

GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS 2024-25



Every Child Matters, Every Day Counts

Headteacher/Prifathro
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YSGOL GYNRADD STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Dear Parents/Carers

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

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

We strive to improve and very much welcome feedback from families to ensure that we continue to provide the best for our pupils.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs K.Manley
Headteacher

GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

EVRY CHILD MATTERS, EVERY DAY COUNTS

George Street Primary School
Every Child Matters, Every Day Counts



P	Positivity
R	Respect
O	Opportunities
M	Motivate
I	Independence
S	Safe
E	Equity



OUR AIMS

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

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

OUR VISION

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

It is our desire to make a positive difference to children's lives by valuing them as individuals as well as teaching them important values that we hope will remain with them throughout their lives.

Our George Street curriculum embodies four core purposes: ambitious, capable learners; enterprising, creating contributors; ethical, informed citizens and healthy confident individuals. Authentic experiences are important to the children of our school, we strive to provide these daily, whether through play, independent learning, focus teaching tasks, forest school activities or trips.



STAFFING

Teaching Staff

Mrs K Manley	Acting Headteacher B.A. (Hons) with QTS, NPQH
Mrs S Ralph	Acting Deputy Headteacher B.Ed.(HONS), M.A. (SEN)
Miss S Bodger	B.A. (Hons), PGCE with QTS, M.A. (Education)
Mrs L Davies	B.A. Ed (Hons) with QTS
Mrs N Davies	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Mr G Edwards	B.A. (Hons), PGCE with QTS
Mrs T Field	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Mr J Keir	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Ms S Larcombe	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Mrs G Lloyd	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Miss E Main	B.A (Hons), PG Cert, PG Dip
Mr N Taylor	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Miss H Thomas	B.A. (Hons), PGCE with QTS
Ms H Williams	B.A. (Hons) with QTS
Miss C Woods	B.Sc with QTA

Learning Support Staff

Mrs C Brooks	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs A Jones	Higher Level Teaching Assistant / Outdoor Learning Leader
Mrs D Pearce	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Preston-Watkins	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs A Simons	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Fisher	Higher Level Teaching Assistant B.A. (Hons)
Mrs S Goss	Cover Supervisor
Mrs M Morgan	Cover Supervisor
Mr A Cook	Teaching Assistant
Mrs B Chauhan	Teaching Assistant (<i>Thive practitioner</i>)
Miss T Evans	Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Evens	Teaching Assistant
Mrs J Fellows	Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Hemms	Teaching Assistant (<i>Thive practitioner</i>)
Mrs C James	Teaching Assistant
Mrs T Jones	Teaching Assistant
Miss C Miller	Teaching Assistant
Ms C Price	Teaching Assistant
Ms L Ridout	Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Smith	Teaching Assistant (<i>Trauma Informed practitioner</i>)
Ms J Treadgold	Teaching Assistant (<i>Thive practitioner</i>)
Mrs C Tudgay	Teaching Assistant (<i>Emotional Literacy Support Assistant</i>)



Draft Staffing Structure 2024-25

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT): Ken Marley (HT), Sue Ralph (Acting DHT), Karen Morgan (SSCO)

MIDDLE LEADERSHIP TEAM (MLT): Jane Kerr (Curriculum), Sara Bridger (Professional Learning), Christina Woods (Inclusion),
Geness Lloyd (P&M), Nathan Taylor (LLC, English)

EARLY YEARS TEAM		YEAR 1&2 TEAM		YEAR 3 & 4		YEAR 5&6 TEAM	
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Nia Davies	Hayley Williams	Christina Woods O.B	Sara Bridger	Gavin Edwards	Tracy Field	Sarah Larcombe	Nathan Taylor
Argharad Simons	Jane Kerr	Domenique Pearce Toes PPI+ Fii	Domenique Pearce Wed	Tara Jones	Trace Evans O.B	Geness Lloyd	Hannah Thomas
Carol Evans	Sharon Chauhan	Nicola Muggleton	Jayne Fellows	Domenique Pearce Toes AM + Thurs	Larissa Davies		Clare Brooks
Adam Cook	Chloe Miller	Lisa Davies	Lynne Fisher	Ellie Mann	Songa Goss		Jake Treadgold
Chloe Price		Claire Tudguy	Piel Morgan	Lisa Smith			Lugh Redout
		Sally Hewes	PPW				Carlene Jones
							Karen Jones
Alexandra Jones							
Outdoor Learning lead (PP)							
Karen Jones GT support							
Melissa Preston-Watson							
PE lead (PP)							

Local Authority Support

Mrs K Jones

Gypsy Traveller Teaching Assistant

Administrative Staff

Mrs K Morgan

School Senior Support Officer

Mrs E Ayres

Clerk, Office and Admin Support

Mrs M Kennedy

Clerk, Office and Admin Support

Home School Liaison Officer

Mrs D Mollaney

Site Manager

Mrs S Donoghue

Midday Staff

Mrs A Hopkins

Senior Supervisor

Mrs J Edwards

Mrs S Karagulle

Mrs R Scriven

School Cook

Mrs M Rose

Crossing Patrol

Mrs A Hopkins

Education Welfare Officer

Ms H Kethro-Moore

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

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

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

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

The following are members of the Governing Body:

Acting Headteacher

K.Manley

Chairperson

Mr D James (Community Governor)

Vice-Chair

Mr E Hopkins (Community Governor)

Parent Governors

Mrs B Woodgate
Mrs J Kitson
Mr A Moorman

Staff Governor

Mrs M Preston-Watkins

Teacher Governor

Mrs G Lloyd

Local Authority Governors

Mr M Boucher

Community Governor

Rev A Richards-Clarke
Mrs A Joliffe

ADMISSION AND TRANSFER



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

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

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

ATTENDANCE

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

We place a high priority on securing good attendance as it is fundamental to pupils' happiness and progress in school.

