Ferryside Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Prospectus

Planting today, reaping tomorrow

Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative

Menter Ysgolion y Dreftadaeth Gymreig

Eco-Schools 2015 Platinum Award

Gwobr Platinwm Eco-Sgolion 2015

RFS Excellence in Forestry 2015 Silver | Rhagoriaeth Mewn Coedwigaeth 2015 Arian

FERRYSIDE VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Planting today, reaping tomorrow"

OUR NEW VISION

Together at Ferryside School, our vision is to nurture honest, caring pupils who thrive in all that they do. Who are resilient, confident, independent life-long learners who respect the Christian values of a Church School.

We recognize the historic foundation of the school, we will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Ysgol GWR

alluog Glanyfferi ofalgar wybodus weithgar

Plannu heddiw, medi yfory

Introducing our School

Name and address of school:	Ferryside Voluntary Controlled Primary School Ferryside Carmarthenshire SA17 5TB
Telephone no.	01267 267463
E-mail	admin@ferryside.ysgolccc.org.uk
Acting Headteacher	Mrs Michelle Evans
Foundation Phase Teacher	Mrs Michelle Evans
Key Stage Two Teacher	Mrs Laura Howells
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Gemma Burton Miss Leah Bonnell
Music Teacher	Mrs Gayle Davies
School Support Officer	Mrs Helen Williams
Caretaker	Mrs Corinna Buckley
Cleaner	Mr Jason Dickson
Kitchen Assistant	Mrs Corinna Buckley
Midday Supervisors	Mrs Gemma Burton Miss Leah Bonnell
Breakfast Club	Mrs G.Burton Mrs Laura Jones Mrs Corinna Buckley
Ffrindiau'r Fferi After school Club	Mrs Jo Millross Mrs Corinna Buckley

Remember – if you have any concerns please contact the headteacher immediately.

Ferryside V(C)P School Governing Body

Chairperson of Governors

Cynghorydd Lewis Eldred Davies	LA Representative

Vice Chairperson

Mrs Rhinnedd Eyton-Jones	Foundation Representative

Governors

Mrs M Evans	Acting Head
Mrs L.Howells	Teacher Representative
Mrs Ceri Lilly	Community Representative
Mrs Kath Morgan	Community Representative
Cllr Alicia Dalton	Additional Community Representative
Mrs Katie Hayhurst	Parent Representative
Mrs Rebecca Corbett	Parent Representative
Revd. Glyn Austin	Foundation Governor

Others

Rev. P. Johnes	Bishop's Visitor
Mrs H. Williams	Clerk to the Governing Body Ferryside V(C)P School Carmarthenshire SA17 5TB
Mrs Ceri Lilly	Governor in charge of Special Needs
Mrs Rh. Eyton-Jones	Child Protection Officer (Governor)

Statement on the Religious Ethos of Ferryside V(C)P School

Recognizing its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Type and Location of School

Ferryside is a voluntary, controlled, primary, co-educational day school. Built in 1856, it is a traditional grey stone Victorian building situated at the centre of the seaside village of Ferryside, which is approximately three miles from the town of Kidwelly and nine miles from Carmarthen. The catchment area roughly covers the parish of St Ishmael's, including Ferryside, Llansaint, St Ishmael's, Broadway and Broadlay.

The two classes are located in the main building. There are two pre-fabricated buildings at the rear of the school: one is the dining area whilst the other two are multi-purpose rooms being used as a hall and resource area. The After-School Club meets three evenings a week in one room.

Our outdoor play and work areas are continually developed, with a grassed area at the front of the school and raised beds for growing flowers and vegetables, which supports our Healthy Eating and Eco projects.

Language Policy

In accordance with the language policy in Carmarthenshire Schools, the aim of the school is to teach children to be totally bilingual, with regard to Welsh and English, by the time they leave primary school to enable them to participate fully in the bilingual community of which they are part.

Welsh is the main medium of communication in the Foundation Phase so that children may receive a thorough grounding in the language. It is introduced to learners with sensitivity while maintaining a respect for the home language. The children are not required to have prior knowledge of Welsh and it is generally found that they begin to understand very quickly. English is formally introduced as the child enters Key Stage 2. A positive attitude is nurtured towards both

languages. Linguistic skills can be transferred from one language to another and the development of one benefits the other.

