



**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**

**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

# **Blackwood Primary School**

## **Prospectus 2023-2024**

**Address:** Apollo Way, Blackwood, NP44 1WA

**Telephone number:** 01495 224111

**Email:** [blackwoodprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:blackwoodprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.blackwoodprimary.org](http://www.blackwoodprimary.org)

**Twitter:** @Blackwood\_PS

# Croeso i'r Ysgol Coed Duon

## Welcome to Blackwood Primary School



Dear Parent/Carers,

On behalf of myself, the governors, the staff and the pupils, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Blackwood Primary School.

Education is a partnership between home and school and we truly believe that children learn best when parents/carers and staff at school work together.

We pride ourselves on being a community school and feel that strong communication with our families is paramount so that we can work together to meet the children's needs and interests. We encourage parent /carers to make us aware of any concerns or worries they may have straight away so we can work together to solve any issues that may arise. We have a dedicated email address for parent /carers to use so we can address any issues and provide the necessary support. Our experienced family liaison officer works tirelessly to support our families and is always ready with a listening ear on the telephone or a friendly face at a meeting.

I always feel so very privileged to work with such wonderful staff and children and feel encouraged that the welcoming ethos of Blackwood Primary School is recognised by those who visit and comment on the 'togetherness' of the team,

I am so proud of the children and with high expectations enjoy supporting them to grow into life long learners who are empowered to take control of their own learning in a nurturing environment where challenge is anticipated and celebrated.

I hope you find this information useful and I look forward to working with you and your child and your family.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs K Davies

Pennaeth *Headteacher*



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Mission Statement

**United we Empower, Nurture, Challenge**  
***Wrth Uno Mae'n Arfogi i Feithrin a Herio***

## Vision Principles

Blackwood Primary School is a nurturing learning organisation at the heart of the community which prides itself on an inclusive, engaging environment both indoors and out. The voice of every individual is valued and their individuality is encouraged to flourish. Everyone is supported to take ownership of their own learning so they are equipped to meet their full potential within a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

**Empower:***(having the confidence to build own futures)*

At Blackwood primary, all voices are heard, confidence is built so that ownership of futures are taken into life and work.

**Nurture:***(a community that fosters positive relationships)*

At Blackwood primary a safe, supportive and secure environment is established so that trust and positive relationships flourish.

**Challenge:***(reaching full potential)*

At Blackwood Primary all members of the community maximise potential through the INSPIRE Curriculum, ensuring there is constant improvement.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Principles into Practice - Our Aims

We, at Blackwood Primary School

- Create a happy, caring and safe environment that will stimulate staff and pupil learners to reach their full potential.
- Provide a stimulating and enriched curriculum that includes fun, inspirational and innovative learning and teaching experiences that meet the needs of the whole school community.
- Create a nurturing environment where all learners secure high expectations of behaviour through promotion of positive values, trust and respect.
- Engage with the local community and organisations, to develop a culture of collaboration to inspire our learners to become valued citizens of Wales and the World.
- Develop ambitious, capable learners who can apply knowledge and skills confidently in a range of contexts and real-life situations.
- Secure high standards through engaging, motivating and challenging all pupils and staff.
- Ensure all pupils have a voice in their learning, school plans and their futures and become independent thinkers and decision makers.
- Work effectively to establish a strong partnership between home and school supporting every child in achieving their potential.
- Ensure that the whole school community has a voice in the improvement of the school.
- Immerse all pupils in a Curriculum that promotes Welsh values and cultures to ensure that they are ready to be citizens of Wales.
- Ensure every pupil has equal access to the vision of the school.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## School Information

School Address	Blackwood Primary School, Apollo Way, Blackwood, Gwent. NP12 1WA
Telephone Number	01495 224111
Twitter	@Blackwood_PS
Email address	<a href="mailto:BlackwoodPrimary@Sch.Caerphilly.Gov.Uk">BlackwoodPrimary@Sch.Caerphilly.Gov.Uk</a> <a href="mailto:mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org">mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org</a> - parent/carers only
Website	<a href="http://www.blackwoodprimary.org">www.blackwoodprimary.org</a>
Head Teacher	Mrs K. Davies
Local Authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG
Telephone	01443 815588
Director of Education	Mr Richard Edmunds
Chair Of Governors	Mrs C Ashcroft
Vice Chair of Governors	Mr R Wilkes
Educational Welfare Officer (EWO)	Mr I Penrose



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

# Staff

## Senior Leadership Team

### Headteacher



Mrs K Davies

### Deputy Headteacher



Miss G Jones

### ALNCo



Mrs K Lohmus



Mr R Dyer



Mrs R Phillips



Mrs S Shand



Ms R Walters

## Nursery



Mrs K Nicholls



Miss R Blanchard



Mrs N Humayra



Mrs R Price



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Reception



Mrs L Cooper



Miss L Samuel



Mrs K Cooper



Mrs H Golding



Mrs C Brennan

## Year One



Mrs K Shuker



Miss L Gait



Mrs E Thomas



Mrs K Gardiner

## Year Two/Three



Mrs K Lohmus



Mrs S Davies



Mr T Davies



Miss L Fisher



Mr G Jones

## Year Four



Mrs S Shand



Miss E Davies



Ms R Walters



Mrs K Morgan



Mrs S Roberts



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Year Five



Mr R Dyer



Mr R Turner



Mrs S Murphy



## Year Six



Mrs R Phillips



Miss K Kinsey



Mrs K Jones



Mrs S Jones

## PPA Staff & Family Liaison



Mrs J Hiscott (Family Liaison)



