

# **GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **PROSPECTUS 2020-21**



*Together we live, learn and value*

[Headteacher/Prifathro](#)  
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## YSGOL GYNRADD STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX*

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly it is a great pleasure to welcome you to George Street Primary School. I am delighted that you have chosen our school for your child and am confident that their time with us will be happy, memorable and fruitful.

George Street is a successful school and currently holds green status in the national categorisation of schools. We strive to improve and very much welcome feedback from families to ensure that we continue to provide the best for our pupils.

This prospectus provides a range of information about the school; how it is organised, the curriculum we offer and a host of other details which we feel sure you will find useful. Please take time to read it. In addition our staff will also be glad to help with any queries you may have.

One of the key words in our mission statement is 'together'. As the headteacher of George Street School, I recognise the tremendous opportunity we have to work with you to ensure that your child reaches their full potential and develops a love of learning that continues throughout their life. Family engagement is a key factor in the successful futures of all of our children. I would urge you to become part of our school community, to visit during our open sessions and assemblies and to support your child's learning at home and in school often.

Communicating successfully with parents, carers or guardians is a priority for us. Newsletters, reports, open days, consultations, visits, special events and an 'open door' policy all contribute towards the development of a vibrant home-school partnership.

We look forward to meeting with you on many occasions in the future and wish you and your child a very successful and happy time in our school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Brasington'.

**Mr A Brasington**  
Headteacher

# GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

## **TOGETHER WE LIVE, LEARN AND VALUE**

**Together** we aim to create a safe, nurturing, happy and challenging place to be.

**Together** we aim to be a caring family where everyone feels confident, valued, respected and equal.

**Together** we encourage each other to reach for the stars.

**Together** we can build a brighter future.



## OUR AIMS

*In George Street Primary School we aim to work together to:*

- *Create a safe, happy and stimulating environment where relationships are positive and built on trust and mutual respect*
- *Ensure everyone is encouraged to feel confident, respected and valued*
- *Provide high quality, meaningful learning and teaching experiences to meet the needs of the entire school community*
- *Develop ambitious, capable learners who are able to build a body of skills and knowledge to apply in a range of contexts*
- *Provide a stimulating and enriched curriculum to inspire and motivate all pupils, challenging and enabling them to reach their full potential*
- *Secure high standards and expectations of behaviour through promotion of positive values, nurturing confidence and respect*
- *Ensure all pupils are independent thinkers and decision makers, having a voice in theirs' and others' learning, their school plans and in their futures*
- *Support families to ensure that home and school work in partnership, allowing every child to achieve their full potential*
- *Promote Welsh values and culture with a readiness to be citizens of Wales and the World*
- *Promote equal opportunities by opposing all forms of prejudice, discrimination and racism, celebrating differences and similarities within our local and global community and fostering respect for all people*
- *Ensure our school community has a voice in helping to improve our school*
- *Create opportunities for all to develop digital competence to enhance learning and teaching and prepare for the future*
- *Promote and encourage the school and local community to take care of the environment*
- *Develop healthy, confident individuals who take risks, have good physical and emotional health and wellbeing and who are able to face and overcome challenge*



## VALUES, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

*As well as continually striving to raise standards, we place a high priority on educating children to become thinking, confident, responsible and caring citizens.*

*It is our desire to make a positive difference to children's lives by valuing them as individuals as well as teaching them a set of core values that we hope will remain with them throughout their lives. George Street Primary School prides itself on being a Values Based Education school. Values are those behavioural traits, attitudes and concepts that create the type of people we are. We strongly believe that all our children should be given the opportunity to recognise the importance of these values in order to achieve success in life. Values Education underpins our PSE programme and has a significant influence over the vision, aims and ethos of the school. In all, 22 Values are explicitly dealt with over a two year rolling programme. This is largely done through assemblies, but is promoted and demonstrated in as many different areas of the school day as possible.*



## STAFFING

### TEACHING STAFF

Mr A Brasington*	Headteacher B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Mrs K Manley*	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Mrs S Ralph*	Teacher B.Ed. (HONS), Dip (SEN), M.A. (SEN)
	Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo)
Miss T Bowden*	B.A. (Hons) with QTS <i>(Year 6)</i>
Mr C Bowen*	B.Sc. (Hons) <i>(Year 6)</i>
Mrs C Williams	B.A. Ed (Hons) <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs N Davies	B.A. (Hons) with QTS <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs L Davies	B.A. Ed (Hons) <i>(Year 1)</i>
Mr J Keir	B.A. (Hons) with QTS <i>(Year 1)</i>
Miss H Thomas	B.A. (Hons), PGCE <i>(Year 2)</i>
Miss C Woods	B.Sc. (Hons) with QTS <i>(Year 2)</i>
Miss E Main	B.A. (Hons), PGCE <i>(Year 3)</i>
Mr N Taylor	B.A. (Hons) with QTS <i>(Year 3)</i>
Miss S Bodger	B.A. (Hons), PGCE <i>(Year 4)</i>
Mrs M Fielding	B.Ed. (Hons), M.A. Leadership and Management <i>(Year 4)</i>
Mrs G Lloyd	B.A. (Hons) <i>(Year 5)</i>
Mr B Eastman	B.A. (Hons) with QTS <i>(Year 5)</i>

