme promoted by the Swansea LEA.

We have achieved the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Sustainable Schools Award.

ESD links are now firmly embedded in our curriculum and the children have numerous opportunities to develop relevant skills and knowledge. As part of our sustainability work we



carry out extensive recycling, manage water and energy waste carefully and a range of other sustainable initiatives.

We compost our fruit waste in compost bins and grow vegetables and fruit trees in our school garden and in the orchard in Duke Field. Events are frequently organised to promote our commitment to this initiative. Every effort is made to purchase fair-trade products whenever possible.

## **Rights Respecting School**

*Article 2 - All children have these rights no matter what!*



At Crwys Primary School we believe that a child's wellbeing is at the heart of their education. We are proud to be a Rights Respecting School. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is a programme run by UNICEF that aims to put children's rights at the centre of education in the UK. This involves embedding children's rights into the ethos and culture of the school in order to improve the pupils' wellbeing.

Having recently, successfully, achieved the required standards to be awarded Silver status, we are working towards Gold status by fully engaging and educating the wider school community.

'A Rights Respecting School teaches children and young people that they have rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. From this starting point they also learn their responsibility to respect others' rights in all relationships in the community.' (UNICEF)

Please click the link below if you would like further information.

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child can be found here:

<http://www.complantcymru.org.uk/uploads/publications/264.pdf>

Posters are displayed in every class in our school for easy reference for staff and pupils.

## Right of the Month

During the year through Personal, Social and Emotional (PSE) class activities, events and assembly themes, our children will learn that:



- ✓ They have rights and that they should be informed of those rights.
- ✓ They should be helped to exercise and enforce their rights.
- ✓ Those rights should lead to responsible actions.

In addition children will benefit from

- ✓ Improved self-esteem and wellbeing.
- ✓ Improved behaviour and relationships.
- ✓ Enhanced moral understanding and support for Global justice.
- ✓ Positive attitudes towards diversity in society.

We have carefully chosen a 'Right of the Month' according to the time of year.

### **Our links with The Gambia**

The school also has a special relationship with The Goodman Primary School in The Gambia. [#Article27](#) every child has the right to learn. The school decided to support the school in 2019, the aim was to raise money to install a borehole in the school grounds to allow a constant flow of clean water to allow the school to become self-sufficient for future generations. [#Article24](#) every child has the right to clean water. A number of fundraising events were arranged, culminating in a family sponsored walk to the top (and back down!) of Penylan in the Brecon Beacons. An impressive 62 trekkers and two dogs made it to the summit and were be delighted to hand over a cheque for £1000! The monies were quickly put to good use and I'm happy to say the school now has a new toilet block which was called 'Tŷ Bach Crwys'.



## **Equal Opportunities**

Our school aims to give ALL pupils the same curricular and extra-curricular opportunities whenever possible. The school's guidelines are clearly laid down in our Strategic Equality Plan. The school has been adapted to enable wheelchair access and has a disabled toilet.

We have an Equal Opportunities and Inclusions policy and ensure that all our procedures follow the guidance in this policy.

Incidents of a racist nature are extremely rare. Any issue of racial harassment is dealt with in the school's general discipline policy and is reported to the Governing Body.



## **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

This is mandatory in all maintained schools, including primary schools. Parents are no longer allowed to withdraw their children from these lessons. The focus will be on building relationships based on mutual trust, and developing mental and emotional wellbeing, resilience and empathy.

The Welsh government has provided guidance to schools on how to provide RSE that is age appropriate and relevant to pupils' developmental stage, but it has given schools the flexibility to design their own programme of teaching that reflects diversity and difference in relationships, sex, gender and sexuality

## **The Welsh Language**

Crwys is a Category EM (English Medium) school according to the language policy of Swansea County Council. This means that Welsh is taught as a second language through speaking, reading and writing.

A number of our staff speak Welsh and a bilingual culture is very evident at the school. It is our aim that on leaving Crwys Primary School pupils will have greatly developed their Welsh speaking, reading and writing skills and have achieved a good standard of bilingualism.



Incidental Welsh is regularly used in many of the everyday instructions and commands by the staff, who attend regular Welsh courses. E.g. during assemblies, registration etc. We have a Bilingual policy and we make every effort to offer the children a bilingual experience at Crwys.

