Ysgol MELYD



Prospectus 2023/24



Welcome to Ysgol Melyd Croeso i Ysgol Melyd

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Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. Most parents want a good education for their children but they also want them to be happy and to feel safe and secure. At Ysgol Melyd we believe we can offer all of these things. We pride ourselves on the wide, varied and full education we provide in throughout the school, and the high standards of teaching and learning are a credit to the hard work of both staff and pupils. Equally, we are also proud of the atmosphere of friendliness, happiness and co-operation, which is always evident.

Many visitors to the school comment on the warm welcome they receive and the politeness and positive attitude of our pupils. The inspection report of 2015 noted 'The school provides an exceptional range of worthwhile learning experiences that meet the needs of all pupils very successfully.'

We value our pupils and we believe that their time in school should be rewarding and fulfilling. Should you choose to send your child to Ysgol Melyd, I am fully confident that you will have made the right decision. I look forward to meeting you soon and if you have any queries or concerns please contact me at school at any time.

Yours Sincerely,

Dafydd Jones Head Teacher Pennaeth

Welcome from the Chair of the Governors

On behalf of the Staff and Governors, I am very pleased to present the School Prospectus.

The choosing of a school is the most important decision you will make on behalf of your child. Here at Ysgol Melyd we are very proud of our school and its achievements.

The Head Teacher, Staff and Governors are all committed to continue to build on those achievements in order to provide the best possible educational foundation for each and every child. We are determined that every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a safe and happy environment. This is reflected in our school motto which is "Happiness leads to success".

As well as a skilled and dedicated staff, the school has excellent facilities and superb grounds in a delightful setting. We offer a variety of sporting and other after school activities and clubs all intended to encourage the children to broaden their horizons, explore new opportunities and support a healthy lifestyle.

I hope that you will find this prospectus useful as an introduction to what Ysgol Melyd has to offer. You are very welcome to contact us to arrange a visit when we would be delighted to show you around.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Mr Neil Watts Chair of Governors

Our Mission Statement

We strive to ensure that Ysgol Melyd is a safe, nurturing and inspirational learning community, where all pupils are supported to do their best and enjoy their learning journey. We are committed to preparing every child to face challenges with confidence, work together with others and approach life with a smile on their face. We work in successful collaboration with parents and wider family members, other agencies, and our local schools as part of the Learn Prestatyn cluster of schools.



We all strive to keep our Prestatyn Promises, to make our school community a happy, safe and productive place to be.

School Curriculum and Ethos

We strive to provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment, where all the children are encouraged to develop as individuals, as well as recognising and respecting the needs of others. Whilst attention is given to the basic skills, we also try to instil a healthy attitude towards facing new challenges and to encourage our pupils to become life-long learners.

We aim to deliver a curriculum which is relevant, engaging, innovative, responsive and challenging.

The school will always aim:

- To provide a happy environment for the children and to encourage them to become well-mannered, considerate of others, show interest and pride in their school and be responsible members of society.
- To provide a curriculum which is broad in dimension and balanced as specified in our Curriculum for Wales.
- To help each child reach their potential by appreciating a range of individual needs and endeavouring to cater for them.
- To foster interest and engagement by following the interests of our learners.
- To provide opportunities that will broaden horizons, foster ambition and an excitement for learning.
- Developing a Welsh ethos in the school to encourage a love of Welsh culture and language, giving all learners a sense of pride in belonging to a wider Welsh community.

School Details:

We are a County maintained primary school catering for children aged 3 – 11 years, (including the Nursery Class).

Head Teacher:

Mr Dafydd Jones

Chairperson of the Governors:

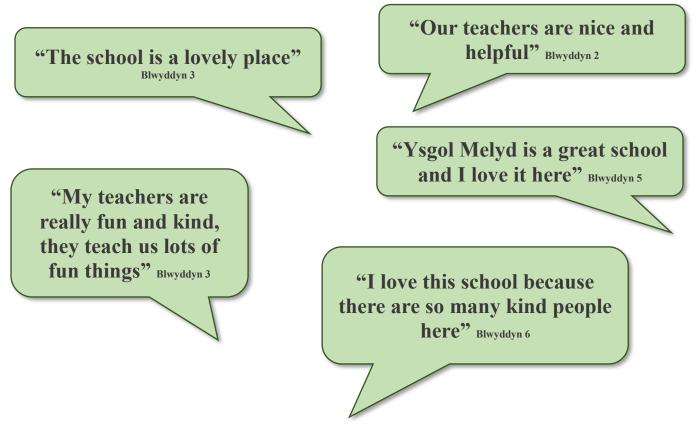
Mr Neil Watts

Numbers on Roll:

At present the full-time number on roll is 142. 11 Nursery children also attend on a part-time basis.