\*Senior Leadership Team

### LEARNING SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs M Preston-Watkins	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Fisher	Higher Level Teaching Assistant B.A. (Hons) <i>(Year 1 - Thrive leader)</i>
Mrs K Morgan	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Morgan	Cover Supervisor
Mrs A Jones	Higher Level Teaching Assistant / Forest School Leader
Mrs S Goss	Cover Supervisor
Mrs L Bradbury	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Phillis	Higher Level Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs K Nicholls	Higher Level Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs C James	Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs T Jones	Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mr A Salathiel	Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs L Booth	Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs C Evens	Teaching Assistant <i>(Early Years)</i>
Mrs S Hemms	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 1 - Thrive practitioner)</i>
Mrs C Tudgay	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 1)</i>
Mrs J Fellows	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 2)</i>
Ms S Seward	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 2)</i>
Mrs A Simons	Higher Level Teaching Assistant <i>(Foundation Phase)</i>
Ms L Ridout	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 3&amp;4)</i>
Mrs S Herbert	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 3&amp;4)</i>

Ms J Treadgold	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 3&amp;4 – Thrive practitioner)</i>
Mrs D Pearce	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 3&amp;4)</i>
Mrs M Cobley	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 5)</i>
Miss T Evans	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 6)</i>
Mrs L Smith	Teaching Assistant <i>(Year 6)</i>

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT**

Mrs K Jones	Teaching Assistant
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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Mrs C Matthews*	Senior Support Officer B.A. (Hons)
Mrs L Willis	Clerk, Office and Admin Support
Mrs A Roden	Clerk, Office and Admin Support

#### **HOME SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER**

Mrs D Mollaney

#### **SITE MANAGER**

Mrs S Donoghue

#### **MIDDAY STAFF**

Mrs A Hopkins  
Mrs J Edwards  
Mrs S Karagulle  
Mrs L Childs  
Mrs C Harris  
Mrs C Tudgay  
Ms C Miller  
Mrs N Mugleston

#### **CANTEEN**

Mrs M Rose

#### **CROSSING PATROL**

Mrs A Hopkins

#### **EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER**

Ms H Kethro-Moore

## SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has responsibility for the oversight of the running of the whole school.

The Governing Body meets regularly and has a number of sub-committees dealing with finance, premises, the curriculum, appointments and discipline. An Annual Report is sent to all parents, carers, or guardians in the Autumn Term. Governors serve for a term of 4 years.

Parent Governors are your representatives. They are elected by the parents, carers, or guardians through a ballot.

The following are members of the Governing Body:

Headteacher	Mr A Brasington
Appointed by Governing Body	Rev A Richards-Clarke Mrs A Joliffe
Chairperson Vice-Chair	Mrs E Bustin (Parent Governor) Mrs K Baverstock (Parent Governor)
Parent Governors	Mrs H Bevan-Jones Mr E Smith
Staff Governor	Mrs M Preston-Watkins
Teacher Governor	Mrs G Lloyd
Local Authority Governors	Cllr M Jeremiah Mrs L Robinson
Community Governor	Mr E Hopkins Cllr J Taylor

## SCHOOL WEBSITE ADDRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Parents are encouraged to sign up to the website to receive regular reminders about events, activities and unexpected notices. The school also has its own Twitter account. Many of the classes also have personal Twitter accounts keeping you up to date with daily class activities.

[www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk](http://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk)

**Twitter Account: @georgestreetpri**

Please use the following email address for routine queries e.g. term dates, cost of trips etc. and we will endeavour to reply to you within two days: [office.georgestreetprimary@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:office.georgestreetprimary@torfaen.gov.uk)



## ABOUT THE SCHOOL: ENVIRONMENT & HISTORY

George Street Primary School opened in September 1989, and is an amalgamation of George Street Infant School, George Street Junior School and Pontypool Nursery.

A school was first erected on the site in 1847 when it was known as Pontypool British School.

In 1871 it became a local Board School and then a Council School in 1904. It became known as George Street Junior School in 1906.

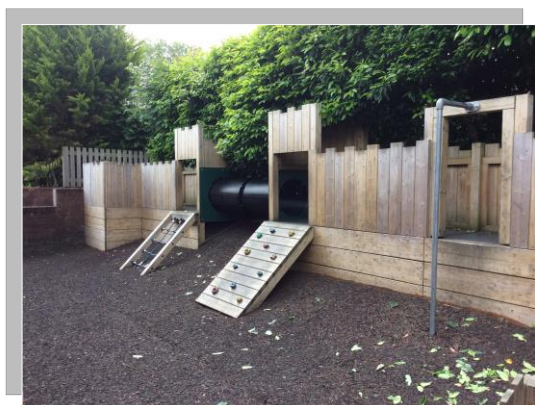
The school is surrounded by evidence of Pontypool's rich historical past, from the Hanbury family home in Pontypool Park to the terraced houses, typical of the Welsh valleys. It has fine views across the valley, looking towards local landmarks such as the Folly Tower.

The main building consists of a separate Nursery and Reception Wing (3-5 years), Years 1 and 2 (5-7) area and a two-storey key stage 2 (7-11) wing.



There are a number of additional teaching areas including independent learning areas, a library, resource rooms and a range of intervention rooms.

Foundation phase pupils have secure outdoor play areas. All pupils have access to the playground and extensive playing fields.



## ADMISSION AND TRANSFER

The school offers part-time, (occasionally full-time), education for pupils of 3-4 years in our Early Years setting. If space is available, Nursery places are offered in January and April also. Wraparound provision is offered to all Nursery aged pupils.

**TORFAEN  
COUNTY  
BOROUGH**



**BWRDEISTREF  
SIROL  
TORFAEN**

Full time education is offered from 4 to 11 years, after which transfer is made to secondary school. George Street Primary School is part of the West Mon Comprehensive School cluster.