All pupils are Welsh learners. Welsh is taught as a foundation subject to all children from the Foundation Phase to Year 6. There is also a strong emphasis on the 'Curriculum Cymreig'



syllabus in the school where subjects such as Art, Geography and History are taught with a particular focus on Wales and the Welsh dimension and that Welsh culture and pride is fostered.

## **Outdoor Schools**



As I mentioned in my welcome note, Crwys have worked hard to develop outdoor learning with every pupil visiting the nearby Duke Field Woods or Priors Meadow on a weekly basis where staff lead the children through a variety of activities. This is carefully timetabled so that all the children have the chance to develop self-esteem, confidence, independence, team building, awareness and knowledge of the natural environment through this unique method of outdoor education.

The project involves all the children throughout the school developing ownership of the site. They develop ecological and environmental skills as well as developing literacy and numeracy skills in an outdoor context and is now seen as a strength of the school and was highlighted by Estyn as 'Effective Practice'.

We take the children out of doors as often as possible to enhance their learning. The aim is that children becoming fully engaged with the outdoors and develop a great sense of well-being as well as developing their literacy and numeracy standards.

We thank the local Community Council and the Crwys District Sports Association for their support and cooperation.

Crwys has also been proactive in helping other schools develop their outdoor learning opportunities. The school has created a learning network called Swansea Outdoor Schools through a collaboration with Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools, National Resources Wales and a number of other agencies including Swansea, Neath Port Talbot Forest Schools and Gower Activity Centres to name but a few. We have also lead a European project which is talked about later in the prospectus.

## **What Estyn think**

The school received their last inspection from Estyn in June 2019. They rated wellbeing and attitudes to learning at the school as excellent and said it is good in all other inspection areas, and we were delighted that Swansea Council and the South Wales Evening Post were keen to share the good news.





The report stated that the school plans the curriculum effectively and teachers develop pupils' skills successfully through a wide range of interesting activities stating that the school had responded well to the challenges of developing a new curriculum for schools in Wales. We are also delighted that our provision for outdoor learning was recognised as effective practice and now appears as a case study on the Estyn website: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/taking-teaching-outdoors>



The use of outdoor learning to enhance pupils' attitudes to learning and improve their wellbeing is excellent and this ensures that pupils are developing into confident learners."

We were also pleased that the report outlines that the governing body makes an effective contribution to the school's development and partnership working is a strong feature at Crwys Primary, stating that the school was at the 'heart of the community', and that a strong and successful relationship existed between home and school.



Pupils, staff and the school's wider community can feel very proud of this report and I would like to thank them all for their continued support. I would also like to thank everyone who has forwarded their congratulations. These included the then Director of Education, Nick Williams, local Assembly Member Rebecca Evans, Member of Parliament for the Gower Tonia Antoniazzi and Swansea Council's Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills, Jennifer Raynor.

## Wellbeing



Pupil wellbeing is hugely important to us at Crwys. Happy children learn and happy children want to come to school, last year Crwys Primary's attendance of 96.6% was the highest of all Swansea schools. In recent years, the school has developed a number of working partnerships in order to provide staff with the tools to ensure that wellbeing is at the heart of all we do. In addition to the increased focus on outdoor learning, we have also worked with HAPPEN, a network of health, education and research professionals, based at Swansea University, aimed at improving child health, wellbeing and education outcomes.

HAPPEN (Health & Attainment of Pupils in a Primary Education Network) carried out a qualitative study on the impact of the school's increased focus on outdoor learning on pupils and staff. Their findings found that the approach is having a positive impact on staff wellbeing. Importantly, teachers spoke of increased job satisfaction, and they felt it was "just what I came into teaching for". The study; <https://t.co/h7czGtRjkV> has received global recognition, from North America and Canada, to New South Wales in Australia. In addition, the school's high academic standards have been sustained and improved. The University's

Centre of Population department also produced a short film showing what we do;  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1w\\_HOTIvsPg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1w_HOTIvsPg)

In addition, this term we have been with a company called Gwylanuk who are specialised wellbeing training providers who have helped us introduce 'Pause Points', these enable teachers to create reflection points and use yoga techniques within the confines of a structured space and timetable and we already feel that this is having a very positive influence.