Mr C Grandin

## Admin Team



Mrs S Bradford



Mrs C Veater



Mrs K Barber



Mr Hook (Caretaker)



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Catering Staff



Mrs Levi

Mrs Davies

Mrs Silcox

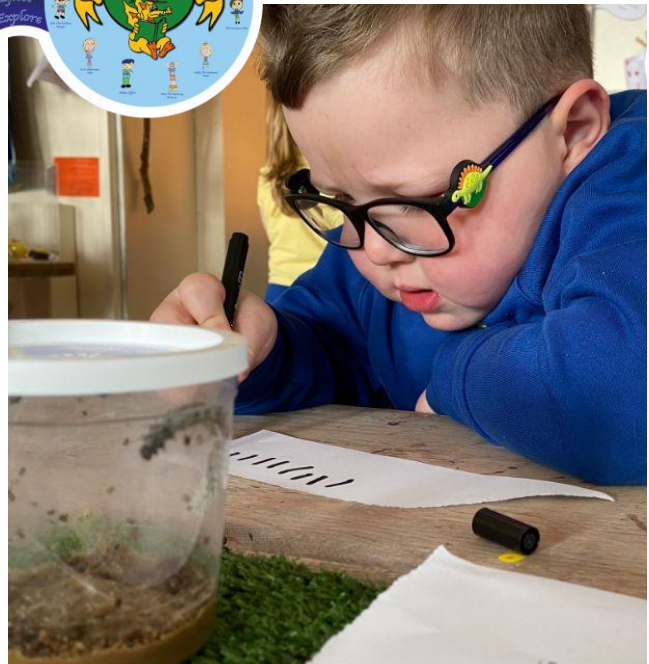
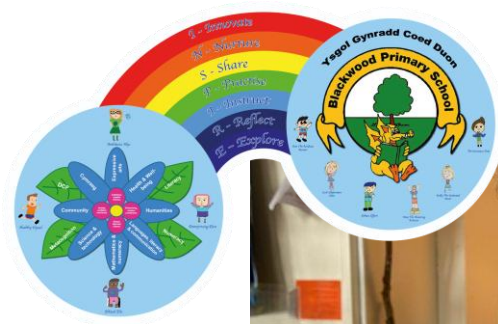
## Lunchtime Supervisors



Mrs Davies

Mrs Jones

Mrs Carroll



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Governors

Chairperson:	Mrs C Ashcroft
Vice Chairperson:	Mr R Wilkes
Appointed by CCBC:	Mr P Diamond, Mrs C Milton
Community Representatives:	Rev A Baker, Rev H Rees
Parent Representatives:	Mr M Conant, Mrs A Osborne, Mrs A Jervis-Watkins, Mr C Owen
Headteacher:	Mrs K Davies
Teacher Representatives:	Ms H Davies, Mrs K Lohmus
Non -Teaching Representative:	Mrs K Morgan
Clerk to Governors:	Mr L John
Non- Voting Members:	Miss G Jones - Acting Deputy Head Teacher



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## School Session Times

	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Nursery	8:55 - 11:15	12:40 - 15:00
Reception - year 3	8:55 - 12:00	13:00 - 15:00
Year 4	8:55 - 12:35	13:20 - 15:00
Year 5	8:55 - 12:50	13:35 - 15:00
Year 6	8:55 - 13:00	13:45 - 15:00

All gates around the site are opened at 8:45 where staff are available to greet the children. Staff at the main gate have clipboards to take messages if required. Alternatively you can email [mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org](mailto:mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org).

The gates are closed at 8:55 promptly. If for any reason your child arrives after this time they will need to report to the main office where the admin team will record your child as late on the register.

The school day, for all children, finishes at 15:00. Children from nursery to year 5 MUST be collected from school by an adult and should be collected from the classroom door. Children in Years 6 may walk to and from school without an adult, if you so wish, however, this will need to be agreed in writing beforehand.

Please inform the class teacher if your normal arrangements are changed.

During school hours, children are not permitted to leave the school site. If your child needs to leave school during school hours, parents must report to the school office.

### Break Time Arrangements

Children throughout the school have continual indoor/outdoor access throughout the day. In addition all children access the outdoor areas during their morning break time and lunchtime. Please ensure that your child has a coat so that they will be comfortable whatever the weather.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Breakfast club, Snacks and School Meals

### Breakfast Club

The Local Authority organises a free Breakfast Club service for children in Reception to Year Six. This begins at 8:25 am, the main school entrance is used for breakfast club pupils. Breakfast club staff take a register each morning and are responsible for your children until school begins at 8:55. If you wish your child to attend Breakfast Club, you must complete an application form, these are available to families via parentmail in September. If you require an application form mid year please speak to the office.