All applications for school entry should be made to Torfaen County Borough Council.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

The school is open for 190 days per year and teachers attend on five other days for staff development.

### TIMES OF SESSIONS:

Nursery children will be offered a place in either morning or afternoon sessions, or in exceptional circumstances, full time sessions.

<u>Foundation Phase</u>	<u>Start and Finish Times</u>	<u>Lunchtime</u>
Nursery - Full Time	9.00 am - 3.15 pm	Full Time and Wraparound 11.30 am - 12.45 pm
Nursery – Morning	9.00 am - 11.30 am	
Nursery – Afternoon	12.45 pm - 3.15 pm	
Reception & Years 1 & 2	9.00 am - 3.15 pm	1 hour between 11.45am - 1.00 pm

<u>KS2 Juniors</u>	<u>Start and Finish Times</u>	<u>Lunchtimes - 3 sittings</u>
Years 3 – 6	9.00 am - 3.15 pm	45 minutes between 12.15 pm - 1.45 pm



Teachers are on duty 10 minutes before the start of the day. Pupils should not arrive more than 10 minutes before the start of the school day unless attending Breakfast Club. They should proceed directly into school and to their classrooms, leaving parents, carers, or guardians at the door of the school.

Reception and Nursery children should enter school via their designated entrance to the Early Years setting.

Doors will be opened by staff on duty at 8.50 am. Any messages for teachers can be left with them or at the main office.

Pupils are supervised during breaks by staff and at lunchtime by midday supervisors.

## ATTENDANCE



We place a high priority on securing good attendance as it is fundamental to pupils' happiness and progress in school. Every Monday we review attendance in our whole school assembly and award our two school attendance mascots, OTIS (On Time In School) and SAM (School Attendance Matters) to the highest attending classes. They then look after our mascots for the week. We are currently aiming for 95+% attendance for the whole school.



As a further incentive we run attendance Golden Weeks when we aim to boost attendance further with a special reward for meeting our target.

Each half term we send an attendance update to parents showing your child's attendance for the year so far. These updates are part of the authority's Strive for 95+% scheme and are colour coded to show at a glance how well your child is attending. The table below shows the different colour bands and how they link to time missed from school.

### Strive for 95+%

Attendance	Impact on learning	Zone colour
100%	0 weeks of learning missed	Gold
95%	1 week 4 days of learning missed	Green
90-94.9%	10 + days of learning missed	Amber
90% and below	3 weeks 4 days of learning missed	Red

Good attendance (over 95%) is the single biggest factor in helping any child to make solid progress in school. This is important at any point in school but especially so in the primary phase when pupils set the foundations for all of their future learning. When gaps in pupils' learning open up because of poor attendance they tend to widen as a child grows and are very hard to close later on. For this reason we strongly encourage all parents to establish a routine of good attendance from the earliest age to give your child the best possible start in school.

### Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

The school works very closely with the EWO and ensures that the welfare and attendance of pupils causing concern is discussed. All pupils who have attendance below 90% will be discussed with the EWO at regular intervals and action taken to support families in ensuring that children are in school.

Absence from school will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and where attendance is of a high level (over 95%). Parents and carers are strongly encouraged not take children out of school for holidays during term time. Unless exceptional circumstances are evident and the absence agreed by the Headteacher, it will be deemed unauthorised. Holidays are only authorised where current attendance is at least 95%.

All appointments taken during school time must be accompanied by proof of appointment and short appointments should be for a limited period with pupils attending school before and after the appointment where possible.

## ARRIVING/LEAVING SCHOOL

It is the parents, carers, or guardians responsibility to ensure that pupils arrive safely in school and are collected from school. In the mornings children may be dropped with school staff at the pull in bay, who will ensure the children are escorted in to school.

To ensure school security, all doors, other than the main school door will be locked at 9.00 a.m. No admittance will be allowed through these doors after this time.

At the end of the day, pupils leave from the infant classroom/designated junior doors respectively. Parents, carers, or guardians who deliver or collect their children from school by car should be reminded that to ensure the health and safety of all pupils it is essential that they **do not enter the car park** to drop children off or collect at the end of the day. Gates will be closed both at the beginning and end of the school day. Parents, carers, or guardians are also asked to ensure that they park appropriately outside school and do not park on the restricted areas outside the grounds (yellow zig zag area) and do not double-park.

Parents, carers, or guardians are encouraged to walk their children to school whenever possible. Torfaen County Borough Council have now finished work on the link path from the cycle way to school which provides safer access for children than the narrow pavement on Wainfelin Road.



### Leaving school at the end of the day

If someone other than the main parent or carer is picking up a child at the end of the school day please inform your child's class teacher/member of staff on the door that morning. If arrangements change during the day please contact the school office who will inform your child's teacher. It is extremely important that your child's teacher knows exactly who will be collecting your child from school at all times. Also please ensure that it is someone over the age of 18. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring the safety of our children

## LUNCHTIME

School lunches are available each day at:

- £2.30 (Infant meal)
- £2.40 (Junior meal)

Money is collected **DAILY** in the dining hall, where a till system is in operation. Please send the correct money in an envelope with your child's name and class on the outside. **We regret there is no facility to receive cheques.** If you do not wish your child to purchase a school meal, he/she may bring a packed lunch.

We actively encourage healthy eating in school and are part of the national Appetite for Life campaign to ensure that children have a well-balanced and nutritious diet. We offer a range of hot food, jacket potatoes, salad bar and baguettes/wraps.