### **Pupil Voice**

At Crwys, we put the pupils firmly at the heart of all decisions. Research and case study examples suggest that developing children and young people's participation is potentially beneficial for individuals, organisations and communities.

Pupils who participate in decision-making report that they enjoy enhanced self-esteem and motivation, gain important personal, social and organisational skills, and become familiar with group and democratic processes.

At the organisational level, pupil involvement in decision-making may lead to better relationships, more relevant and effective policies, and better learning. In the best scenarios, pupils and adults work together as partners to ensure that their school provides the best possible learning environment for all. Pupils have an important part to play in helping their school to improve in every aspect of school life.



*UNCRC – Article 12 – Your right to say what you think should happen and be listened to.*

### **School Council** –

This year's council were elected in September following some hard fought campaigning and they wasted no time getting their voices heard. They hold regular meetings under the watchful eye of Mrs Howells and the Chair and Secretary are regular visitors to my office!

**Eco club** - Eco Club were proactive in helping the school become a Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free School, winning what was the coolest ever looking award in the process which now hangs proudly in the school foyer. While it was the Eco Club who were the driving force, arranging such things as a beach clean and the instillation of a new water fountain, it took a whole school effort to achieve the status.

**Rights Respecting Ambassadors** - Our Rights Respecting Ambassadors have had a busy term! In addition to sharing the United Nation's message and making their fellow pupils aware of their rights, they met with Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner for Wales



who has since been in touch with the school to thank them for their work in promoting anti bullying. The school now holds Level 1 or Silver Status and is working hard towards Gold status.

**Criw Cymraeg** - The Criw Cymraeg is one of our newer committees. They are working hard to promote the Welsh language and ethos around the school. They organised a number of activities to celebrate Shwmae Day and have helped the school achieve the Welsh Language Charter Bronze Award. One of the first primary schools in Swansea to achieve the award.

### **Secondary School Links**

Crwys Primary School is a feeder school for Bishopston Comprehensive.

There are very good links with both schools and a number of transition events are arranged to make the experience as smooth as possible for the children. Arrangements are made for our Year six pupils to spend a day at Bishopston in their final term.

Year six pupils and parents are invited to meet the Headteacher and staff at an evening meeting at the end of September at the Secondary Schools and are given a tour of the school.

### **Sport and Games**

Crwys participates with other schools in the area in swimming galas, athletic meetings and other sporting competitions, festivals and tournaments e.g. football, netball, cricket, rugby, athletics and tennis.

We enjoy a great deal of success and have developed an excellent reputation for sport. Our children are often noted for their behaviour and sportsmanship. With all these activities, the aim is for the pupils to participate competitively with particular



emphasis on enjoyment, sportsmanship and being part of a team.

### **Residential Visits**

The Year 5 pupils undertake a five-day residential visit to Pendine Outdoors in Carmarthenshire, where they enjoy a range of activities, while Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to visit Borfa House Adventure Centre in Port Eynon for 5 days, where

they enjoy a range of outdoor pursuits.



## Music

Crwys School has a strong musical tradition. We have a School Choir that performs at both school and community events throughout the year. In addition to the normal school music curriculum, there is an opportunity for children to learn both string and woodwind instruments.

## European School Links - Erasmus

### **‘Outdoor Learning: Happy Children make Happy Learners!’**

In 2018, the school received EU funding to lead an international project called ‘Erasmus + KA2 School Exchange Partnership’. In total, 6 schools worked in collaboration; 2 schools from Wales (Crwys Primary and Gowerton Primary School), Ireland, Italy, Sweden and Finland. The school wanted to create a project in order to continue our outdoor learning journey, and submitted an application on behalf of all schools participating.



We were proud to be the lead school of the project and were grateful of the opportunity to work at an international level. We look forward to continuing our outdoor learning journey and be able to share good practice with other countries. What is Erasmus+? Erasmus+ is the European Union Programme for education, training, youth and sport. Organisations are invited to apply for funding each year to undertake creative and worthwhile activities. The programme supports organisations to develop partnerships, share best practice and work collaboratively to help improve provision for learners.