### Snacks

We are a 'healthy school' and promote healthy snacks. Children are allowed to bring a small snack of fruit or cut up vegetables, no other snacks are permitted. In order to ensure the health and safety of specific individuals within our school NO nuts or products containing nuts will be permitted.

Each year group have their own kitchen area and therefore are able to provide snacks for pupils. If you wish for your child to take part in this provision please send in £1 weekly to cover the costs of the fruit and vegetables.

### Drinks

Research shows that our brains need water to stay active and alert. All children are encouraged to bring water into school daily, in a labelled, spill-proof plastic bottle that they can take home at night to rinse and refill. Children are able to access fresh water throughout the day and are encouraged to drink regularly. As a healthy school, we ask that children do not bring in squash or fizzy drinks for consumption throughout the school day.

As an alternative to water, free milk is available for pupils in nursery to year 2 during their mid morning break.

### Lunchtime

At Blackwood Primary we value the time that we get to socialise and interact with others in a less formal setting. Lunchtime is an opportunity for pupils to engage with each other, whether they have school lunches or bring a packed lunch from home. School staff and midday supervisors care for the children during this time and will encourage all pupils to eat their meals, interact with each other and ensure sensible behaviour in the hall and outside.

From September 2023, all pupils from reception to year 6 are entitled to free school meals.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

# Academic Calendar

## Academic Year 2023-2024

	Term Starts	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn	Friday 1st September 2023	Monday 30th October 2023 - Friday 3rd November 2023	Friday 22nd December 2023
Spring	Monday 8th January 2024	Monday 12th February 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024	Friday 22nd March 2024
Summer	Monday 8th April 2024	Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024	Friday 19th July 2024

## INSET Days

Our **National Mission** is to achieve high standards and aspirations for all children and young people. The introduction of Curriculum for Wales alongside significant reforms relating to children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN), and an emphasis on equity in the education system to ensure that all learners are given the opportunity to achieve their best, have changed the landscape of the education system in Wales.

As outlined in the National Professional Learning Entitlement, Blackwood Primary School support the professional learning of all staff to further develop reflective, enquiring and collaborative education professionals and a culture of mutual responsibility in relation to professional learning. Time allocated to INSET is used effectively to develop staff within the context of schools as learning organisations.

The INSET sessions at Blackwood Primary School may take place on the school premises, off site via a variety of online mediums, or using prior worked Twilight sessions. Professional learning for staff is linked to school priorities as detailed in the school development plan as well as covering the mandatory training required.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

INSET sessions in 2023/2024 will focus on the further development of the Curriculum for Wales through our INSPIRE curriculum and further work towards the ALN reform and well being and equity procedures and practices.

### INSET days 2023-2024

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 22nd December 2023

Friday 3rd May 2024

Friday 14th June 2024

Monday 17th June 2024



## School Uniform

School uniform helps pupils to feel part of our Blackwood Primary Family. Our school uniform helps to identify our pupils when representing the school in the community or on visits. It supports positive behaviour and keeps us safe. For example, if an incident occurs, the pupil could be easily identified. Wearing a school uniform removes the pressure of deciding what to wear and the stigma of wearing branded clothes. We have considered Article 2, 12 and 13 of the Rights of the Child when writing our school policy. We ensure that all pupils can have an option of what to wear and they also have a say in the uniform choices. Article 2 states that every child has the right to not receive any kind of discrimination, regardless of their race, gender, religion, and colour. *Pupil Leadership Team May 2023*

Following Welsh Government guidance, the purpose of this school uniform is to:

- provide a sense of identity, community and cohesion within the school.
- support positive behaviour and school discipline.
- ensure pupils dress appropriately for learning activity.
- remove peer pressure to dress in particular fashions.
- enable pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

- help reduce inequalities between pupils and help reduce some triggers for bullying.
- benefit safeguarding and attendance policies through helping to identify truants.
- assist identification of strangers on school premises.
- support and promote the ethos of the school.

### School uniform:

- Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan (school badge optional).
- Yellow polo shirt (school badge optional).
- Shirt or blouse in pale blue (no logos or stripes).
- School tie.
- Grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or pinafore dress.
- Blue or yellow gingham dress.
- Black, white or grey socks or tights.
- Black footwear.

### PE kit:

- Blue, grey or black shorts, jogging bottoms, leggings or skirt.
- Blue or yellow round neck t-shirt (school badge optional).
- Blue hoodie (school badge optional).
- black plimsolls or trainers.

### Forest School/outdoor learning:

- Wellington boots

Please note that children will undertake outdoor learning in inclement weather. Please provide a suitable coat for these occasions.

Please note that school provide waterproof clothing when learning outdoors in wet weather.

### Jewellery/hair/make up

Children may wear small 'stud' type earrings and a watch (any smart features must be disabled during school hours). School will not take responsibility for any jewellery or watches that are lost or broken. This is the only jewellery allowed to be worn by all children within school. Children must remove all jewellery before they undertake physical activity sessions. If ear piercing is still healing, studs may be left in place to avoid risk of infection, however, parents must provide tape to cover studs for PE sessions.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

# Information

## Attendance

For a pupil to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents or carers and pupils. Every opportunity will be used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers, the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

Children are expected to attend school every day, punctually, every day the school is open, unless the reason for absence is unavoidable such as illness. Equally, parents have a legal duty and responsibility to ensure that their children attend school on a regular basis. If your child is absent, the school must be notified as quickly as possible. Messages can be left on the school telephone or sent to [themainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org](mailto:themainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org).