We would encourage you to allow your child to have school lunch, but if not and you wish to have a packed lunch from home, we would encourage you to send in healthy food. Fizzy drinks or energy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars are not permitted.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents, carers, or guardians in receipt of benefits may apply for free school meals. Application should be made in advance of a child starting school. We would encourage all parents, carers, or guardians who are eligible to apply, even if they intend their child to bring in a packed lunch from



home. Often schools receive additional funding based on numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals. Please apply if you are eligible. Application forms may be obtained from the school office. Any questions about an application should be addressed to can be answered by Torfaen education department on 01495 762200.

## HEALTHY SNACK

Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 pay £1.25 per week for their healthy snack which is given each morning. This money needs to be paid via our **CASHLESS** system. Details on how to use the cashless system, including an individual pin, are provided to all parents separately.

Junior pupils can buy fruit tuck Monday to Friday at a cost of 30p per item. No sweets, chocolates, crisps etc. are permitted at break.



## LABELLING CLOTHES

Children mislay clothes in school frequently. Please make sure that all items of clothing, including shoes, are labelled with your child's name. There are many suppliers that provide iron on and sew-in labels. Permanent fabric pens work well and can be used just to write your child's name on the existing label.

## DRINKING WATER

It is recommended that children drink at least 1.5 litres of water a day. Research shows that dehydration is common amongst children and that it impacts negatively on their attention span, mood and health.

Children in all classes have access to drinking water as they need it. Fresh drinking water is available throughout the school. It is still water that medics recommend and **NOT** flavoured water, pop, squash, coke or carbonated water.

## DESIGNED TO SMILE PROGRAMME

All children in the foundation phase brush their teeth in school every day. This is part of the Designed to Smile Programme. Fluoride applications are also administered periodically with parental consent.



## MILK

The Welsh Government provides free milk for all pupils in the foundation phase. If your child has a milk allergy please inform the school.

## LITTER

George Street Primary and Nursery endeavours to be a litter-free school. All pupils are taught to care for our school premises and use waste bins. This may, for example, form part of personal and social education, Science or morning assemblies. Pupils have a collective responsibility to maintain an orderly site. Waste from fruit is composted in the school garden.

## THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum in Wales is changing. Schools have been working with the Welsh Government since 2015 to develop a new framework for learning. The new **Curriculum for Wales** has four core purposes. These are for pupils to become:

- *Ambitious, capable learners*
- *Ethical and informed citizens*
- *Healthy, confident individuals*
- *Enterprising and creative contributors*

George Street is one of the Pioneer Schools that has worked closely with the Welsh Government over the development of these changes.

The new curriculum will be taught in all primary schools in Wales from September 2022. You can find out more by visiting <https://gov.wales/education-changing>

In the meantime schools have a statutory duty to meet the requirements of the Foundation Phase Framework (infants) and the National Curriculum (juniors).



### FOUNDATION PHASE (RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & 2)

The Foundation Phase is about providing learning experiences that enable children to be creative, imaginative and to have fun whilst learning. Children at George Street will continue to be given opportunities to work through worthwhile practical activities that are fun, enjoyable and relevant to their developmental stages. The Foundation Phase places emphasis on experiential learning and active involvement and is designed to help all children flourish, whatever their stage of development or learning ability.

The Foundation Phase has seven Areas of Learning. Stimulating structured play activities can be woven into and across these areas to support and encourage your child's personal, social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being and development.

### Areas of Learning

- Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity
- Language, literacy and communication skills
- Mathematical development
- Welsh Language development
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development





## KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3-6)

### Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science

### Foundation Subjects

- Information Technology
- Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Music
- Art
- P.E.
- Welsh
- R.E.

### Cross Curricular Responsibilities

Throughout the curriculum a range of key skills are taught including:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT

It is these skills that are used, applied and developed in as many lessons as possible. It is these skills that form the core of the curriculum.

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 follow the national literacy and numeracy framework in all subjects across the curriculum. National tests for Year 2 to Year 6 are carried out in the summer term in reading, mathematical reasoning and mathematical procedures.

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL (PSE) DEVELOPMENT

In addition to specific subjects, we place a significant emphasis on developing excellent personal and social skills. As a school we teach social and emotional aspects of learning in lessons and through activities to develop pupils' understanding of core values. We explicitly teach pupils about 22 Values (such as honesty, trust and courage) over a two year period, taking one value per month. These values are a dynamic tool to promote a school community that lives in harmony with respect and tolerance.

### LIBRARY

All pupils throughout the school are able to borrow library books and also utilise our library area when researching class topics.



We have also introduced library sessions to promote the importance of reading at home. Parents/carers are invited into the school to choose books with their children to take home to read together.

The library committee meets several times a week to undertake librarian duties which provide children with a sense of ownership and responsibility within the school.

### **P.E.**

In P.E. all pupils have at least 2 lessons per week.

In foundation phase this includes gymnastics, dance and games.

In KS2 swimming and athletics are added to the curriculum.

Opportunities to extend physical education are presented through extra curricular activities and we compete in football, cricket and netball within our area. This is an extremely important part of our school and we are proud to hold the Active Marc Cymru recognising excellence in the teaching of PE.

### **The Daily Mile**

George Street participates in the daily mile, encouraging health and fitness with dedicated time each day for every child to walk, jog or run at least a mile every day.



### **COASTAL SCHOOLS AND FOREST SCHOOLS**

George Street is one of the first schools in Wales to be lucky enough to have a coastal schools practitioner. We use as many opportunities as we can to take children to the beach for visits that enrich the curriculum and provide experiences that promote pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

We also have a Forest Schools area on site that is enjoyed by all classes in regular visits throughout the year. Children engage in a wide range of activities to learn about risk and challenge and to experience nature first hand.