Some messages from our wonderful learners:

(Comments from Summer term 2023)



Our School Staff

Teaching Staff

Mr Dafydd Jones (Head Teacher, LAC Coordinator, Designated Safeguarding Lead) Mrs Lucy Lea (Deputy Head Teacher, Curriculum Lead, DSL)

Mrs L Mears (Foundation Learning Teacher, ALNCo, DSL)

Mr T Herd (Bl. 3/4 Teacher)

Miss M Roberts (Bl. 5/6 Teacher)

Mrs J Hobson (Foundation Learning Teacher)

Mrs N Moss (Foundation Learning Teacher)

Higher Level Teaching Assistant / Nursery Lead

Mrs J Richards (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
Miss A Ogden (Nursery lead)

Classroom Support Staff

Miss C Brayford (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs E McDonald (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs J Bubb (Teaching Assistant)

Miss K Mellor (Teaching Assistant/Social & Emotional Support)

Mrs C Miles (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs N Lee (Teaching Assistant)

Ms N Suckley (Teaching Assistant)

Administrative and Facilities Support Staff

Mrs L Galley (School Secretary)

Mr B Jones (School Caretaker)

Miss J Burgess (Cleaner)

Catering Staff (Managed by Denbighshire Catering Service)

Mrs Pope (Cook in Charge)

Ms. K Boyle (Catering Assistant)

Mrs L Hughes (Catering Assistant)

Midday Supervisory Staff

Miss J Burgess

Mrs D Beddow

Safeguarding, Safety & Security

Each child's welfare is at the heart of all that we do

Safeguarding

We take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously. We believe that the strong relationships and open communication we have with our children and families help us to keep our school community safe and enable us to identify issues at an early stage. All school staff are DBS checked and undertake annual safeguarding training, with school leaders also undertaking higher level training to enable them to take on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). All staff are able to record any concerns on a secure online platform called MyConcern, and DSLs are alerted to any new concerns raised.

We work closely with other agencies to identify concerns and refer to child protection services when appropriate.

All Safeguarding policies are updated regularly and available for staff and parents in both paper and electronic versions.

Wellbeing

We assess and track pupil wellbeing using PASS surveys, measuring and monitoring each child's attitude to school and self. Following these assessments staff teams will discuss the results and use the data to inform decisions about who might require pastoral and nurture interventions.

Security

For reasons of security all external doors or access gates are locked during the periods that the school is in session. Entrance into the school is only possible by way of the main entrance or pedestrian gate at these times and this is controlled by a buzzer system and CCTV. All visitors are required to report to the office on arrival. We have a photograph printing system whereby all visitors are then issued with a 'visitor' badge, thus helping to ensure the safety and welfare of our staff and pupils. Access for pupils/families is via the gate in front of the school. In the morning parents drop-off their children on the supervised school yard and then playground access gates are locked once all children are safely on site. Once all children enter the school at the beginning of the day the school doors and/or access gates are locked.

Parking and Safety

We encourage families to walk or cycle to and from school, however recognise that some families may need to travel by car. Along with the School Council we identified key hazards on the access road and encourage parents to drive and park safely at all times. The roundabout should be kept clear at all times for the safety of all, and the MUGA only used for staff or disabled parking. The school would also appreciate your assistance in reinforcing the road safety education we carry out at the school. Please encourage your child to cross all roads safely. No dogs are allowed on the school site at any time. We ask for your co-operation in this matter with the safety of your children being the prime consideration.