In the case of infectious diseases, children should remain at home for the given time as advised by your GP or the school. Absence without an acceptable reason will be regarded as unauthorised. Medical appointments should be made out of school hours or during school breaks. If this is unavoidable, the appointment must be reported to the school prior to the appointment day.

In cases of persistent absence and poor punctuality the Headteacher is required to inform the Local Authority Education Welfare Service. In some cases, the Local Authority will impose a fine on parents for their child's non-attendance at school.

## Additional Learning Needs

In line with the Welsh Government ALN Act we aim to identify children who need extra provision as early as possible and ensure that appropriate provision/intervention is provided to meet their needs. Our school has an ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator), Laura Browning. The role of the ALNCo is to liaise with class teachers, teaching assistants, outside agencies and families to ensure suitable provision is provided for identified pupils. Provision is provided for children in line with the ALN Act at the following levels:

- Universal
- Targeted
- Specialist.

All pupils have a One Page Profile which will outline how best to support their needs within the classroom. This will be written by the class teacher with input from parents and reviewed annually. They will be given targets that will be reviewed twice a year in January and July. If it is felt a child needs targeted or specialist provision, a further discussion may be needed to write a School Based Individual Plan (IDP).

## Complaints

Our school is committed to dealing effectively with complaints. We aim to clarify any issues about which you are not sure. Any queries relating to your child's education or general issues about school should in the first instance be discussed with your child's Class-teacher.

In practice almost all issues can be resolved speedily within the school. If possible we will put right any mistakes we have made and we will apologise. We aim to learn from mistakes and use that experience to improve what we do.

Our definition of a complaint is 'an expression of dissatisfaction in relation to the school or a member of its staff that requires a response from the school.' The Governing Body follows the guidance of the Authority in adopting complaints procedures. A copy of the school's complaints procedures are available at the school, or on our website, if you feel your complaint needs further investigation.

This complaints procedure supports our commitment and is a way of ensuring that anyone with an interest in the school can raise a concern, with confidence that it will be heard and, if well-founded, addressed in an appropriate and timely fashion.

## Extra Curricular Activities

We offer a range of after school clubs. Some clubs are age specific and will be limited to maximum numbers for health and safety reasons. Please note these activities must not be relied upon for childcare as they are run by staff and may be cancelled.

## Admissions

Children are admitted to the school in line with the admission policy of the Local Education Authority.

Admission applications to gain a Nursery or School place at Blackwood Primary School are to be completed online via: [school admissions](#)

## Transition

We have arrangements in place to support the transition of children into our school throughout the year, including a visit and tour of the school.

All schools in the Blackwood Cluster have worked closely together to devise a very effective transition programme involving visits by Year 6 pupils to Blackwood, along with events for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils at Blackwood.

We also have procedures in place to ensure the smooth transition from year group to year group through opportunities to meet new teachers and to explore their new learning environments.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

We encourage children to talk about their learning and interests with their new teaching team.

### Charging and remissions

The school's educational provision and most of the activities organised by the school are financed via funds received from Caerphilly Council. There are, however, valuable educational experiences that cannot be provided by the school without financial support from parents. Where a visit occurs during school time, a voluntary contribution to enable the visit to take place may be invited. Activities for which voluntary contributions are sought may be cancelled if the cost to the school is not adequately covered. Contributions may also be requested for visiting workshops to support areas of learning and experience. If you have any difficulties regarding payments please see a member of staff as soon as possible we will do our very best to support you.

The Governors expect that parents will pay towards the cost of repairing or replacing school property – books, furniture, fittings, etc. damaged or defaced as a result of their child's unreasonable behaviour. This also applies to any school property that is lost by a child.

### Parental Involvement and Engagement

At Blackwood Primary School we believe that our children's education is based on a positive partnership between home and school. We believe that parents take an active role in their child's education. We continue to work with our community and families to actively participate in the life of the school.

Meetings and workshops may be held for parents throughout the year, offering information on areas such as the curriculum, e safety, new initiatives, and advice on how you can support your child at home.

We have an established Parent Teacher Association group (F@B) who meet on a regular basis to organise events and activities for our pupils. These activities include things like Coffee Mornings, Summer Fetes and Tip-Top Fridays. All money raised from these events contribute to enrichment experiences for our pupils.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