**About the project:** The project, ‘Outdoor Learning: Happy Children Make Happy Learners!’ was based on seven outdoor learning topic areas, which were explored over 2 years. The 7 areas included;

- ☐ Observing Changes in Nature
- ☐ Games in Nature
- ☐ Environmental protection
- ☐ Collecting natural resources
- ☐ Entrepreneurship
- ☐ Visits
- ☐ ICT (To create, communicate and record our project’s progress)







In September 2018, Crwys played host to our international partners. During the visit, pupils were not only able to showcase Crwys, but they also took great pride in sharing some of the lovely traditions we have here in Wales. Teachers undertook training activities and participated in first hand outdoor learning experiences. As a school, we were able to share all the wonderful outdoor learning activities we enjoy on both our school grounds, and in

our local woodland areas (Dukefield and Priors Meadow). Delegates were also able to sample what pupils experience on residential visits, when they joined our Y6 pupils, on a day in Rhossili and Worm's Head. What a great way for our partners to not only see outdoor learning in action, but also see the Gower in all its glory with blue, sunny skies all week long!

Visits to Finland, Italy, Sweden and Ireland have followed and we are by now proud to have produced this step by step guide to over 50 activities for the outdoors. The culmination of two years hard work.

## **Section D – Parents in Partnership**

### **Involving Parents in the life of the school**

The relationship we have with the parents is a real strength of our school! We are blessed to be part of a very close community with extremely helpful and supportive parents.

We care about our parents and feel it is vital to develop an understanding relationship with you. We hope you, as parents, care about our school and support us in every possible way. Our aim is a successful home/school relationship and, to achieve this, parents and staff need to cooperate fully with each other so that children feel confident that everyone is working together in his or her best interests.



It is important to know that parents are genuinely welcome to contact the Head Teacher when there is any matter, however trivial, causing concern about your child's education, behaviour or attitude. It is obviously preferable if an appointment can be made, unless matters are urgent.

### **How can parents help?**

There are numerous occasions when parental help adds considerably to the smooth running of the school e.g. on school visits, accompanying the party or providing transport (if fully insured),

### **Summer Fayre and other PTA activities.**

There are many other ways that parents can contribute to school life e.g.

- ✓ Speaking to groups or classes of children about an area of curriculum relevance.
- ✓ Helping with extra-curricular sporting activities. E.g. athletics, football, netball.
- ✓ Helping with curriculum activities such as cooking, modelling, listening to readers.
- ✓ Accompanying the children on school trips and visits.

We are extremely grateful for this help. Appropriate safeguarding checks must be made before volunteers can work in schools. Please see the Headteacher if you are interested in volunteering at school.

### **PTA**

The school is fortunate to have a hugely committed P.T.A. Members have worked tremendously hard for the school's cause and continue to do so. They have raised thousands of pounds through many fundraising activities.



We encourage all parents to get involved with PTA, which meets regularly and organises fundraising events. Like most schools, we welcome any financial contribution from the association to supplement the amount of money provided by the L.E.A. and Government and assure you that any money donated from PTA is put to good use, for the benefit of ALL the children.

Committee meetings are usually held twice a term and a PTA event is usually held at least once per term. All parents are members of the PTA and are very welcome to meetings, events etc.

Please let us know if you would like to get involved. We are always looking for new members. If you have any ideas for fundraising activities then please let us know.



### **Communicating with Parents**

Regular newsletters and information about developments, events, celebrations and matters of concern are now sent out via email (on the request of our Eco Club!). We also correspond with parents via text and twitter which has many obvious benefits. Please ensure that we have your correct mobile number and email address.

Parent/Teacher Meetings are held twice a year- During the Autumn term, class teachers outline the ethos and routine of the class, informing parents on key aspects of development expected within their child's following year. A lengthier meeting is held during the Spring term to discuss development and targets. Resources and ideas are also provided to parents as an aid to support home-school links.

School Website – The school website contains many useful documents, newsletters and important information about the day-to-day running of the school. Update announcements e.g. the cancellation of an extra-curricular clubs are posted on the website so it is worth checking out; [www.crwysprimary.co.uk](http://www.crwysprimary.co.uk)

Annual Report to Parents – The Governing Body prepare an annual report to parents in the Autumn term which reflects and highlights all the developments that have taken place in the year. It is a very comprehensive report that provides a very good summary of the work of the school.