School Sessions

Morning Nursery

8.55 am - 11.35 am

All Year Groups (excluding Nursery)

8.50 am - 12.00 Noon

Foundation Learning

1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Blwyddyn 3 to 6

1:00 pm - 3.10 pm



School lunch arrangements

Pupils can either have a school lunch (Free to all year groups from January 2024) or bring in a packed-lunch from home. Foundation age pupils eat at the first sitting followed by older pupils.

Payments and contributions

Payments for trips and music lessons are done via ParentPay. If there are any issues with using the online service, we are able to offer a PayPoint option to parents. Please contact the school secretary for further details.

Positive Behaviour and Attitudes

At Ysgol Melyd we follow our 'Prestatyn Promises' to ensure safety, order, respect and sense of community. All pupils are expected to follow our values. We make every effort to be consistent and fair with everyone.

We teach personal and social skills for all pupils which includes behaviour, self-control, self-confidence and social skills. We strongly believe in developing and praising positive behaviours and this is reinforced through our School Dojo system. We teach our pupils that there are both positive and negative consequences for behaviour.

Pupils who do display inappropriate behaviours are initially given a verbal warning and encouraged to rectify their behaviour. A failure to do so (or for more severe behaviours), pupils will spend time with teaching staff on reflecting on their behaviour and making a plan for improvement.

Whilst we are trained as a KIVA School, we also use a range of other strategies to support children in challenging situations, and we consider our anti-bullying procedures to be of paramount importance. Pupils are taught about bullying during our 'Jigsaw' personal and social education lessons. We encourage a reflective and restorative approach and aim to intervene early to 'nip issues in the bud' whilst also allowing our children to develop resilience and the skills necessary to face and overcome adversity in the future.



Teaching and Learning at Ysgol Melyd

"Pupils take a very active role in their own learning and as a result, develop a very clear understanding of how well they are doing and what they need to do in order to improve." Estyn 2015

In accordance with the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales the school provides a broad curriculum covering key and curriculum skills. The curriculum offer is increasingly theme based covering all areas of learning and experience (AoLEs) as set out in the Curriculum for Wales. English, maths and digital skills are developed every day, both as part of topic themes, and as more discrete subjects. Welsh is used routinely throughout the school and elements may also be taught in all classes as a second language. Personal Development and Relationships Education is taught as through a comprehensive scheme of work, called 'Jigsaw', as well as through a range of activities throughout the school.

"I really enjoy school because we are a healthy school and do lots of different activities to be healthier and happier" (Leon)

Younger children are taught in line with Foundation Learning principles with child-initiated activities and collaborative play to the fore. Formal assessments are carried out at the end of Year 2. Nursery parents will be reported to on their child's development at the end of their first term at school.

Classes are organised into mixed years throughout the school, with numbers in particular year groups determining the mix in any particular class.

A varied range of teaching styles and strategies are employed, this includes whole class teaching, group work and opportunities for independent learning and 'continuous provision' in the Foundation Learning classes and 'Missions' in Years 3 and above.

Class sizes are a maximum of 30 pupils in Foundation Learning and 28 in Years 3 and above, with support from Teaching Assistants deployed according to the particular needs of the children. Classes from Reception to Year 6 are usually mixed age.

Pupil Voice

All children have real opportunities to influence the direction and 'focus' of their learning. This is through pupil voice at the start of the thematic planning process as well as through the choosing of missions and other classroom activities. Pupils from Class 2-5 are given the opportunity to be a class representative for the School Council. We consider 'pupil voice' extremely important and value the ideas and suggestions from our pupils in order to continue to enhance the provision at our

school. Working together with our pupils leads towards a happier, purposeful and enriched environment for all.

Recent examples of effective pupil voice have been the safer parking initiative with painted 'child-sized' figures placed on the access road to deter unsafe parking, to decisions about the spending of funds raised during sponsored events.

Foundation Learning

Children learn through a balance of first-hand experiential activities and carefully planned focused tasks. Through these experiences children learn to work independently and with others. First hand experiences allow the children to develop an understanding of themselves and of the world in which they live. The development of the whole child is at the heart of our Foundation Phase.

From Year 3 and above...