Free School Bus

A free bus service is provided for children aged 5 and over who live more than 2 miles from the school. Applications can be made on-line to the transport department in Carmarthenshire County Council.

Admission of Pupils

In accordance with Local Education Authority guidelines, pupils are admitted to school at the beginning of the term following their fourth birthday.

Children must be registered online at www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk. The School Support Officer is happy to help with registrations for those who cannot access the internet.

Special arrangements are made for the child to attend the school for occasional half/full days in the term prior to his/her starting school. An admissions pack is provided by the school and contains a variety of forms and information.

Parents and children are very welcome to visit the school at any time. However, it would be appreciated if this were done in consultation with the headteacher to minimize disruption to the daily routine.

Home–School Agreement

The school has a home–school agreement which outlines the expectations of the school, the parent and the child. New parents are requested to sign a copy of the agreement and return it to school.

School Hours

Morning session	9.00am–12.00
Morning break for Foundation Phase	10.30am–10.50am
Key Stage 2	10.35am-10.50am
Lunch time	12.00–1.00pm
Afternoon session	1.00pm–3.15pm
Afternoon break	
For Foundation Phase	2.30pm–2.45pm
Key Stage 2	2.30pm-2.45pm

The importance of punctuality is stressed at all times. To assist parents, Breakfast and After-School Clubs are available (see below). For their safety, children should not arrive at the site before 8.45am nor wait too long before being collected at the end of the school day. All children arriving before 8.45am must attend Breakfast Club in the canteen.

The morning register will be kept open until 9.30am and the afternoon register until 1.30pm. If pupils are not in school by these times and the school has not been informed of illness, then they will be considered to be absent without permission. The school operates an electronic register and keeps a late book in accordance with county guidelines.

If there is any alteration in the arrangements for collecting a child from the school, will parents kindly inform the class or headteacher by letter or by phone. Parents of older children wishing them to walk home from school on their own are requested to inform the headteacher in writing.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is run from 8.00am until 8.45am, with the last serving at 8.30am. The children should proceed immediately to the canteen on arrival. They will be supervised by members of staff. Breakfast comprises of a choice of cereal, toast and milk. Please note that there is no fee for this facility.

After-School Club: Ffrindiau'r Fferi

The After-School Club meets three evenings per week: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are sixteen places in the Club and parents are asked to book their child into the Club by sending a message on the school's 'DoJo' site.

Club hours are from 3.15pm to 5.14pm for all pupils. Parents are notified of special events and the current fee.

Supervision

Pupils are supervised by adults

- in the morning from 8.45am (8.00am if they attend Breakfast Club)
- during morning break
- during lunchtime
- during afternoon play.

All teachers ensure that pupils safely leave the premises or transfer to the AfterSchool Club at the end of the school day.

Cylch Meithrin/Ti a Fi Glan y Fferi

An independent Cylch Meithrin/Ti a Fi operates on the School site, accepting children up to school age. The club welcomes children and parents and the club leader Mrs L. Jones promotes singing, cookery, art and craft through the medium of Welsh. Attending the club allows children to familiarise themselves with the school before starting full time.

Absences

To ensure the safety of all children, parents are requested to inform the school of a child's absence ***on the first morning*** through a phone message/ e-mail.

When pupils have a pre-arranged appointment (for example with the dentist, with the doctor or at the hospital) it would be appreciated if parents could inform the class teacher in advance. Parents are asked to make such appointments outside school hours whenever possible.

Parents are advised not to take their children out of school for holidays.

When a child has been absent for any reason, explanation is needed as there is an obligation on schools to enter reasons for absence on the electronic register.

Class Organization

There are two classes in the school, each organized into small mixed-ability groups. Class organization may vary according to staffing levels and number of children in each age group.

Dosbarth Tomos- Foundation Learning

Dosbarth Ismael - KS2

Transferring to Comprehensive School

Children are transferred either to Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Queen Elizabeth High School or Glan-Y-Mor in the September following their eleventh birthday. However, parents have the right to send their child to the school of their choice after consultation with the Area Education Office.