## ARTS

Through Expressive Arts we encourage children to develop their creative appreciation, talent, artistic and performance skills.

Expressive Arts provide opportunities for pupils to communicate their ideas, engage thinking, imagination and senses creatively. It also promotes exploration of personal and cultural identity.

Engagement with Expressive Arts requires application, perseverance

and close attention to detail, capacities that have benefits across learning more widely. Expressive Arts provide many opportunities for experiences such as visits to theatres and galleries; it brings the specialist expertise of, for example, artists and musicians into the classroom.



## WELSH

Welsh is taught as a second language. It is taught throughout the school by using incidental language and following progressive schemes of work. The school is moving towards bilingualism by encouraging pupils to use a range of Welsh phrases incidentally.

Staff attend in-service training to develop and improve their level of expertise.

The Cwricwlwm Cymreig - promoting Welsh heritage and culture - underpins many curriculum areas and encourages pupils to identify strongly with their Welsh background.





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ASSEMBLIES

Religious Education is a compulsory subject under the 1988 Education Reform Act. Through RE lessons we provide children with an understanding of the values and beliefs of a range of different faiths. George Street Primary is a community primary school and does not privilege learning about one faith or tradition over others.

Daily assemblies are held which include an opportunity for pupils to reflect on the theme, value or story that is shared. Pupils' efforts, in and outside school, are also frequently recognised in assemblies. On Mondays we hold an assembly that links directly to our Value of the month and on Fridays our Seren yr Wythnos (Star of the Week) assembly celebrates the achievement of pupils across the school. Each Friday, two pupils from each class receive the Seren yr Wythnos certificate and join the headteacher on our Star Table at lunchtime.

(If a parent has any kind of objection to their child taking part in assemblies, they are entitled to request that their child be withdrawn).

## SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE)

It is the policy of the school that sex and relationships education be offered and that it forms a part of both the school's science and health education curriculum. SRE is always treated very sensitively and the elements covered reflect the age and maturity of the pupils carefully. The physiological and psychological aspects of puberty are addressed in Year 6. Parents, carers, or guardians are informed beforehand and have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons.

## ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Pupils who have additional learning needs, (learning difficulties, physical needs, sensory impairment, or are very able), are identified in a variety of ways i.e. through the parents, carers, guardians, class teacher, external agencies.

Our school policy adheres to the guidance provided in the special needs 'Code of Practice'. Pupils' needs are identified by the class teacher and the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo). Action Plans are developed for the pupil and reviewed termly. Parents are consulted and asked for their views at all stages. If necessary, the school may involve other outside agencies such as the Educational Psychology Service, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Audiometrician and Physiotherapist.

We endeavour to meet the special needs of pupils through appropriate teaching support and a range of additional material resources. Pupils may also be withdrawn individually for 1 to 1 tuition. The school's ALNCo is Mrs S Ralph.

## PUPIL VOICE



Our pupils' views and opinions are sought through the use of Pupil Parliament groups, such as School Council, Criw Cymraeg, Digital Leaders, Eco Committee and Sports Ambassadors. Representatives from a range of classes across the school attend meetings where they contribute to the school policies and help influence whole school decision making.

## RECORDING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

In nursery and reception, baseline assessments are completed within the first 6 weeks and information is reported back to parents/carers.

Across the school, teachers assess pupils progress on an ongoing basis through questioning, marking work and observations in classes. Teachers' ongoing assessment is supported by a variety of standardised tests, for example to monitor each child's progress in reading. All assessment is used to plan the next steps for pupils' progress. The use of specific tests enables teachers to gather useful information about individual progress and:

- to diagnose areas for development
- to set targets for improvement and performance

## TARGET SETTING

All schools in Wales are required to set performance targets relating to school improvement. Targets are determined by staff and governors and are subject to scrutiny by the school's Challenge Adviser.

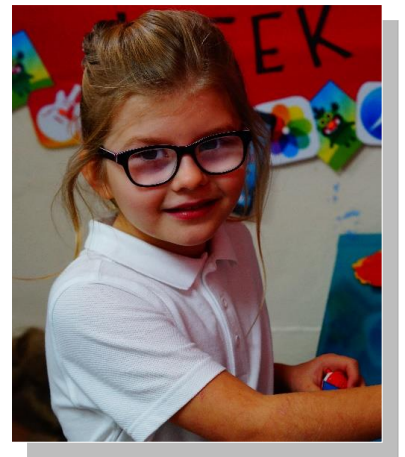
Individual targets are set for pupils and are monitored throughout the course of each school year. Teachers use their knowledge of children and information from school and national tests to set appropriately challenging targets for pupils. Teachers discuss their expectations with parents/carers.

### What do the targets mean?

Individual targets are described in terms of outcomes (foundation phase) and levels (key stage 2). Pupils' attainment against the national outcomes or levels is reported to parents/carers at the end of each phase (in the summer term of Year 2 and Year 6):

- Most 7-year-olds attain Foundation Phase Outcome 5
- Most 11-year-olds attain Level 4

Many factors can influence how a child performs. For example, good attendance, behaviour and the level of parental support are all important elements in helping pupils to secure good progress. It is clearly beneficial for parents to support the school's policies in these areas in order to enable us to help your child to fulfil their maximum potential.



## INSPECTION

George Street was last inspected by Estyn in April 2019. Inspectors identified many strengths in the school and judged standards, wellbeing, teaching and leadership to be good. The quality of the school's care, support and guidance for pupils was judged to be excellent. Full copies of the report are available from school or our website [www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk](http://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk) or from the Estyn website [www.estyn.org.uk](http://www.estyn.org.uk).