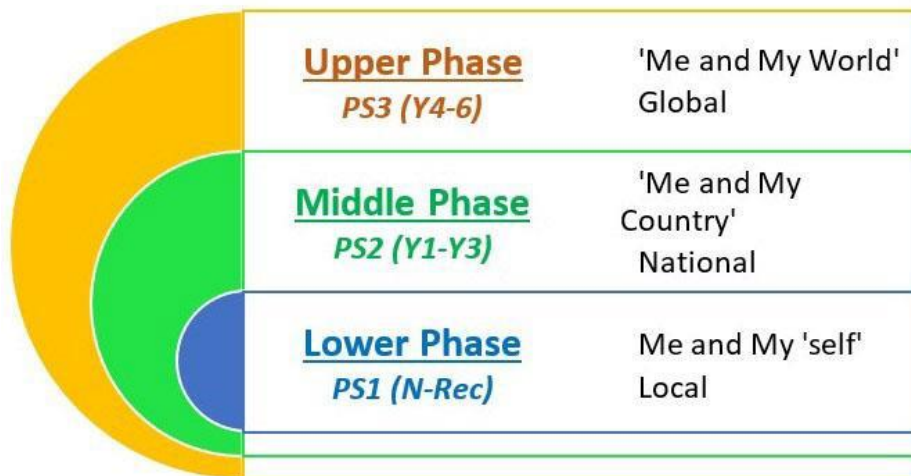
**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

# INSPIRE Curriculum

## Our Inspire Curriculum Vision

The curriculum for Wales is driven by the four purposes, and just as they are at the heart of learning in schools, our Inspire curriculum at Blackwood Primary School (BPS) has been designed to empower pupils to take ownership over their learning, while nurturing the development of their core skills and knowledge through a challenging and exciting curriculum and experiences. Our curriculum has been driven by the Four Purposes and statements of What Matters as outlined in Curriculum for Wales.

Our Inspire curriculum is built using a clear thematic and structured approach in which pupils are able to learn and grow within the context of the four purposes and the learning defined at a national level. It provides the space for pupils and staff to be creative and to develop meaningful learning through a range of experiences and contexts that meet the needs of all pupils.



In recent years we have reviewed and developed our methods of planning, teaching and learning in light of Welsh Government recommendations and implemented changes to the curriculum and pedagogy. We have begun our journey following many of the recommendations from Successful Futures, with a focus on metacognition, independent learning, assessment for learning and pupil voice (influence). Through our Inspire curriculum we plan Authentic Learning Goals in our thematic approach, while incorporating the LNF and DCF.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**



Staff work collaboratively with learners using the “Flower” to develop the Authentic Learning Goals and enable our pupils to 'blossom'. Planned curriculum skills are shared with pupils using pupil influence to generate ideas and decide on the context for the skills they will be developing. This gives pupils a sense of empowerment and fulfilment, encouraging them to engage fully with the learning experiences. The Authentic Learning Goal is at the centre of focus throughout encompassed by the Four Purposes, the national curriculum skills to

be taught (from the AoLE's) and finally the National Literacy and Numeracy framework, the Digital Competence Framework and metacognition which underpins all aspects of the children's learning. This allows learners and staff to be innovative, while ensuring necessary coverage and skills progression within each AoLE and cross-curricular framework.

## Pupil Parliament / Senedd y Plant

Pupil Voice permeates all aspects of Blackwood Primary School. It is really important that children in our school are listened to and valued. Each year we have a democratic election where children from Years 2-6 are elected as members of our Pupil Voice groups. Pupils show they are ready to take on leadership roles and responsibilities and play an active part in improving school life for everyone.

Our Senedd members ensure that the views of all classes are taken into account in decisions that affect them.

Our Senedd is made up of 12 groups: It is the responsibility of Senedd members to share their opinions, and those of their classes, to improve and enhance school life for all. These leadership roles are important for sharing information with the school community and for ensuring all pupils' voices are heard. Each group has an Action Plan and regularly shares their aims and achievements with the School Community through Assemblies and Newsletters.

## Professional Learning Vision & Approach

At Blackwood Primary School, professional learning (PL) is at the centre of our approach to pedagogy and curriculum development. PL is designed to be a personalised response to individual professional and learners' needs, taking into account their experience, expertise and aspirations. All stakeholders in the school have greater autonomy on new skills and approaches to teaching.

Through our whole school approaches to regular professional learning, we look to empower staff and develop our understanding of accountability in line with a shared vision for the staff and pupils at Blackwood Primary. This enables us to foster a true culture of enquiry and learning, establishing a growth in leadership in line with professional standards and National expectations. By developing a culture of sharing good practice and improving pedagogy we continue to develop our Inspire curriculum to meet the needs of all learners at Blackwood Primary.

## The Four Purposes at BPS



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**



Our Four Purpose Champions designed by pupils at BPS

At Blackwood Primary School we have developed our Four Purpose Champions to help pupils understand how they can apply these skills to their own everyday learning experiences. The Four Purposes prepare our children to be:

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

Pupils regularly refer to the four purpose champions and are able to discuss the characteristics of each with increasing confidence and pupils use digital videos with stories about the champions to support their understanding of how they can be developed across the curriculum.

