



WELCOME

Dolau is a very successful and happy primary school in the village of Llanharan. We provide education through the medium of Welsh and English language which makes our school unique within the county. Our staff are totally committed to providing your child with the best start in life. We encourage children to take advantage of a wide variety of educational, social and cultural experiences.

Our vision is that of a school which is

- a caring community, where every child and adult is accepted as an individual
- constantly striving to raise standards of achievement
- efficiently managed and makes the most of its resources
- outward looking and forward thinking
- developing partnerships with parents and the wider community
- committed to reducing its carbon footprint
- committed to ensure equality of opportunity for pupils and staff.

Our aim, with your support and assistance, is to create a happy, exciting and secure learning environment to enable your child to realise his/her full potential and to provide opportunities which will stimulate and motivate high standards of achievement, attainment and encourage excellent standards of behaviour.

G D Evans

Headteacher



Our road to success is continually under construction

Ymdrechwn yn gyson i wella'r ysgol



HISTORY

Dolau Primary School was established in 1928, situated on the outskirts of Llanharan. Originally the school catered for 5-14 year old children, later developing into a primary school for 3-11 year olds. Many children had parents working in the local Powell Dyffryn Colliery, and as the colliery grew, so did the number of children coming to Dolau.

During the 1970s, a Welsh Unit was developed which gradually increased in size throughout the 1980s. The two departments work effectively alongside each other.

The original school building is a traditional brick building and has hard standing play areas, playing fields, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, school hall, library and ICT suite. It has been designated a Grade II listed building.

In 2009 an extension was completed and is now home to the Foundation Phase. Our 21st century building has considerably improved provision for Foundation Phase pupils, and has been designed to reduce our carbon footprint. The school also benefits from a nature area, pond and garden to facilitate outdoor learning and enhance school activities.



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AIMS

Our mission statement reinforces our values and philosophy in that we are constantly looking to improve standards and provision for all children. We pride ourselves on being a happy school where children feel comfortable and secure in their environment.

Dolau, being a bilingual primary, has one section of the school being taught through the medium of Welsh and one section being taught through the medium of English.

A priority aim of the school is that both staff and pupils are seen to belong to one community with no sense of division being felt by either staff, parents or pupils.

Equal status is given to both languages, with pupils from both departments being encouraged to develop a healthy respect and understanding for each other's mode of learning.

The school aims to provide a rich, relevant and broad education, allowing pupils of all abilities to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare them for each stage of their education.

We aim to provide an environment which is stimulating, where your child will:

- acquire knowledge and understanding
- have ample opportunity to develop skills
- acquire a sense of responsibility, obligation and a spirit of caring towards the community
- realise the meaning of integrity and discipline
- be encouraged to think for him/herself
- co-operate with others
- appreciate the importance of achieving a sense of values about his/her own conduct in relation to his/her peers
- be challenged to aspire to the highest social, personal and academic standards possible.



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CURRICULUM

The curriculum constitutes all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes the formal requirements of the Framework for Children's Learning for 3 – 7 year olds in Wales, the National Curriculum 2008, the Skills Framework for 3 – 19 year olds in Wales, the Personal and Social Education Framework for 7 – 19 year olds in Wales and the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3 – 19 year olds.

Wales Curriculum Review 2008

The curriculum statement at our school takes account of the current requirements of the Curriculum Review for pupils aged 3 to 11. This is comprised of revised national curriculum subject orders, the Foundation Phase, personal and social education, the wider World, the non-statutory skills framework and religious education. Learners are prepared for life in the 21st Century and learn about food and fitness, education for sustainable development and global citizenship, which develops Welsh language skills and pride in the Welsh dimension.



The Skills Framework

The new curriculum focuses on the needs of learners with fuller attention to the development and application of skills in thinking, communication, ICT and number across the curriculum. Our pupils do not learn solely by a detailed emphasis on subject knowledge but by the acquisition of transferable skills and are prepared 'for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life'.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced as we aim to develop the many and varied talents of all our children. Our curriculum is focused on the development of skills within meaningful learning contexts. We provide an education that is fair and treats all children as equals. We use many strategies and approaches to ensure children are able to develop their talents and their awareness of the world.

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THE FOUNDATION PHASE FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING FOR 3 TO 7 YEAR OLDS

Currently the roll out for the Foundation Phases is as follows:-

- 1 August 2008 for all 3 to 5 year olds
- 1 August 2009 for all 5 to 6 year olds
- 1 August 2010 for all 6 to 7 year olds

From these dates the existing National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 is superseded. The Foundation Phase Curriculum spans four years and is based on the developmental needs of the child and their skills across the curriculum, building on their previous learning experiences.