### **Parent – Teacher Consultations**

Consultations between parents and teacher are organised in the form of individual appointments twice yearly, when all matters relating to your child's progress may be discussed. Formal written end of year reports are provided to all pupils in the summer term.

### **Home-School Agreement**

At the back of the prospectus is a 'Home-School Agreement' outlining the expectations of children, parents and the school. Please read this carefully, discuss it with your child(ren).

If you would like to discuss any aspect of it, please contact your child's Class Teacher or the Headteacher.



### **Homework**

Without question, parental involvement in their child's education is of great benefit in terms of progress and motivation for learning.

Children at Crwys are expected to complete homework from an early age, and the school is grateful for parental co-operation in ensuring that assignments are completed. Routine work such as tables, spellings and reading should be encouraged for a short period every evening.

Homework should not be regarded as a chore, but as a natural extension of school activities. It is a way of informing parents about the standard of work the children are expected to complete. If there is a repeated problem with completing homework activities or if your child is spending an excessive amount of time doing homework and becoming anxious then please let us know. The following points should be recognised when considering the effectiveness of extra work in out of school hours.

Homework for younger children (even children in the Early Years Department may be included in this category) will often consist of reading storybooks. Parental involvement and assistance in such activities is invaluable and frequent liaison with the class teacher is extremely beneficial. Reading is a vitally important homework but please remember that reading should be a SHARED, ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE. Please set aside some time every evening to read with your child, no matter what his/her age.





Children in the upper section of the school are given a range of homework activities. It is important at this age that children develop the skill and motivation to work independently in preparation for Secondary School. By the time they leave Crwys we hope that children will have learned how to learn for themselves. If they can then we would have succeeded in perhaps our most fundamental and important purpose.

- ✓ Our 'Homework Policy' records the amount of homework to be set by the teachers. Infant children are encouraged to read every night. Junior children receive two pieces of homework a week, usually Maths and English. We ask parents to ensure that homework is well presented and handed in on time.
- ✓ Parents have the option to opt out of formal homework if they so wish. Please see the Headteacher if you wish to take this option.

### **Putting Things Right**

The school's Governing Body has a complaints procedure established to deal with complaints made by parents and others in respect of the performance of duties and or exercise of powers by the L.E.A. or by the Governing Body.

Any parents, or other concerned person, who may have a complaint should first discuss their concern informally with the Headteacher. The Headteacher and his staff are committed to dealing with parental concerns, to resolving parental misunderstandings and to providing real solutions as speedily as practicable. We are also committed to learning from any mistakes made in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. We offer parents the opportunity to comment on matters relating to the school in a regular survey or when considered necessary.

All members of staff are encouraged to respond personally to concerns which parents and children raise with them. If considered appropriate, your concerns will also be passed to the Headteacher. If parents feel they would prefer to deal direct with the Headteacher, then the Headteacher sees it as his duty to respond with sympathy and understanding and act as an ambassador and protector in school.



Should the matter not be resolved, the complainant may be asked to put their issue in writing in line with the school's complaints policy. The school's Complaint policy is available from school office.

## **Section E – Frequently Asked questions (FAQs)**

Hopefully, this section will answer most of your questions but please don't hesitate to come in and ask if you have any unanswered questions.

### **What are the procedures for admission to Crwys Primary School?**

All admissions are dealt with directly by the Local Education Authority who make the final decision on whether we are able to accommodate your child(ren). Children who reside within the school's designated catchment area will be always be offered a school place. Parents residing out of catchment who wish to send their child to Crwys Primary School will be allocated a place at the discretion of the Local Authority, depending on availability of space.

You will need to complete admission application on-line and send them to the Admission's Office at County. Children can start attending school in our Nursery Class for five mornings a week.

They can then become full time pupils the term after their fourth birthday. However, entry may be deferred until the child attains statutory school age of 5 years if it is the parent's wish.



School admissions are co-ordinated by the Local Education Authority.

### **What must I do if my child is absent from school?**

If your child is absent from school due to illness etc. please telephone the school early in the morning of the first day of absence to inform us. You will receive a phone call from us if we have not heard from you by 9.30am on the day of absence. This is done in the interest of child safety.

Please also follow up all absences of your child with a note. We would be very grateful if you would ensure your children arrive at school on time. i.e. 8.50am. Late arrivals are noted on the school registers. Repeated late arrivals will receive a letter from the Headteacher and the School Welfare Officer may have to be informed.