The Curriculum

Opportunities are provided for practical and first-hand experiences using local resources, where possible, in the form of visits, photographs and local speakers. In this way the children will learn to respect their environment.

Curriculum for Wales:

The four purposes of the curriculum underpin all the planning and development of the Curriculum for Wales 2022. This is the starting point for all decisions about the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the curriculum should be designed and guided at school level in line with the these four purposes. A 'curriculum' includes all the learning experiences and assessment activities designed to fulfill the four purposes of the curriculum, namely to develop children and young people into:

- ✓ ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives
- ✓ enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play their full part in their life and work
- ✓ principled, informed citizens of Wales and the world.
- ✓ healthy, confident individuals who are ready to live life fulfilling their aspirations as valued members of society.

At Ferryside School we have adopted the following characters to reinforce the four purposes of: -

The Curriculum for Wales 2022

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 is designed to help all learners fulfil these four purposes. Every purpose is more than a heading; they are also described in terms of key features. They should underpin all teaching and learning in Wales.

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 guidelines are intended to assist teachers and practitioners and education professionals to gain the autonomy to make school-level decisions within a common framework, and to design and develop curricula that are relevant to the particular context and needs of learners .

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 has also been developed to reflect the strengths that the Foundation Phase has brought to education in Wales. The ethos,

principles and pedagogy of the Foundation Phase will continue to be central to early years education and have been embedded across the 2022 Curriculum for Wales 2022 to ensure that it is appropriate and accessible to all practitioners and learners.

Curriculum for Wales 2022 organizes learning around six areas of learning and experience.

- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Humanities
- Science and Technology
- Health and Wellbeing
- Expressive Arts

Each of the learning and experience areas are designed to help learners realize the four purposes of the curriculum, and provide the starting point and aspiration for developing a curriculum at school level. They cover current topics and disciplines, and aim to promote a collaborative and cross-disciplinary approach to the planning and development of a School curriculum.

Music Lessons

Years 3–6 have the opportunity to
have music lessons
Further information is available at the school.

Games Lessons

Games and physical exercise are an integral part of the child's development. They provide the children with opportunities to promote good health and confidence as well as enjoyment and pleasure. They also promote a sense of co-operation in addition to developing gross-motor and fine-motor skills.

Physical Education lessons, which are part of the National Curriculum, are held regularly during school hours in a school classroom, the yard, the Village Hall or the Sports Field. When possible, external sports coaches are brought in to teach particular physical skills such as rugby and dance.

If a child is unable to take part in the lessons it would be appreciated if a parent would send a letter of explanation or inform the school by telephone.

During the Spring Term the children in years 3–6 receive daily swimming lessons for three weeks at Carmarthen Leisure Centre.

Homework

Foundation Phase (Dosbarth Tomos):Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2

Homework is given according to the discretion of the class teacher. Reading homework is given regularly and it is requested of you as parents to listen to your child reading, to discuss the stories/book with them and to sign the appropriate book.

Key Stage 2: (Dosbarth Ismael): Years 3–6

Homework is encouraged as a natural extension of work done in school. The work should be neatly presented. Reading homework is given regularly and it is requested of you as parents to listen to your child reading, to discuss the content with them and to sign the appropriate book.

Daily Worship

Daily religious worship is held collectively every morning. Ferryside School is affiliated to the Church in Wales and the vicar visits the school weekly.

Parents may exercise their right to withdraw their child from worship by notifying the headteacher of their request in writing, by telephone or by visit to the school. Children withdrawn from assembly will be accommodated in a separate room for private study with a member of staff.

Sex Education

Sex Education is included in the Personal and Social Development Curriculum of the school. It is accessible to all pupils and takes into account the age, maturity, development and beliefs of the pupils. It is set in the context of loving and caring, moral considerations and the value of family life.

The older children are given a talk on 'Growing Up' by the School Nurse.

If parents are concerned about Sex Education they may ask to withdraw their child from any part of the programme that does not form part of the National Curriculum. In the event of such a written request, parents will be invited to discuss their concerns with staff and/or Governors and wherever possible suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate the parents' wishes.