## HOME LEARNING

Home learning activities are set for children. Parents/carers can help greatly by assisting children to learn spellings and times tables.

We also strongly encourage parents/carers to spend a little time each evening listening to children read and reading to them. Books are brought home for this purpose. Helping your child learn to read at home can have a massive impact on their progress and confidence. Reading to or with them also provides a precious opportunity to spend good quality time together, to share an interest and to develop your child's vocabulary, knowledge of the world and imagination. The value of this cannot be exaggerated.

There will also be times when teachers require work to be completed at home. Many home learning tasks reinforce and extend class activities and are important to your child's progress. The school's home learning policy gives precise details of tasks, times, marking, monitoring and how parents/carers can support children. For children who take holidays in school time, work will not be sent home.

Home learning is discussed at parent meetings throughout the year.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The wearing of uniform:

- gives pupils a sense of identity
- gives status to the school
- encourages pupils to dress neatly and wear suitable clothing

### **Uniform**

Long or short grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress

White shirt or polo shirt

Red sweatshirt or cardigan

Black shoes (no high heels or slip on shoes should be worn to school)

Uniform with the school logo can be purchased from Pretty Miss in Cwmbran town centre and Ruck um Maul in Pontypool. Details are available in school.

Pupils should not wear denim jeans to school.

Trainer style shoes are permitted as long as they are black and have no bright logos. Brightly coloured trainers are not permitted.

**LABELLING CLOTHING IS ESSENTIAL AS CHILDREN FREQUENTLY MISLAY ITEMS WHICH CAN BE EASILY RETURNED IF THEY ARE LABELLED.**

## **CLOTHING FOR PE**

A PE uniform is available from Ruck um Maul or Pretty Miss made up of a blue T shirt and black shorts.

**All pupils:** Plimsolls or trainers for outdoor activities

**All pupils:** require a change of clothing for physical activities

**All pupils:** require a labelled cloth bag suitable for P.E. kit.

Tracksuits may be worn in cold weather

Please ensure **all** your child's garments have his/her name clearly marked inside.



## JEWELLERY

The wearing of jewellery is **not** permitted in school for safety reasons. Earrings in the form of small plain studs are allowed. Watches are also permitted. Please note all jewellery must be removed for P.E. lessons. Therefore we would ask that children **do not** wear earrings on P.E. days.

No other body piercing is permitted.

## HAIR STYLES

Pupils are expected to have a sensible hairstyle which supports the wearing of school uniform. No makeup is to be worn in school.



## TELEPHONES

When children are in school, the staff have full responsibility for them and therefore all communication should go through staff.

For this reason pupils are not allowed mobile telephones while at school.

## NON SMOKING ZONE/E- Cigarettes

We would like to remind parents, carers, or guardians that the entire school grounds are a designated no smoking zone, in addition it is now illegal for any person to smoke inside the school building. We would welcome your support in ensuring that the entire site remains smoke free. We would also kindly remind you that the use of E Cigarettes is also not encouraged on school premises.



**No dogs**  
except guide dogs

## DOGS

We would like to advise parents/carers that dogs are not permitted at all on the school grounds. It is now an offence to bring a dog onto school premises.

## ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL

Children are normally placed in classes according to age, although a variety of other factors may affect this decision.

The school's admission number is 60 pupils per year group i.e.; two classes per year group from reception to Year 6. Our nursery can accommodate a maximum of 43 pupils per session.

Parents, carers, or guardians are always kept informed about class provision and the individual needs of every pupil are taken into account. All teachers are able to arrange teaching groups within their class, so that they can develop the full potential of your child, whether it be in a whole class, group situation or as an individual.

Each year we run an annual move-up week in the summer term when pupils and staff have the opportunity to spend time together in the classes they will be part of the following September. This provides a valuable opportunity for every pupil to become familiar with their new class, to build relationships with adults and to look ahead confidently to their move.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A wide range of extra-curricular clubs are available such as: Gardening, Singing and Drama, Multi Sports, Cookery, Art/Crafts, Netball, Football, ECO Club, Dance, Performing Arts, Minecraft/Lego and Choir. All pupils are encouraged to take part in clubs. There is a great deal of research that suggests that pupils who access a range of cultural and sporting activities in addition to their normal school work, do very well at school and achieve well.



## OUT OF HOURS PROVISION

School offers a **Free Breakfast Club** from 8.30 am each morning for pupils in reception to Year 6.

An independent out of hours **After School Club** is run at George Street by Isobel Yacomen. Details of how the club runs can be obtained from Isobel on 07889 346348. There charge for this facility is £9 per session - 3.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

## WRAPAROUND FOR NURSERY

Nursery pupils can access either morning or afternoon wraparound provision until 3.15 pm at a cost of £15.00 per session. Details can be obtained from Isobel Yacomen on 07889 346348.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

All pupils have the opportunity to participate in seasonal events at Christmas and Easter. Key stage 2 pupils usually visit Crane Street Church on these occasions for a family service led by the children and one of our governors, Reverend Alvan Richards-Clarke. .

In March we hold our annual Eisteddfod and during the summer term sports days take place.

We also invite a wide variety of theatre groups, visiting musicians, guest speakers and others to give performances and run workshops throughout the year. These events play a key role in enriching our curriculum and provide varied opportunities to broaden pupils' experience.