The Welsh Government has issued new guidelines on school attendance, which provides further guidance on the interpretation of 'authorised' and 'unauthorised' attendance. An authorised absence is where the child's absence has been described as medical, dental, bereavement/family circumstance, being educated elsewhere or attending a special event etc. All other absences are unauthorised. Our School Welfare Officer may be requested to visit the homes of pupils whose prolonged or frequent absences give cause for concern. All attendance records are submitted electronically to County Hall at the end of every term.



### **What are the procedures for supervision at playtime?**

Your children are fully supervised by experienced and qualified staff throughout the day at Crwys Primary School. Break periods are supervised by members of staff, who encourage all the children to play safely and happily. Any form of inappropriate behaviour is discouraged and children will always be told why their actions are unacceptable. Potentially dangerous play e.g. piggy back rides/wrestling etc. is prohibited.

During very inclement weather, children are supervised in their own classrooms by the teachers. During these times the teachers provide quiet activities for the children e.g. watching a DVD, playing a game, drawing etc.

### **What happens if my child has an accident in school?**

Every precaution and risk assessment is carried out to minimize the potential of accidents at school. In the event of a child having an accident during playtime or in the classroom the injured child is sent immediately to one of our qualified first aiders for treatment.

Most accidents are minor, superficial injuries such as cuts and grazes and are dealt with appropriately. All accidents are reported in the Accident Book. More serious injuries must be brought to the attention of the Head Teacher or Deputy Headteacher immediately. If hospital examination/treatment is deemed necessary then the parent/guardian or appropriate contact will be informed immediately. The telephone numbers of all parents and other contacts are



kept in the office. If parents/guardians cannot be contacted, the Head Teacher (or in his absence, Deputy Head Teacher) will act in loco parentis.

Parents will always be informed of head injuries and an 'Information for Parents' sheet will be issued for the child to take home with them. All accidents of a serious nature are recorded electronically to Swansea County Council Health and Safety Department in accordance with LEA policy.

### **What happens if my child becomes ill whilst at school?**

If your child becomes unwell during the school day one of our qualified first aiders will assess the child to decide whether they should be sent home, in which case parents/guardians will be contacted to come to school to collect the child.

However, we strongly recommend that if a child is feeling unwell before school in the morning then it is in the interest of the child to keep him/her at home until the child recovers.

### **Am I able to take my child out of school for a family holiday?**

The advice of the Minister of Education is that children should not miss schooling for any reason and that family holidays should be taken during school holiday periods. Curriculum planning and teaching is very comprehensive and progressive and therefore, it cannot be



overstressed how important a good attendance record is in relation to a pupil's academic progress.

The Welsh Government has set an attendance target for all schools in Wales of 95% attendance and we strive hard to achieve this consistently. All holidays and routine appointments e.g. dental check-ups, are recorded as unauthorised absence and are discouraged by the school. Penalty Notices may be issued if certain criteria are met. A penalty notice may be issued:

- when a pupil has a minimum of 10 sessions (five school days) that have been lost due to unauthorised absences during the current term and this brings the overall pupil's attendance to below 90% in the school year to date (these absences do not have to be consecutive);
- unauthorised absences of at least 10 sessions (5 school days) due to holidays in term-time if the absences take the overall pupil's attendance to below 90% in the school year to date (these absences do not have to be consecutive);
- 'Persistent' late arrival at school i.e. after the register has closed. 'Persistent' means at least 10 sessions of late arrival within a term; these do not need to be consecutive but should bring the overall pupil's attendance to under 90% in the school year to date.

However, there are always special circumstances and if these occur then please come and discuss them with the Headteacher so that an appropriate agreement can be reached.

Your attention is also drawn to the fact that during the course of the school year, the school will be closed for five INSET (In-Service Training) days for the staff. The parents are informed of these and all holiday dates.

### **What do I do if I need to collect my child early from school?**

Sometimes, for very good reasons, parents ask for their child to be released early. We are always very happy to co-operate, but in the interests of safety, no child will be allowed to leave school unless collected by a parent/adult substitute. There will be no exceptions to this basic rule. I am sure that you will appreciate that our concern is with the safety of your child. If you need to collect your child early please let us know in advance and explain your reasons fully.