Special Educational Needs

In the event of a child being found to have learning difficulties, the school will arrange an interview with the parents/guardians to discuss the steps that need to be taken to help the child.

Pupils with special needs are integrated into the general class situation. Teaching Assistants at the school take intervention groups throughout the week to give special attention to their language/maths skills. Parents of children on the special needs register are consulted each term and provided with a copy of their child's Individual Education Plan.

The Authority also provides the service of an Educational Psychologist. Parents are consulted whenever the assistance of such a service is required.

More Able and Talented

If a child is identified as more able and talented, the parents are informed and the school will ensure that their child is suitably challenged in the classroom. Staff have received training in differentiation for more able and talented pupils.

Disability

The back gate provides wheelchair access to the school grounds. Ramps have been fitted to the entrances of the two pre-fabricated buildings. There is a suitable wheelchair access to the main building at the front of the school.

Further provision would be sought for any child with other needs who enters the school.

Equal Opportunities

The school has an equal opportunities policy. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all pupils have an equal entitlement to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. It also ensures that all pupils have equal opportunities to develop their personal and social skills and participate in the extra-curricular activities.

A copy of the policy is available at the school.

Reporting to Parents

Meetings with parents are held during the autumn term to discuss and set targets. Parents are invited to our 'working school' afternoon during the Spring term, as well as receiving an annual report recording the child's progress during the summer term. In addition, parents are welcome to phone to arrange an appointment with the headteacher or class teacher at a mutually convenient time to discuss their child's progress and his/her work and discuss any other relevant educational matter.

Pastoral Care

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to monitor any physical or emotional problems that may arise in individual pupils. The headteacher is informed of any issues. Parents are urged to contact the headteacher as soon as possible if their child has a problem at school.

All precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the children. In the event of an accident, minor injuries are attended to by a member of staff. In the event of more serious injury, the incident is recorded and parents are contacted as soon as possible and arrangements are made for the child to receive medical attention.

If a child becomes ill during the school day, a parent will be informed. The provision of a telephone number on which a parent, family member or close friend can be reached is essential.

If a teacher is to administer medication to a child it is vitally important that *correct instructions and written permission* are handed to the teacher beforehand. Medication should not be kept in a child's bag but should be handed to an adult immediately on arrival at school.

Child Protection Policy

The school has a responsibility to ensure the well-being of all pupils and as such has a child protection policy and procedures. These may require a child to be referred to the statutory child welfare agencies if the child or other children are believed to be at risk of significant harm. We will endeavour to work with parents/carers regarding the welfare of their child and remain impartial if their child is being, or has been, referred. Any referral would be made in the best interests of the child and the school would keep parents/carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

A copy of the policy is available at the school and on the school web site.

The School's Child Protection Officer is the current Acting Headteacher, Mrs Michelle Evans and the Child Protection Officer on the Governing Body is Mrs Rhinedd Eyton-Jones.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is the conscious and deliberate intention to harm, threaten or intimidate someone by word or action. The school has a clear policy and procedures to deal with such incidents. If parents are concerned about this issue, they are encouraged to discuss it with the headteacher in confidence.

A copy of the policy is available at the school or on the school website.

Discipline

It is the intention of the headteacher and staff to create a happy and friendly school for the children.

Children are expected to conform to certain standards of behaviour, and to conduct themselves in a courteous and orderly manner showing respect for the rights and property of fellow pupils, visitors and members of staff.

Below are noted some of the important rules which contribute towards the smooth running of the school. Children are expected to:

- ✓ show due respect to their peers, teachers and visitors to the school
- ✓ conform to instructions given by the staff
- ✓ be punctual
- ✓ respect the school's books, equipment, furniture and its environment
- ✓ respect the personal belongings of others and not to bring valuables from home
- ✓ work quietly and without fuss during lesson time
- ✓ walk within the school buildings
- ✓ conform to fire drill rules
- ✓ not bring glass bottles, lollipops and chewing gum to school, but may bring a piece of fruit and a bottle of water to consume during the day
- ✓ not wear valuable jewellery to school; earrings should always be of stud type and jewellery is not to be worn in games and swimming lessons
- ✓ not leave school without permission.