## EQUALITY

The school is committed to securing equality, promoting positive approaches to difference and fostering respect for people of all beliefs and cultural backgrounds. The school is opposed to all forms of racial prejudice and discrimination. Language or behaviour that is racist / homophobic or potentially damaging is not tolerated and is always challenged. The school recognises that Wales and the UK are rich societies made up of people from many different racial, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds. We believe that it is essential that all pupils are well prepared to live happily in such a diverse society and to show fairness, tolerance and respect towards one another at all times.

### The Equality Act 2010



Our school policies are built on the importance of ensuring equality of opportunity for everyone and to eliminate discrimination of all kinds. Every child in George Street, regardless of race, language, gender or ability is equally valued and has access to educational opportunities that are both diverse and of assured quality.

All our children are encouraged to have a positive cultural identity. We explicitly celebrate our country's diverse culture and the school actively promotes positive attitudes to the linguistic and cultural nature of bilingual Wales. As a school we support and promote diversity and promote good relations between all people. The school has an active equalities plan which is updated annually and is available on the school website.

## PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

The school meets its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Disability and Equality Act 2012 to ensure that pupils with disabilities are treated no less favourably than other pupils. The purpose of the DDA 1995 is to eliminate the discrimination faced by disabled people and promote equality of opportunity. Disability is defined as having a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on one's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.



Schools must take all reasonable steps to avoid discrimination occurring. Policies, practices and procedures must be reviewed regularly to ensure that disabled children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage.

The governing body will ensure that employees:

- do not act in such a way as to render the governing body liable to claims for discrimination.
- do receive appropriate guidance and support the governing body in meeting their duties to pupils.

## SAFEGUARDING

George Street Primary School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of every child in school. This means staying alert to possible signs of abuse. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Children may suffer physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect. Schools are well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. These signs may give cause for concern. They are not in themselves proof that abuse has occurred.

George Street Primary School, follows the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB) procedures in relation to any concerns of abuse. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents about their children. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when the school will discuss concerns with social care and/or the police without parental knowledge (in accordance with nationally agreed child protection procedures).

It is not the responsibility of any school staff member to investigate suspected abuse.



The headteacher is the school's designated senior person (DSP) for all matters relating to safeguarding and is supported by two deputy DSPs, the deputy headteacher, Mrs Manley and our ALNCo Mrs Ralph.

The school always aims to maintain a positive relationship with all parents. The school's child protection policy is available on request.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

Please keep us informed about any changes in your child's health. Check with your doctor if they have had an infectious disease which could harm others. The school office holds comprehensive advice on health issues from the local health board and can advise you if absence from school is required for specific reasons and for how long.



## ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

It is essential that we have correct and up to date details to contact parents/carers, should your child be ill at school. If you change your phone number please make sure to inform the school so that we may update our records.



## MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

It is very disruptive for parents, carers, or guardians to remove children during the day for routine appointments. We request that all routine appointments are made where possible out of school hours. Emergency appointments are an exception. Appointment cards/letters from health organisations are required if a child is to be removed from school.

## MEDICINES

If your child requires medicine in school, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to administer it.

It is the school's policy **not to** dispense any medicines unless in exceptional circumstances\* because of the on-going medical needs of a child.

Parents, carers, or guardians of children who require asthma inhalers should provide a labelled inhaler with written instructions of how to administer in an attack. Spare inhalers should be left in the school office.

*\*Where pupils require on-going medication, the school will engage with the relevant health professionals and a care plan for a pupil will be drafted that staff will use to support your son or daughter with their needs.*



## HEADLICE

Should your child have headlice, you are asked to treat the case yourself. Treatment will usually need to be repeated as per medical advice. Constant checking is the best way to avoid headlice and we ask parents/carers to inspect their child's hair weekly. It is important that you inform the school so that other parents/carers can be advised to be vigilant.



## VISITS BY THE MEDICAL SERVICES

From time to time, the school medical health service arranges routine assessments. For example to make developmental checks for reception pupils such as vision screening. Any cause for concern is referred to parents/carers.

## SCHOOL GROUNDS

The school grounds are the property of Torfaen C.B.C. There is a surfaced access path running through the grounds between the field and the school buildings. This is **NOT** a public right of way. Its use is permitted for parents bringing and collecting children from school or attending school events such as sports day. Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) should not be brought onto or exercised on the school grounds. Signs at the access points onto the school site remind all visitors that bringing dogs onto the school site is an offence.

Please do not allow your child to drop litter in the school grounds.

There are no parking facilities on the school grounds but the school is fortunate to have a 'drop off' zone. Parents/carers are not allowed to drive onto the school grounds.

Please do not park on the double yellow lines, or zig zag lines, or where there is a crossing patrol. Offenders will receive parking fines from the police. If you are attending an event in school, please avoid blocking residents' access to driveways.

We also request that parents/carers do not cross the car park entrance in front of school as this access is used continuously for deliveries. Parents/carers are asked to use the front pedestrian entrances or the entrances on School Lane or off Conway Road.

## VALUABLES

Children should not bring any items of value to school (please see above regarding phones).

We cannot take any responsibility for valuables, including the wearing of jewellery and, therefore, advise that such items are left at home.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

During their time in school, children will participate in a number of educational visits. These visits provide valuable learning experiences for pupils and usually link directly to their learning in class. Many of these trips are subsidised in part by school (for example to meet travel costs). However, the school would not be able to provide the range of visits offered without the financial support of families. The governing body has agreed that the school seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers to contribute to the cost of such activities. If there is insufficient voluntary funding, activities may be cancelled.



Whenever a visit takes place, you will be fully informed of the details and nature of the visit.