### Bilingualism

At Blackwood Primary School all pupils use and speak English as their first language and therefore this forms the basis of our teaching and learning, alongside our formative and summative assessment processes. However the school recognises the need for all pupils to develop communication, reading, writing and oracy skills in Welsh while becoming aware of other International languages appropriately. As a result we strive to use both English and Welsh as a second language throughout the school. Welsh language can be seen and heard at Blackwood Primary through classroom signage, assemblies, songs, displays as well as indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

### Learning Characteristics

In addition to helping pupils realise the Four Purposes, we also seek to empower our pupils to become ambitious, resilient and capable learners who not only seek challenge, but are able to persist and overcome the challenges they may face in everyday life. These are vital at BPS in ensuring our pupils understand not only what they have achieved, but also how they can achieve



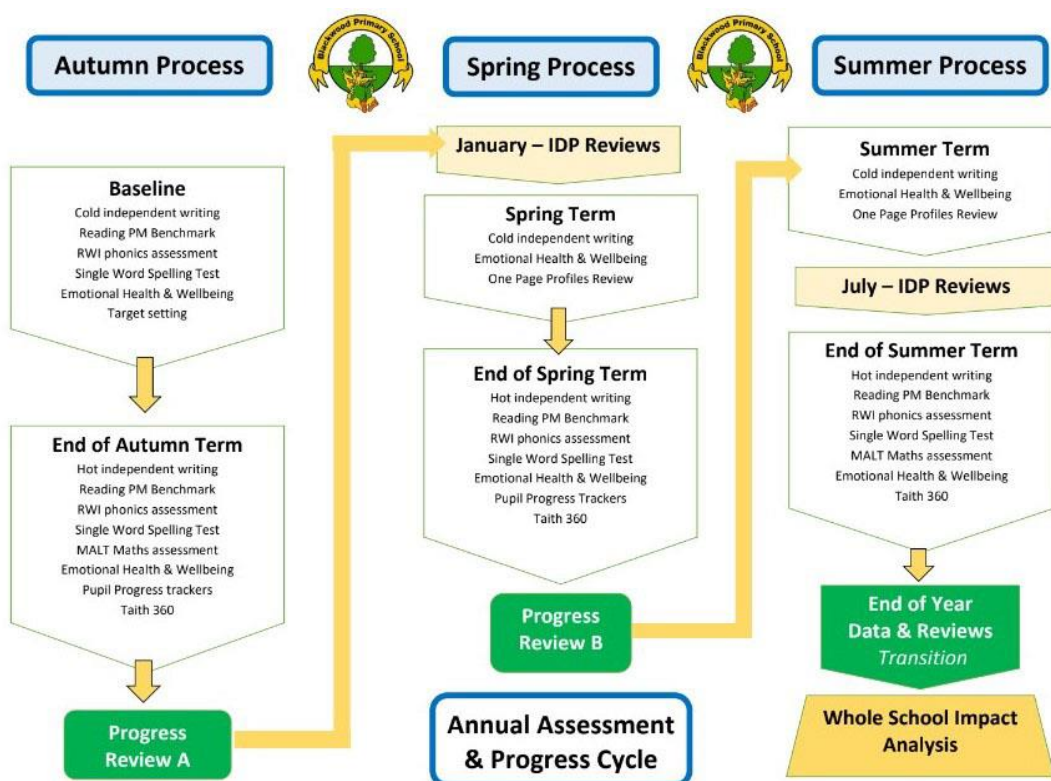
**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

even greater things when they apply these characteristics effectively.

As a result, at BPS pupils use the Learning Characteristics across the curriculum to help them celebrate their successes, while identifying ways they can improve and further apply their learning on a daily basis. Our six learning characteristics are:

- Resilient Ron
- Collaborative Chloe
- Perseverance Pete
- Motivated Molly
- Amy the Amazing Achiever
- Ethan Effort



## Supporting Pupil Progress: Assessment & Provision

At Blackwood Primary school we have continually developed and refined our assessment processes with our pupils' progress at the heart of everything we do. Our annual assessment cycles ensure that we gain a clear understanding of where every individual is now, where they have come from, and how they are continuing to make progress in their learning. Our cycles take place 3 times a year and the processes enable staff to frequently identify which pupils are making expected progress, along with those who may need additional support, adapting our provision continually to suit the needs of all pupils and 'not leave anyone behind in their learning'.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

It also enables pupils to understand where they are in their own learning, giving them opportunities to be involved in target setting while reflecting upon the progress they have made, taking responsibility for their own development. Detailed records and tracking of each learner take place, with all staff having a shared understanding on the impact consistent and accurate assessment will have on pupil progress. Our formative and summative assessments allow us to celebrate and identify our pupil's strengths while also enabling staff and pupils to identify:

- 1) *Where pupils are in their own learning*
- 2) *Where pupils need to improve*
- 3) *How they will get there & what barriers they might face*

### Putting Principles into Practice

- Provide rich, meaningful, age appropriate learning experiences which empower, nurture and challenge our learners;
- Enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- Develop learning skills and provide opportunities to practise and refine them;
- Meet the needs of all individuals through the use of resources, support, time and task;
- Embrace new technologies and local and national initiatives;
- Foster children's confidence and self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- Develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- Show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- Enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- Help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens;
- Provide a varied, balanced and evolving curriculum that celebrates individuals learning styles whilst promoting stimulating, lively, enquiring minds and a natural curiosity about the world in which they live;
- Allow individuals to develop their confidence and self-discipline, in order to become independent learners and thus initiate a lifelong love of learning



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**



## Physical Development, Health & Wellbeing

Physical Development is statutory within our curriculum and is a key component of our Health & Wellbeing learning to help pupils understand what it means to have a healthy, balanced lifestyle. We aim to provide and celebrate many sporting opportunities for our pupils, along with weekly lessons and extra-curricular clubs supporting physical development for all pupils. All staff are committed to supporting our pupils to participate in regular physical activity including the use of the outdoor environment. Activities including tennis, football, rugby, gym, dance, swimming and adventurous pursuits (residential) are some of the ways we ensure our pupils access a broad, balanced curriculum at Blackwood Primary School.