Complaints Procedure

There are established procedures to deal with complaints regarding the school curriculum, collective worship and other related matters. A copy of the policy is available in school.

Initially complaints should be made to the class teacher. Every effort will be made to resolve the matter at this level. It is her responsibility to inform the headteacher if necessary. If concerns are related to the conduct of the headteacher the matter should be referred for the attention of the Chairperson of Governors.

School Uniform

Whilst it is not compulsory to wear school uniform, the children are strongly encouraged to do so. The uniform is as follows.

Boys	Grey trousers or navy jogging bottoms Light blue polo shirt
Girls	Navy trousers/skirt or tunic Light blue shirt/blouse Blue and white gingham summer dress
Both	Navy sweatshirt/pullover/cardigan/fleece

School uniforms may be purchased from Evans and Wilkins in Carmarthen, Picton Sport Llanelli, Manhatten Marketing Llanelli or from Tesco on line.

Indoors Shorts, t-shirt/polo shirt and suitable footwear

Outdoors As above, except in cold weather jogging bottoms and a warmer top may be used

Swimming Trunks/swimsuit, goggles and swim hat

It is important that the pupil's name is *clearly marked* on all his/her clothes including coats and PE clothes.

School Meals

Primary age children have free school dinners. School meals are prepared in the school kitchen at Ysgol y Castell, Kidwelly, and served in our canteen daily. Special dietary needs can be catered for on request. Ordering your child's meals should be done through Parent Pay. Some families are entitled to free school meals for their child, advice may be sought from the Local Education Authority.

ParentPay®

Children may bring a packed lunch to eat under supervision in the dining hall.

During the dinner hour midday supervisors supervise the children.

Provision of Free Milk

The Authority operates a scheme of providing milk free of charge to pupils in the Foundation Phase. If you do not wish your child to have milk please make your wishes known to the class teacher.

Health Service

School Health Visitors visit school. Parents are notified of visits in advance and may attend with their child if desired. If you have any objection to having your child examined by any one of the above, you must inform the headteacher.

Safety Arrangements

Parents are requested *not* to park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the front and back gates of the school.

All children should be picked up at 3.15pm. Parents and guardians are requested to use the back gate and to come onto the school yard and not wait on the road.

This is to ensure the safety of the children as there is no pavement outside the back gate.

All visitors to the school are kindly directed to the main entrance ensuring that gates are closed to secure the site. There is a bell for visitors to ring allowing regulated access into the building.

All members of staff and children take part in fire drills regularly.

Road Safety

Safe Cycling Skills are taught to the children in year 6 during the Summer Term.

School Camp

Pupils from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are given the opportunity to attend Llangrannog Urdd Camp, for three days every year. Whilst there, they have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills.

Other Activities

We encourage the children to participate in:

- school concerts and religious services
- school sports
- indoor and outdoor athletics
- Urdd competitions
- links with secondary schools
- county musical events
- visits to art galleries.

Educational Visits

Visits are organized to places of cultural and historical interest, which coincide with the term's theme work, e.g. Castell Henllys, St David's, The National Botanic Garden of Wales.

At times school visits are paid for out of the School Fund or subsidized by the PTA. However, as it is necessary to pay for buses and, in some cases, entrance fees, we sometimes have to ask for monetary contributions. Parents are informed by letter of any visits and must sign the relevant form to give permission for their child to participate.

Charging Policy

On occasions, the cost of an activity cannot be met by the school. In such cases the PTA/School Fund will make a contribution towards the costs and parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution towards the remaining costs.

Visits to Llangrannog are paid for by parents/guardians.

Supporting Worthy Causes

Every year we encourage the children to show concern for others by collecting money for various worthy causes through fundraising events, e.g. sponsored activities.

Parent–Teacher Association (PTA)

All parents and staff are automatically members of the PTA and are welcome to attend the meetings. We greatly value the support and assistance of parents in organizing social and fundraising events. Over the years many resources have been purchased through the Association's generosity. Officers and members of the committee are elected annually at the general meeting held during the Autumn Term. A balance sheet is presented to parents at the annual meeting.

WELCOME TO FERRYSIDE SCHOOL!