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

No organisation is perfect and we appreciate and at George Street we recognise that we sometimes get things wrong. We are always ready to listen to your concerns as parents and to deal constructively with any issues you bring to our attention. In the first instance it is usually best to speak with your child's class teacher as nearly all matters are speedily resolved this way. If this is not possible then you are welcome to request a meeting with a member of our senior leadership team who will try to resolve any issue with you.

Under the Education Act 1988, there is provision for parents/carers to take complaints to the school's governing body if they cannot be resolved by the school. The decision of the governing body are final in these matters. A copy of the school's Complaints Procedure is available on the school website or can be provided by the school office on request.

## DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOUR/PASTORAL CARE

We are sure that all parents/carers share our expectation that children behave well at all times, including during the journeys they make to and from school. Staff always encourage children to be courteous, to display good manners and to show respect for other people and their property.

The development of self-discipline is seen as a partnership between home and school. We feel confident that we can look forward to the support of all parents/carers in this matter. In George Street all pupils are expected to co-operate with teachers and other children and to work diligently. Should the behaviour of a child cause concern, parents/carers will be contacted so that you are aware of the issues and to agree a united approach to addressing them. Staff in school always manage behaviour in a positive way and provide consistent guidance about our expectations.



Our rules are:-

- Follow Instructions First Time.
- Keep hands, feet, objects and unkind words to yourself.
- Use the appropriate voice - silent, partner, group, class.
- Stay in your seat, class, playground, school unless given permission to leave.
- Treat everybody in a polite way.

Parents, carers, or guardians will be informed if any of these rules are broken persistently.

All staff stress rewards, rather than sanctions.

Parents/carers are expected to support the school in maintaining the highest standards of good order.



## COMMUNICATION

Monthly Newsletters are sent to parents/carers. These identify key dates for the term, report school news and inform about changes and future plans. Reminders of specific events are sent to parents, carers, or guardians via text and posted on twitter.

**School Website** - [www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk](http://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk)

Further information and updates can be found on the school website.

Please use [office.georgestreetprimary@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:office.georgestreetprimary@torfaen.gov.uk) for routine queries e.g. term dates, cost of trips etc.



**Texts** – we regularly use these as a means of keeping parents and carers informed. The messages you receive will be targeted towards your child e.g.: class trip for particular year group, after school club etc. These messages will go to the primary telephone number so it is vital that you keep the office informed of up to date contact details.

**Twitter:** Follow us on Twitter @georgestreetpri. Many classes also have their own Twitter Account

### Safe and appropriate use of Social Networking Sites



Like all parents, staff at George Street want the best for the children in their care and it is important that parents and teachers work together constructively in the best interests of the children.

For this reason, we will not accept or condone derogatory, defamatory, threatening or abusive language/behaviour posted on social media. We will take appropriate action if this does occur and contact the site, the LA and/or Gwent Police if it involves staff, parents, guardians and/or children.

Please help us to keep building a safe community.

## PARENT/CARER PARTICIPATION

We are always pleased to welcome parent helpers in school, whether assisting with school visits, concerts or other events. Parents/carers who would like to assist in the classroom are especially welcome. Please note that parent volunteers are now required to complete checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Curriculum Workshops/Open Sessions are a regular feature of our school and we are delighted to invite you to these and believe that they will help to inform you about the work of the school. Topic information sheets are sent out to all children at the beginning of each new topic.

Parent Consultations are held twice yearly. These provide a vital opportunity for teachers and parents, carers, or guardians to exchange information. An individual written report is provided annually.

Class assemblies and events are held throughout the year which we welcome your attendance at.

## PARENT/CARERS OPEN SESSIONS

Open sessions for all parents and carers are held regularly. Parents and carers are invited into classrooms to spend 30 minutes learning with their child. During the last week of every term, open sessions take place every day at 2:30pm.

Family engagement is hugely important to us and we would encourage all parents and carers to get involved in school life. We would like to ask for your help in ensuring that your child reaches their full potential.

## ACTIVE MARC CYMRU

The school has achieved the “Active Marc Cymru” for the range of sporting activities promote by the school.



The school has also received the

HEALTHY SCHOOLS AWARD 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2018

and the ECO SCHOOLS AWARDS 2010, 2012, 2014 and Platinum Award 2020

## FRIENDS OF GEORGE STREET SCHOOL (FOGSS)

All parents/carers, are invited to join FOGSS

FOGSS support parents to fund-raise, organise events for pupils and support school events. We are always looking for new members. Please come along to our meetings. Fund raising includes discos and family events.

The chair of the FOGSS group is Mrs Joana Baker. Please get in touch if you would like to play a part in this active group.

## TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

During the summer term, Year 6 pupils make transition visits to their chosen secondary schools. Most pupils currently transfer to West Monmouthshire Comprehensive School although some may go on to Abersychan or St. Albans. Online applications for secondary school are made in the autumn term in the previous year.

George Street is part of the West Mon cluster and shares a close partnership with the school. From early on in key stage 2,

George Street pupils participate in workshops at the school and parents/carers are also invited to the school to meet the headteacher, to look around and to have questions and queries answered. School records and assessments are forwarded to secondary school by us to ensure continuity in pupil's education.



## **TERM DATES FOR 2020-21 / 2021-2022**

### **SCHOOL TERM DATES**

#### **2020-21**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term Ends</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
<b>Autumn</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer</b>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July

#### **Planning and Preparation days for re-opening**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

#### **INSET DAYS FOR 2020-21**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Two further dates t.b.c.

#### **2021-22**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term Ends</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
<b>Autumn</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Summer</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July