## Religion, Values & Ethics (RVE)

Religion, Values and Ethics is mandatory within our curriculum in Wales for all learners aged 3 to 16. RVE is also decided at a local consortium level, and as a result, in addition to adhering to the Curriculum for Wales Framework Guidance, we also have regard to the locally Agreed Syllabus for RVE when designing our Inspire Curriculum. From September 2022, there will be no parental right to withdraw children from RVE.

While parents are unable to remove their children from the teaching of the RVE curriculum, they may request their child does not take part in collective worship as this sits outside the RVE curriculum time. This collective worship is mainly of a broad Christian nature and has its own legal standing. Parents who wish for their child to not participate must contact the Headteacher in writing.

## Values

When you walk around our school it is clear that we have a caring, kind and well-mannered team (pupils, parents, governors and staff).

The staff and pupils have decided on a set of values that we would like to focus on each month. This ensures that all our pupils, even the youngest ones understand why they are behaving a certain way and also prepares us for life in the outside world.

Cooperation	Courage	Tolerance	Caring	Patience
Respect	Creativity	Honesty	Trust	Perseverance
Happiness	Friendship	Positivity	Compassion	
Ambition	Reflection	Healthy	Fairness	
Independence	Hope	Thoughtfulness	Freedom	

## Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE)

Welsh Government states that:

*'RSE is a positive and protective part of the Curriculum for Wales. It plays a central role in supporting learners*

*'rights to enjoy fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives.'*

At Blackwood we believe that curriculum built around children's rights, dignity and freedoms is essential in developing well-rounded healthy individuals. As a result our RSE curriculum provides the knowledge, skills and values for children to understand how aspects of relationships and sexuality shape their own and others' lives, equipping them with the skills to grow and feel nurtured yet empowered in knowing who they are. We also use the mandatory RSE Code to support the content of RSE across the school.

'The content is set within the context of broad and interlinked learning strands:

- relationships and identity
- sexual health and well-being
- empowerment, safety and respect'

*'The Curriculum for Wales – Relationships and Sexuality Education Code 2021'*

RSE is mandatory and all children will receive this as part of our Inspire Curriculum at BPS. There will be no right to withdraw from RSE from September 2022.

## Homework

At Blackwood Primary School we believe that homework is an opportunity for children to build on what they have learned, and consolidate skills outside of the school day. We know that being at home with family is an extremely important time, and for this reason we do not make homework compulsory, but offer a range of tools online to support home learning.

Pupils are never to be criticised for not completing homework and are also able to access a range of extra-curricular and local clubs. At Blackwood Primary we support pupils in attending local clubs and spending time with their family and friends, as this is vital in becoming a healthy and



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

confident young person.

It is important that we provide opportunities for pupils to challenge themselves every day, while also teaching children how to 'switch off' and enjoy being sociable with their family and friends!

## Health and Safety

We aim to ensure that children are safe and secure at all times. The school adheres to the guidelines outlined by Caerphilly County Council regarding Health and Safety in Education. Any health and safety concerns are reported to the Headteacher. Regular visits from the LA Health and Safety Officer provide support to monitor and review any health and safety issues. Where appropriate these issues will be brought to pupils' attention via assemblies and class discussion.

Regular fire drills are undertaken and the school is equipped with appropriate safety equipment. Risk assessments have been undertaken on potential hazards and educational visits.

Visitors MUST report to the school office where they will be asked to sign in and wear identification provided if working in and around the school. All staff have a DBS check, this includes contract workers.

The school site is secure throughout the school day. It is monitored by CCTV cameras, 24 hours a day.

Pupils are NOT ALLOWED to use the play area or equipment left outside classrooms at the beginning and end of the school day

### Parking

The entrance to the school car park is used for entry and exit by pupils for the morning and afternoon sessions. Therefore it is inaccessible for vehicles during this time. Due to this, the car park is for the use of staff only.

It can be very busy around the school during the start and end of the school day, please be mindful for the safety of pedestrians and be considerate when parking near to the school.

### Accidents/Illness in School

Basic first aid is given at school when necessary by qualified First Aiders. Should your child become unwell or have an accident in school and we feel that he/she would be more comfortable at home then we shall do our best to contact you. If we are unable to contact you then we shall keep your child in school until the end of the session.

If an accident needs hospital attention we will make every effort to contact parents. We ask parents to ensure all contact details are kept up-to-date so that we can contact you in an emergency. With any head injuries it is always our policy to inform parents. All injuries are recorded.

## Medical

Medication will only be administered in school in accordance with the Welsh Government guidance document: Access to Education and Support for Children and Young People with Medical Needs. Please inform school of any medical condition or allergies. School will liaise with medical professionals to ensure that any medical care plans written by a healthcare professional are followed.