Children are given the opportunity to build on skills developed during the Foundation Phase. Increasingly they are expected to both work in groups, sharing their knowledge, skills and understanding with others, and also be able to work independently, with minimal adult support, facing and overcoming challenges. We plan collaboratively with other schools in the Learn Prestatyn partnership, providing a wide breadth of experiences and opportunities for our learners and ensuring an equitable offer in preparation for continuing their educational journey in High School.

Welsh Language and culture

Although the medium of instruction and the language of communication is mainly in English, Welsh is routinely used throughout the school and some elements taught as a second language to all classes. We are proud to have been one of the first schools in Denbighshire to have successfully achieved the Cymraeg Campus Bronze Award, and are now working towards our Silver Award. We hold regular 'Cymraeg' assemblies and take part in regular Cymreig cultural activities, such as the Jambori. The school strives to create a Welsh ethos so that children may be encouraged to identify with their country of birth or where they now live. A positive approach regarding Welsh and national identity is encouraged. Many signs and conversations around school will be in the medium of Welsh and children are encouraged to develop their use of the language throughout their time at Ysgol Melyd.

Physical Education

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to a wide range of sporting activities and an understanding of the positive effect that exercise has on the body. All children have P.E. each week and are encouraged to participate in 'pupil-led' playground games, directed and encouraged by our Year 6 Bronze Young Ambassadors.

The school regularly invites professional sporting coaches to provide extra sessions with pupils, enhancing their well-being.

Pupils are expected to arrive in school in their P.E. uniform (white t-shirt, black shorts/joggers, school jumper and trainers) on their scheduled 'P.E. Days'. No jewellery is permitted.

If there is a medical reason permitting a pupil from participating in the P.E. lesson, then a note must be sent into school to explain this.

Swimming

Pupils from Blwyddyn 3 to Blwyddyn 6 pupils attend regular swimming lessons at The Nova, Prestatyn. Parents are notified as to which half term their children will be swimming in. Towels and swimming costumes (no bikinis) and swimming shorts/trunks (no long, baggy shorts) are expected to be brought in for their swimming lessons. We kindly ask for a voluntary contribution towards the transportation of our pupils to the swimming pool and back (£3 per session to be paid via ParentPay).

Sports Partnership

Ysgol Melyd is an active member of The Rhyl and Prestatyn Sports Association. Each term, pupils have the opportunity to represent the school in a wide range of sports teams, such as; netball, football, tag-rugby, athletics, rounders and kwik-cricket. Our pupils thoroughly enjoy their visits to 'host schools', Rhyl Rugby Club, Prestatyn Cricket Club and to Deeside Athletics stadium.

SeeSaw

At Ysgol Melyd, we use the SeeSaw app to share your child's learning successes with you. Your child has their own personal SeeSaw account whereby their school work is uploaded, evaluated and improved, as necessary.

Teaching Time

Age 4-7: 21hrs per week Age 8-11: 23hrs per week





Additional Learning Needs

We are an inclusive learning community.

Additional Learning Needs and Learning Support

Through our interactions with children and/or through regular assessments we will identify some children who may benefit from some additional support or referral to a specialist service (e.g. Speech & Language). Such children may receive in-house support from our team of teaching assistants, access to additional resources in class, or visiting specialists. Usually this support is time-limited and is tailored to support the child in overcoming their particular obstacles to learning. These interventions are monitored by our additional learning needs coordinator (ALNCo) and adapted as appropriate.

For a small number of children, school staff, parents or other professionals may also suggest that a child may have additional learning needs and require additional learning provision. In this instance the school will determine if the child does in fact have additional learning needs, and whether they require additional learning provision. Such children are likely to fall under the Additional Learning Needs code and require an individual development plan (I.D.P.).

We pride ourselves in trying to identify as early as possible, if a child needs additional educational provision, and tailoring our learning offer to best meet the needs of that child.

The school may feel it is necessary to have a more detailed assessment by a suitably qualified professional from the Inclusion Department of the County Education Department, depending upon the need/support the school feels the child needs. At all times, in respect of the Additional Learning Needs provision, parental consent will be sought, and their permission obtained, for additional support to take place.

Mrs Elisabeth Mears (ALNCo) currently leads the additional learning needs provision within the school. The additional learning support will be subject to change, dependent upon pupil needs, staff availability and other factors.

