



Ysgol Bryn Derw

*Learning and growing together
for our future*

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Welcome to Ysgol Bryn Derw,
We were first established in
2017 and are a small but caring
school. The staff are kind,
caring and helpful, and support
the children to learn new things.
We enjoy many activities such
as Rebound Therapy and Music
Therapy, and have some cool
lunch clubs including Dance,
Coding, Sports, Art and
Construction. We have a School
& Eco Council where older pupils
meet to discuss topics. The
children feel safe and secure.

*Yours Faithfully,
Ysgol Bryn Derw School Council*



General School Information

Ysgol Bryn Derw is the only dedicated ASD Special School in Newport. The name of the school translates as Oak Hill, and we see our mission as helping pupils to overcome their individual obstacles to learning (the hill) and to help our pupils flourish into well-equipped adults who can function successfully in their community (the growing oak tree.)



Ysgol Bryn Derw is a Local Education Authority Maintained Special Day School which educates children and young people with Autism and associated learning difficulties, in the age range of 4-19 years. All admissions are managed by Newport City Council.



The school has a range of facilities including independent living skills areas, a Rebound Therapy room, soft-play and sensory rooms, a Forest Schools area and bespoke classrooms.


The school is divided into 4 main areas: Foundation Phase area, Key Stage 2 area, Secondary area and specialist class bases.

Curriculum Statement

At Ysgol Bryn Derw we provide a Person Centred Curriculum where pupils and their individual needs are at the heart of the curriculum. This includes bespoke Individual Educational Plan (IEP) targets as well as Literacy and Numeracy targets at pupils' individual levels following Routes for Learning, the Foundation Phase, P-Scales and the National Curriculum.

Individual development priorities are agreed with families and professionals and are wide ranging - including communication, literacy and numeracy development, toileting, eating, independence, extending engagement, improved interaction with peers and successful transitions.

 What's working?	 What's not working?
the person	
family	

important to	important for
	

Our School Day

The pupils arrive at Ysgol Bryn Derw by 8.55am, either with families or on transport arranged by Newport City Council (NCC) accompanied by experienced escorts.

They proceed or are taken by school staff to their classrooms where their teachers are ready to receive them. After the pupils have all been taken to their classrooms, the structure for each school day is as follows:

9.00	Registration
9.05	Lessons commence
10.30	Break
10.45	Lessons continue
12.00	Lunch
1.00	Lessons continue
3.15	End of School Day
(Pupils transported home - families or NCC transport)	



Sensory Pathway

Pupils are predominantly based in age-related class groups. However, it is acknowledged that some children require a specialist setting offering predominantly sensory and therapeutic approaches to be able to access the curriculum.

A sensory approach to the curriculum aims to engage pupils exploratory skills and increase engagement levels through a variety of stimulating, appropriate activities.



Academic Pathway

All pupils have access to a relevant curriculum that meets their needs whilst also providing breadth of experience and a balance of subjects to achieve individual aims.

At 14-19 the curriculum will be provided via a broad and balanced programme of study and opportunities for external accreditation through the delivery of a range of programmes. We will work closely with partner schools and colleges to provide access to courses that are not available via school staff. Accreditation will include:

AQA key skills, accredited programmes of study and levels of attainment

Class sizes may also vary across the school. A number of opportunities will be available for those pupils who may benefit from spending time in mainstream classes in neighbouring schools.



Lower Primary

Following 'learning through play' principles, our pupils learn through first-hand experiential activities with 'play' providing the vehicle. Through their play, children practise and consolidate their learning, play with ideas, experiment, take risks, solve problems, and make decisions individually, in small and large groups. First-hand experiences allow our pupils to experience the world around them, engage with their surroundings and develop communication, supported by a Total Communication approach



Upper Primary

Leading on from the lower primary phase our pupils learn through first-hand experiential activities with 'exploration' providing the vehicle. Through their first hand experiences children practise and consolidate their learning, engage with ideas, experiment, take risks, solve problems, and make decisions. Pupils are encouraged to build on their individual resilience and communicate with their peers both in small and large groups. First-hand experiences allow our pupils to experience the world around them, engage with their surroundings and develop communication. Regular community visits provide a variety of experiences and complement the focus on independent living skills.



Lower Secondary



Leading on from Primary Phase our pupils learn through first-hand experiential activities with 'enterprise' providing the vehicle. Through their first hand experiences our young people practise and consolidate their learning, engage with ideas, experiment, take risks, solve problems, collaborate and make decisions.

Pupils are encouraged to build their individual resilience and communicate with their peers, enabling them to engage and respond appropriately in larger groups. First-hand experiences allow our pupils to experience the world around them, engage with their surroundings and develop communication.

This includes regular community visits and a focus on independent living skills. As they develop, pupils will practise their skills in more real life situations and will undertake more ambitious enterprise projects. By the end of Key Stage 3 all pupils will be working towards accredited awards for their achievements.

Upper Secondary and beyond

As our school grows and we have the pleasure to support and nurture our young people into adulthood, we will give our young people the opportunity to follow a differentiated individual learning pathway, which will help them to realise their potential and live fulfilled lives whatever their abilities.