The seven Areas of Learning are: -

- 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
- Personal Development
- Creative Development



*Religious Education is taught holistically within these areas

Children learn through first hand experiential activities, practising and consolidating learning through play. A greater emphasis is placed on the outdoor environment as a resource for children's learning. Having excellent outdoor facilities we have fully trained our experienced staff who support the learning of our younger pupils and are committed to positive partnerships with home.

All parents will receive information booklets and be invited to a parent's meeting prior to their child entering the Foundation Phase of education.

Transition arrangements

Arrangements are in place to ensure the smooth transition between the various phases of education. Nursery pupils will have the opportunity to visit the school prior to starting in September. Year two pupils will also visit the KS2 department on several occasions to become familiar with their new surroundings.

At age 11, pupils have the opportunity to transfer to either Pencoed or Y Pant Comprehensive for the English Department and to Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari for the Welsh Department. Every effort is made to ensure a smooth and happy transition to the Comprehensive School and this is achieved via a planned programme of events and meetings throughout the year. All necessary pupil documentation is passed on at each stage.

Assessment and Reporting Arrangements

Please see Insert

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CONTACT WITH PARENTS

Dolau sets great importance and value on a close and open partnership between school and home. This special relationship is a crucial factor in the success of every pupil and gives a firm foundation and strong support to individuals' educational, social and emotional development and progress.

ATTENDANCE

A high level of attendance ensures that every pupil can take full advantage of the wide educational, social and cultural opportunities that are offered within the school. These experiences enable every pupil to grow as a complete, confident individual. The school works very closely with pupils, parents and Education Welfare Officers to ensure that attendance patterns do not prevent pupils from developing academically and socially.

ADMISSION

The school follows the LEA Admissions Policy. Parents of pupils starting school or transferring are asked to make a preference for an RCT school. Details of the admission arrangements are published annually in the LEA booklet 'Starting School'. Children are admitted into school in the 3-11 year old age group, in accordance with the local education authority's admission policy. Parents may choose in which language their children are to be educated, either Welsh or English.

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

One of the main school aims is to ensure a caring, supportive ethos where each person is valued as an individual. To promote this, the school has well established programmes in place to support pupils that require additional learning needs. If a pupil is identified as having an additional learning need a personal plan is created and, following this, pupils are continually monitored and supported through various strategies and programmes. The school has a detailed policy for the implementation of the SEN Code of Practice.

DISCIPLINE AND SCHOOL RULES

We believe pupils learn best in an environment where they feel safe and respected. We promote positive behaviour and attitudes, self discipline, encourage pupils to feel good about themselves and a spirit of caring towards the community. Parents are requested to work in partnership with the school in encouraging correct attitudes to enable an effective learning environment to flourish. The school operates a Whole School Policy for Behaviour and Discipline for which all members of staff and pupils have a responsibility to uphold. School rules are agreed between staff and pupils, which are short and simple in order to be easily understood and followed. All pupils and parents will sign the Home/School Agreement.

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CHARGING AND REMISSION

Many educationally valuable activities take place during the academic year and they form an important contribution to class projects and themes, as well as to the personal and social development of pupils. Voluntary contributions from parents are requested to assist with the cost of such visits and activities as they arise. Activities can be liable to cancellation unless sufficient contributions are received.

WELL-BEING

All staff have a responsibility and concern for the pastoral care of pupils to ensure they are happy, safe and secure. The well-being of pupils is a partnership between school and home. It is essential that we have up-to-date information on telephone numbers, emergency contacts, changes of address and details of any medical conditions, including food allergies. We ask that you do not send your child to school if he /she is unwell. In the interest of safety, parents are asked to enter the school through the main gate and report to reception and adhere to the school policies on parking and road crossing. Please refer to Inserts regarding Bullying and Discipline Procedures.

DISABILITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our school is committed to ensuring equal treatment of all its employees, pupils and any others involved in the school community. Please see Inserts for further information.

ATTENDANCE / PUNCTUALITY

We believe at Dolau that a child should attend school fully and punctually at all times to get the maximum benefits from his/her education. Naturally there are times when a child will not be able to attend school due to illness and sending a child to school in such circumstances should be avoided at all costs.

We aim to account for the absence of all pupils and, therefore, we ask all parents to contact the school by telephone or letter on the first day of absence.

Attendance and punctuality are monitored daily and via the Education Welfare Services letters will be issued to pupils who are continually absent or arriving late.

If pupils become unwell at school parents/guardians will be contacted immediately. It is vital therefore that three up-to-date telephone numbers are provided.

We ask that parents try to avoid taking children from school for family holidays. If parents decide to take children out of school a request must be made in writing.

Medical appointments will also require written permission.

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