## **How can I encourage my child's education at home?**

Actively encourage your child to read both to her/himself and with you; to borrow books from the Library; to buy books; to look after books and to ask you to explain words they do not understand. It is very important to establish a 'story time' every night before bedtime where you help your child to foster a love for reading and books. Teaching your child nursery rhymes and simple songs all helps to develop their love of language.

Create opportunities for writing; letters to friends and relatives; stories and accounts of things they have done and encourage them to bring them to school. Encourage your child to ask questions and show them where to find the answers in books or by using the internet.

Help with number work by playing games; let them help you with measuring, weighing, shopping etc. Allow them to draw, paint, and model at home (despite the mess!).

Most importantly show a real interest in all that they do. Praise their efforts rather than pointing out what they cannot do. Please ask us if you need any further ideas of ways you can encourage your child's learning at home.



## **Does Crwys Primary School have Breakfast Club, After School Club and Wrap-around?**

Yes! We have a Breakfast Club and an After School Club and in this way are able to provide 'Wrap-around' care for your children. The Breakfast Club runs from 7:50am-8.20am every day. The children are fully supervised and are provided with a simple and healthy breakfast e.g. toast, fruit juice etc. There is a charge of £1:20 per day for the Breakfast Club. You will need to register.



Crwys also has a partnership with Childsplay Swansea, who run the after school club at the school. The After School Club runs from 3.20pm-5.25pm. The children are fully supervised. They are provided with snacks e.g. sandwiches; fruit, drinks etc. and a range of interesting and enjoyable activities are arranged for them.

Childsplay also provide nursery care for children from age 2 years, from 11:30am until 5:25pm based at the school. For further information, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/Childsplayswansea/>, or

the school website. Alternatively they can be contacted at [admin@childsplayswansea.c.uk](mailto:admin@childsplayswansea.c.uk)

### **How do I arrange for my child(ren) to have school dinners?**

School meals are cooked at the school; they are nutritious, healthy and are of excellent quality. Lunches are served in the Hall and children who choose to bring packed lunch eat there also. Although packed lunches are permitted we prefer children to eat school dinners. If your child does wish to bring a packed lunch, we ask parents to ensure that they are healthy lunches in line with our 'Healthy Schools' philosophy. We strongly recommend no sweets or chocolates. Drinks should be kept in a non-breakable sealed container.

The children are fully supervised at lunchtimes by our Lunchtime Supervisory Team both in the School Hall and in the Playground. A menu is shared with parents termly. The price is fixed by Swansea County Council and currently stands at £2.40 per day. Payment is made via an online payment system called iPayimpact. If you have any problems registering, please contact Mrs Evans in the office.

Please let your child's class teacher know if your child would like school dinners.

Free School Meals - If you are claiming certain benefits you could save money by claiming free school meals for your child. In addition, thanks to a Welsh Government initiative, all pupils up to and including Year 3 can receive Free School Meals

### **What is the school's policy for charging for school trips etc.?**

School trips are used to enhance the learning experience of Crwys pupils. Trips are mostly educational. A letter will be sent to parents outlining the details of any visit your child will be undertaking. It will also ask for written consent. No child will be permitted to go on a visit without parental consent having been given first.

Our school aims to provide a rich curriculum for our pupils using the finance provided through the Local Education Authority. Where possible all activities are provided free of any charges. However, it must be recognised that some activities such as educational visits that take place off the school site are only possible if parents make a voluntary financial contribution towards the cost.

Under the 1988 Education Act, a school can no longer make charges for educational visits. Therefore, all contributions must be voluntary. Insufficient voluntary contributions may mean we shall be unable to make the trip, as school funding cannot afford to subsidise pupils.



#### **Day Visits**

The school asks parents to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of day visits to support the curriculum.

#### **Residential Visits**

The school undertakes residential visits to Borfa House Adventure Centre and Pendine Outdoors. Parents are expected to pay the full charge for board and lodging.

## **Classroom Materials**

No charge is made for classroom materials or equipment. However some practical activities may require additional material or ingredients which parents may be asked to contribute towards purchasing.