The accreditations and qualifications that they will be achieving in Ysgol Bryn Derw - in the past these have included areas such as personal care, road safety, basic shopping skills - will build on their knowledge and understanding and help raise aspirations and confidence so that our young people are prepared for a smooth transition to life as an adult.

Close links with Careers Wales help support access to a range of work experience opportunities and visits from employers that are targeted to individual interests and future goals



Health and Wellbeing

At Ysgol Bryn Derw we provide a Person Centred Curriculum where pupils and their individual needs are at the heart of the curriculum. This includes bespoke Individual Educational Plan (IEP) targets which focus on a variety of bespoke areas including, toileting, eating, independence, extending engagement, improved interaction with peers and successful transitions.

The majority of IEP targets set focus on pupils the factors that affect physical health and well-being, such as a balanced diet, physical activity, personal care and hygiene, emotional regulation and social interaction.

Our aim is for our learners is to develop positive, informed behaviours that support them both to care for and to respect themselves and others to engage in the world around them as independently as possible.



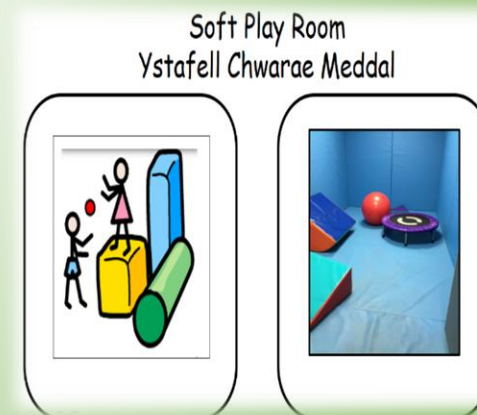
Languages, Literacy & Communication



Pupils' communication is supported by the Total Communication Approach - Using TEACCH, PECS, Attention Autism and Signalong as well as schemes in place to support reading and writing development.

We are very lucky at Ysgol Bryn Derw to have a Communication Lead who works alongside a Speech and Language Therapist to share expertise across the school as well as providing bespoke speech and language support for pupils. Speech and Language Therapy is supplemented through a Total Communication approach including speech, Signalong, symbols, Objects of Reference and PECS.

As a school in Wales, pupils are encouraged to be proud of the place where we live and pupils embrace the Welsh language in their daily life.



Mathematics & Numeracy

At Ysgol Bryn Derw we ensure Mathematics and Numeracy skills are practical and transferable to real life scenarios ensuring our pupils can be as independent as possible.

The curriculum focuses on conceptual understanding, facts, relationships and techniques to ensure these become firmly established, memorable and usable through rich learning experiences, for example community visits- to manage money, bus journeys- to read timetables.



Expressive Arts

Through Expressive Arts learners at Ysgol Bryn Derw have meaningful experiences through which they can gain an understanding and an appreciation of the diverse communities of Wales as well as the wider world.

Pupils have opportunities through the medium of art, dance, music, drama, film and digital media to express and foster creativity whilst developing collaborative skills and independence.



Humanities

At Ysgol Bryn Derw we give learners opportunities to discover their heritage and develop a sense of community. Learners will have support to enquire and investigate; evaluate diverse views of the world and form their own interpretations; engage with issues including sustainability and social change.

The school's established Eco-Committee and School Council engage in collaborative discussions and decision making to inform improvement across the school.



Science and Technology

The curriculum gives pupils opportunities to be curious of the natural world, starting from a more immediate sense of the world, we aim to develop learner's ability to consider others and the wider world. Learners use the designated allotment space, Forest School and outdoor areas to develop their ability to explore, engage and nurture the natural environment- growing their own produce and supporting pupils to make informed decisions.



Interventions & Therapies

At Ysgol Bryn Derw we have a range of interventions and therapies including;

- Rebound Therapy
- Touch Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Pet Therapy
- THRIVE & TIS
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- School based Counselling Service

The school works closely with parents and carers and other professionals using a holistic approach to educate and enable all learners to achieve their potential.



Forest School

Forest School is brilliant for developing confidence, well-being and social interaction. Our aims are to have lots of fun during our outdoor learning and we also plan on taking the children out whatever the weather! The Forest School area includes a log circle, a willow tunnel and access to the allotment area. The grass in the Forest School area is left long to encourage wildlife and classes are encouraged to use the allotment area for planting.



Sports

The range of sport and recreational activities offered at Ysgol Bryn Derw include weekly physical activity sessions, swimming, athletics and Rebound Therapy. The school is affiliated to the Welsh Sports Association for People with Learning Difficulties and the pupils are encouraged to join in with the annual athletics events. Swimming is offered as an off-site activity and links with Newport Sports Development Team have allowed us to access a range of sports both on- and off-site, led by a qualified sports coach



Ysgol Bryn Derw

Further details including our Charging Policy, Complaints Procedures, Health & Safety Policy, Sex and Relationships Education Policy, Collective Worship Policy, Home-School Agreement and Equal Opportunities Policy can be found on the school website www.ysgolbrynderw.co.uk