In line with Welsh Government guidance, the school does not have an Additional Needs Policy, rather it follows the Additional Learning Needs Code. If parents have any queries regarding our provision for children with additional learning needs then we are always happy to have a chat.

More Able & Talented

More Able and Talented Pupils are identified by Class Teachers as a result of assessments and observations. More able and talented pupils learning is extended by being provided with tasks which deepen their understanding, extend their skillset and promote collaborative and independent learning skills. They are encouraged to research topics independently and make choices with their learning.

We also work in partnership with Prestatyn High School to provide a series of literacy and numeracy themed sessions for selected more able pupils, providing not only additional experiences and challenges but also a taste of what opportunities the next phase of their education may offer.

Looked After Children

Mr Dafydd Jones is the designated person with responsibility for Looked After Children. There is close liaison with the various counties involved and Mr Jones attends individual LAC reviews. The nominated officer for Looked After Children in Denbighshire is Eleri Parry, who ensures that children in Denbighshire have full access to appropriate education. We ensure as a school that such children are provided with opportunities and support to enhance their life skills and are able to maximise their attainment.

School Uniform

We expect all children to come to school looking smart and taking a pride in their uniform. Detailed below are the common expectations for all learners. Uniform can be purchased from a number of suppliers in the local area (1st Class Clothes in Prestatyn and Simply Logo in Rhyl are the major stockists).

- Black or dark grey school trousers/school shorts/skirt
- White polo shirt with school logo
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- White or black socks
- Black shoes
- PE Kit: White t-shirt, Black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms

If you are experiencing difficulty in sourcing or affording uniform please get in touch and I am sure that we can find a way to help. We also have a stock of nearly new school uniform which we can provide on request.

School Uniform FAQ

Can my child wear plain black trainers? Yes, as long as they do not have any markings, stripes, logos on them - totally black trainers will be acceptable. We would however prefer your child to wear proper school shoes. Not only do they look smarter, but they also offer greater protection to their feet.

Can my child wear jewellery? No, for safety reasons children should not wear jewellery to school. An exception may be made for a limited time if a child has recently had their ears pierced and needs to wear a small stud. Ideally these studs should be removed when the hole has healed. We reserve the right to put a sticking plaster over any ear-rings to avoid injury during physical activities. False nails and dangling ear-rings present a real danger to the wearer and others and must not be worn.

Can my child wear tracksuit bottoms to school? No, these would not be considered school uniform. If your child has identified sensory issues please contact the school to discuss.

Pupil Development Grant

How we spent the 2022/23 grant to support our learners

The purpose of the Pupil Development Grant is to improve the educational attainment of pupils from low-income families and who are entitled to free school meals (FSM).

As a school, we want to learn from the best practice in Wales and beyond by: 1. planning interventions that focus on improving the attainment of pupils from deprived backgrounds, regularly monitoring pupils' progress and evaluating the impact of the intervention.

- 2. integrating plans for the effective use of the PDG into the School Development Plan, basing our practice on sound evidence and including them as part of a whole school strategy.
- 3. balancing whole school strategies with targeted interventions to ensure that all learners entitled to free school meals benefit as individuals, whilst the whole school also develops its ability to support every learner to achieve their full potential.

In 2022/23 Ysgol Melyd were allocated a total Pupil Development Grant of £60950 to promote high expectations attainment and progress and to remove barriers to learning for pupils entitled to this funding.

We have used the funding available to:

- Provide opportunities for vulnerable learners to experience challenging activities, fostering the building of self-esteem, raising aspirations and building confidence in individual and collaborative situations.
- Improve the social and emotional support available to vulnerable learners
- Improve the attendance of our more vulnerable learners

Monitoring Progress in Learning

We aim to help the children understand that learning is a life-long process

Monitoring

The children's progress is monitored on an ongoing basis to indicate areas of success and next steps in their learning. Whilst the most important assessment takes place during the ongoing interaction between the learner and the class teacher, we also use adaptive reading, spelling and mathematics assessments throughout the year to assess the progress our learners have made and what their next steps should be. Samples of work are also kept showing progress and achievements, as are the results of any tests conducted. Parents are made aware of progress and achievement on a termly basis at open evenings and the end of year reports sent out at the end of the summer term.