If your child has an allergy and has been prescribed an EpiPen please let us know. All staff receive annual EpiPen training.

If your child has been prescribed medication, it is usually possible to meet the prescription requirements by parents giving medicines just before the start of the school day and immediately after. Alternatively, if your child needs a prescribed medicine within the school day, please arrange for an adult to call into school to administer. No medication is to be sent into school with children other than labelled, in date asthma inhalers.

## Valuables

Children are strongly advised not to bring valuables to school. As a school, we cannot take responsibility for any items that are lost, damaged or stolen. Mobile phones are not allowed in school. However, if a Year Six parent feels that it is imperative that a pupil brings a mobile phone to school as they walk home on their own or a child has a transition between two homes, phones will be stored securely in classrooms during the school day, following a pre-arranged written agreement.

## Accessibility

The school building has facilities to accommodate disabled children and adults. We are committed to inclusion and full access to the curriculum and all aspects of school life for all children. Occasionally Health and Safety issues demand that some exceptions be made. In these instances each case is looked at very carefully on an individual basis and suitable differentiation is negotiated. A full risk assessment will be taken prior to admission.

## No smoking

The school has a strict NO SMOKING policy on the whole site. This applies to vaping as well as cigarettes/cigars.

## Dogs

Please note that dogs are NOT ALLOWED on the school site.

## Conduct

Any person using inappropriate language within the school grounds will be requested to leave.

# Behaviour

At Blackwood Primary School we believe that good behaviour and discipline are essential conditions for effective learning and teaching.

It is essential to maintain a well-ordered and safe environment for all our learners which is supported by everyone's commitment to ensuring the good behaviour of all.

All staff and pupils are expected to behave in a sensible and responsible manner at all times. They are expected to achieve this by showing due consideration, courtesy and respect for all members of the school community, as well as personal and public property.

## School Rules

The School Rules are defined by three short statements: **Ready, Respectful, Safe.** These rules are displayed in all classroom areas and prominent areas around the school and referred to frequently by pupils and staff alike.

## Rewards

The emphasis must always be to encourage positive behaviour rather than to criticise inappropriate behaviour and rewards have a major role to play in this. We encourage and reward positive behaviour by implementing various stages of reward as outlined below:

- Using verbal praise and awarding stickers. This is instant, motivational and helps children to realise that good behaviour is valued. This is also reflected in the statement we make when marking work.
- Partner teacher reward – children are sent to other adults in the school to receive recognition of good work, though this should be done without disturbing the teaching of those classes
- Send to Phase Lead for award
- Celebrations in award assembly
- Send to Head Teacher for award
- Communicate with parents via parentmail



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

## Consequences

Children need to understand the consequences they could face if they choose not to comply with the school rules. Sanctions/consequences for rule breaking are displayed in every year group as part of the class charter.

To promote consistency of practice across the school the following steps are followed in every class.

- 1<sup>st</sup> verbal warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> verbal warning = Reflection time 5 minutes away from group
- Continuing to not comply with rules = time in partner class (5 mins)
- Further failure to comply = member of SLT to support

## Well Being

### Safeguarding

Blackwood Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and protection of all children and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We acknowledge that children have a right to protection and this is supported in the general ethos of our school.

The school's safeguarding policy applies to the whole of the school's workforce, along with volunteers, governors and any contractors working on the school site.

Staff recruitment and selection includes procedures to ensure staff have been appropriately DBS checked for their suitability, using the Safe Recruitment procedures.

We work in partnership with outside agencies to safeguard children.

When there are concerns it may be necessary to make a referral to Children's services. All staff undertake safeguarding training that equips them to recognise and respond to child welfare concerns. These concerns are then passed to the; Designated Child Protection Officer : Mrs K Davies (Head Teacher) or in her absence Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers : Mrs G Jones or Mrs J Hiscott.

They follow strict guidelines on how to deal with any concerns as set out in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

The nominated Governor for Child Protection is : Mr P Diamond

## Children who are looked after

We work in partnership with Caerphilly County Council, and other local councils, and as corporate parents we have a duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children. We aim to provide a safe and secure environment, where there is belief in the abilities and potential of all children, including those who are looked after. We support our Looked After Children and give them equal access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and to enjoy learning. Miss G Jones is the designated person responsible for promoting the educational achievement of Looked After Children

## Equality and Inclusion

The Governors, Headteacher and staff promote equal access to all areas of the curriculum for all pupils, regardless of race, gender, ability, disability, faith and cultural background. The school has clear policies in place and are committed to providing equality and an inclusive education. All children have equal access to all activities and support is available to ensure this. We encourage respect for all within the school and the wider community.

## Anti Racism

Blackwood Primary School is an anti-racist school and we are committed to addressing racism in any form. We aim to work with our children and community to be actively anti-racist as we do not believe that not being racist is enough.

The school is committed to race equality by promoting positive approaches to difference and fostering respect for people of all backgrounds. The school is opposed to all forms of racial prejudice and discrimination. Language or behaviour that is racist or potentially damaging to any ethnic or racial group will not be tolerated and will be challenged. The Local Authority requires us to record and notify them of all equality related incidents in order for them to monitor incidents across the county.



**Blackwood Primary School**  
**Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."**  
**"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**