## **What happens if I am worried about my child?**

Whatever the worry may be please come and see us as soon as possible. Ideally make an appointment beforehand to ensure that the class teacher or Headteacher is able to give you undivided attention. All worries/concerns are treated sensitively and confidentially. Sometimes your child may not wish you to contact the school about a problem however; we still advise that you do so.

If you would like you may see the teacher or Headteacher without your child being aware that you have come into school. Everything is done confidentially and in the best interests of the child.

## **What does my child need to start at Crwys Primary School?**

A checklist for starting school would include the following:

- ✓ School uniform.
- ✓ Reading bag.
- ✓ PE kit.

Remember – Starting school is probably the single most important event in your young child's life so far. Whilst it can also be an anxious time for parents please remember that home and school is a partnership and that with your child we are growing and learning together. We will always have your child's best interests at heart!

## **In Conclusion**

Thank you for taking the time to read this prospectus. We are pleased to issue this booklet with the intention of providing you with useful information about our school. If there is any more you would like to know, please contact the school directly.

We look forward to the prospect of working together with you and your children here at Crwys Primary School.

## HOME – SCHOOL AGREEMENT

	<b>As a school we will ensure that:</b>	<b>As parents we will ensure that:</b>	<b>As a pupil I will ensure that:</b>
<b>Being prepared for school</b>	We make sure that each child knows what is needed for the school day. We encourage pupils to wear school uniform and promote the importance of good presentation and hygiene.	We send our child(ren) to school clean and neat and suitably attired, preferably in school uniform. We make sure our child(ren) have the things required for the school day.	I keep myself neat and clean during the school day. I help my parents to bring the things I need for school and become more independent as I get older.
<b>Supporting the life of the school and maintaining appropriate home – school communication</b>	We make every effort to keep parents informed about the life of the school through regular newsletters, annual reports. We arrange regular parents' evenings to inform about children's progress at school. We consult parents regularly on issues that affect their child's education.	We take an active part in the life of the school and in our child's education e.g. helping out at school, joining the PTA, reading newsletters and reports etc. We make the effort to attend parents' meetings, read letters from school and respond when required. We inform the school if there are any problems that are likely to affect my child's education.	I take part actively in the many things on offer at school and be fully involved in school life. E.g. sports, music, drama, art, extra-curricular clubs and activities etc. I give all letters given to me at school to my parents and talk to my parents about the day's activities.
<b>Attendance and Punctuality</b>	We promote excellent attendance and punctuality at all times. We provide parents with relevant information and data.	We make sure our child(ren) is punctual every morning and promote very high attendance. We report all absences in the agreed way.	I am positive about coming to school and work hard to help my parents to be on time every morning.
<b>Teaching and Learning</b>	We make sure our staff provide very high standards of teaching and learning and keep you fully informed of your child's progress. We promote very high expectations encouraging the children to 'Be all they can be'. We set appropriate homework and make sure it is marked properly to keep parents informed.	We show an active interest in our child's school work and support him/her to do their very best at all times. We promote the school's culture of high expectations. We support our child's homework by making sure it is completed properly and handed in on time. We read regularly with our child(ren) at home and understand that this is an important part of homework.	I listen to my teacher in lessons and try my very best at all times. I work co-operatively whether in small groups or working individually. I make sure that I know what the homework is before leaving school. I make sure it is done neatly and returned on time.
<b>Behaviour</b>	We promote very high standards of behaviour in line with the school's Golden Rules and Behaviour Policy. We will make sure that all children are aware of the expectations of good behaviour and will treat people equally and with respect.	We encourage and promote our child(ren) to develop high standards of behaviour at all times and to treat people equally and with respect. We support the school and its rules. We support the school in dealing with inappropriate incidents to make sure that both parties work together.	I behave very well at school and will make every effort to understand the importance of good behaviour. I follow the school's Golden Rules and will treat people equally and with respect.
<b>Making sure everyone is happy</b>	We listen to and respond to problems and worries immediately. We take great pride in our excellent relationship with pupils and will do our utmost to maintain this.	We support the school when dealing with problems and worries. We work together with the school calmly to resolve all issues. We agree that any campaigning on social networking sites e.g. Facebook against the school is very upsetting for children and staff and will refrain from doing so.	I let my teacher or any other adult know if I have any worries or problems as soon as possible and trust them to sort things out properly.

**Thank you for taking the time to read the Home-School Agreement!**