Required records are then transferred to the appropriate high school when children leave to continue their secondary education.

Homework

The policy for our school is to set appropriate and relevant homework when necessary in addition to reading on a daily basis.

Homework will be set specifically to underpin class/topic work and where appropriate, will be geared to suit the pupil's individual ability.

We deem the setting of homework within our school, a necessary and integral part of the learning process for all children from Year 3 to Year 6, regardless of ability.

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are expected to read at home and we use the 'Boom Reader' app to record this.

Foundation Phase have their books changed weekly and Key Stage two pupils change their books on a daily basis or when necessary. Pupils in the Foundation Phase department take home key words which support the reading and spelling which takes place in school. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 typically receive homework on a Monday, to be returned to school on Friday.

"I really enjoy school, as I love learning new things. I especially love homework tasks as they keep me busy at home" (Aimee-Leigh)

Extra-Curricular Activities

We strive to provide equal opportunities for all children through our extra-curricular activities

School Clubs

We offer a wide and varied range of extra-curricular activities; ranging from Melydee (our school choir) to Dragon Sports, stich-and-sew, Digital Learners. These clubs enrich the experiences of the pupils within the school setting.

"We have great staff and I love Dragon Sports. We visit lots of inspiring places, such as Glan-Ilyn and Open Door Adventure" (Noel)

School Visits

Thought the year a range of school visits are undertaken. Parents are sometimes asked to make a contribution towards the costs although most activities are subsidised by our School Fund. A residential visit to attend Glan Llyn is arranged for pupils in Years 5 and 6 and other recent trips included visits to Danger Point, Jambori, Chester Zoo, Manor Farm, Rhyl Lifeboat Station, Open Door Adventure, Young Voices and many more.

Musical Instrument lessons

We welcome the Denbighshire Music Co-operative into our school and are pleased to offer musical instrument lessons to our KS2 pupils. Options include; drums, guitar and. The cost is available on request.

Home and Community Links

The school maintains and values our excellent relationship with parents

Home/School Relations

The school has always had a worthwhile and conscientious relationship with parents. Over the years, we have had extraordinary support and help in many related functions and fund raising activities that have been held. Parents and friends of Ysgol Melyd have, over the years, been enthusiastic and sincere in their efforts to support the school whenever they have been requested to do so.

Staff at Ysgol Melyd communicate frequently with parents via the popular Class Dojo app, enabling staff to share images and messages with parents. This enables

effective communication to take place rapidly and regularly between school and home - keeping everyone 'In the loop' with activities within the classroom and around school.

Miss Mellor is our family liaison link and is regularly in contact with parents, answer questions and offering advice and support as required.

A very warm welcome is extended to you all to join us in our efforts for the benefit of your child/children and all others concerned with Ysgol Melyd.

We are delighted that we have recently launched our school Parent Teacher association (PTA), who have already hit the ground running, helping to organise a Halloween Disco and Christmas Fair. If you want to get involved in the PTA please contact the school office on 01745 852782

Adult/Parental Involvement

The Staff/Governors of Ysgol Melyd welcome offers from adults/parents/guardians who would wish to involve themselves in the school. Anyone who feels they have a skill/talent which they feel could benefit pupils will be welcome to participate. Contact should be made with the Head Teacher so that suitable arrangements can be made.

All adults/parents/guardians who wish to involve themselves in the school will need to complete a Volunteers Form giving permissions to Denbighshire County Council to carry out a police check, to determine their suitability to work with young children.

Community/School Links

We endeavour to foster a relationship which is mutually beneficial. The school should be regarded as a resource to the community and vice-versa. We strive to accomplish this in varying ways, through shared activities e.g. celebrations – visiting the local church, hosting various community events and community projects such as the Chernobyl Film project, The Goods Shed Film Project and Little Tern Project. School centred activities include Book Fair, Christmas Fayre, Concerts, Discos, Summer Fun Day etc. We encourage and welcome the assistance of parents/families to help make the events a success.

We hope that you have found this prospectus useful; however, should you require further Information please get in touch with our school office and I am sure that we can quickly answer any queries you may have.

Mr Dafydd Jones

Pennaeth / Head Teacher Ysgol Melyd