Every Monday we review attendance which is shared with all staff, pupils and parents/carers.

We are aiming for 95+% attendance for the whole school.

As a further incentive we run attendance Golden Time when we aim to reward attendance for meeting our target.

Strive for 95+%

Attendance	Impact on learning
100%	0 weeks of learning missed
95%	1 week 4 days of learning missed
90-94.9%	10 + days of learning missed
90% and below	3 weeks 4 days of learning missed

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

Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

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

Absence from school will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Parents and carers are strongly encouraged not to take children out of school for holidays during term time. Unless exceptional circumstances are evident and the absence agreed by the Headteacher, it will be deemed unauthorised.

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

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) will be issued as part of our strategy to bring attendance back in line with our pre-Covid figures. It is essential to strive for excellence. FPNs will be issue as a last resort.

However, if there are no underlying reasons for school unauthorised absences then the FPN process will be followed. Fixed Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate when:

- At least 10 sessions (5 school days) are lost due to unauthorised absence during the current term. These do not need to be consecutive;
- Unauthorised absences of at least 10 sessions (5 school days) due to holidays in term time or delayed return from extended holidays; or
- Persistent late arrival at school, i.e. after the register has closed, in the current term. "Persistent" means at least 10 sessions of late arrival;
- Truancy, where the pupil has come to the attention of the police or public during school hours for being absent from school, without an acceptable reason.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL: ENVIRONMENT & HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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



There are a number of additional teaching areas including independent learning areas, kitchens, woodwork areas, class libraries, sensory room, forest school areas, resource rooms and a range of intervention rooms.

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



THE CURRICULUM

Curriculum for Wales has four core purposes. We aim to develop these within learning to develop the pupils for their future ventures and opportunities.

These are for pupils to become:

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

We aim to provide our learners with authentic, holistic opportunities within their learning. We aim to provide learners with a range of 'real life' opportunities that will be enjoyed thoroughly. Through pupil voice, pupils engage in the planning and evaluation of their learning across all Areas of Learning Experiences (AoLEs).



Language, Literacy and Communication

Literacy, Welsh language and engagement with a Modern Foreign Language.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Number, shape, data and measure, finance

Science and Technology

developing Science, Design Technology, ICT and STEM opportunities.

Expressive Arts

Music, Drama and Art

Health and Wellbeing

Physical, personal, social and emotional development

Humanities

Geography, History and RE

Assessment and Progression

The purpose of assessment is to support each individual learner to progress at an appropriate pace, ensuring they are supported and challenged accordingly. To do so, the Curriculum for Wales states that we assess for three key reasons to:

- support individual learners on an ongoing, day-to-day basis
- identify, capture and reflect on individual learner progress over time
- understand group progress in order to reflect on practice

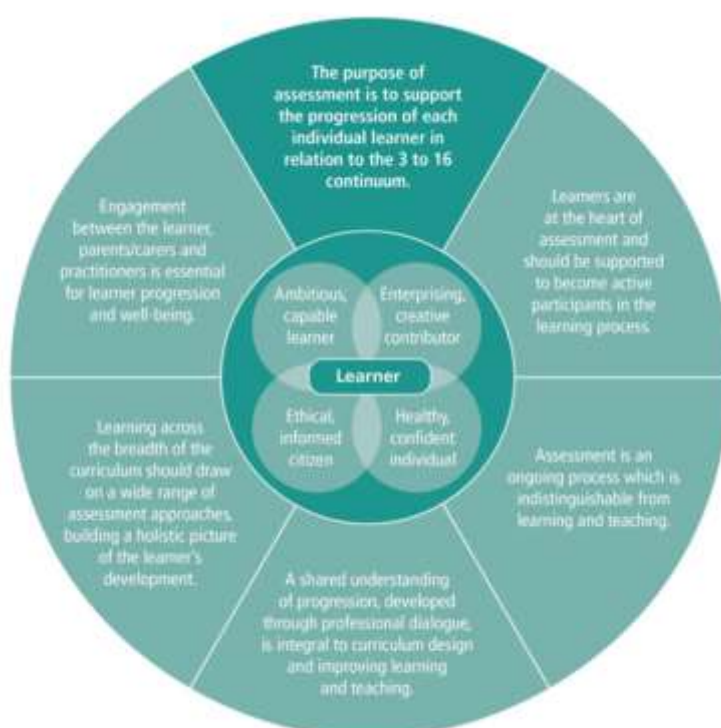
To enable this approach to assessment, aspects of the current arrangements that do not support the ethos of Curriculum for Wales will be removed and new requirements will be introduced to ensure that supporting learners to make progress is at the heart of assessment going forward. As part of this, practitioners can build on and further develop assessment methods that are already in use to support learners to progress on an ongoing, day-to-day basis, and look to develop new strategies.

Working within the Curriculum for Wales framework, this change recognises that schools/settings are best placed to design the most appropriate curriculum and assessment arrangements for their learners and their contexts. We are moving away from nationally required teacher assessments as part of a nationally prescribed curriculum.

Parents/carers have an important role to play and we actively engage with you so we can support learner progression in an appropriate way.

We enable parents and carers to:

- engage regularly with school in order to understand and support their child's progression in learning
- share relevant knowledge and understanding with school, which will support their child's learning and progression
- respond actively to information provided about their child's learning and, in collaboration school, plan ways of supporting that learning within and outside of the school by attending parent consultations twice a year and reviewing the end of year school report



Physical Development

All pupils access physical development. This includes physical play sessions in our outdoor classroom areas, gymnastics, dance, athletics, games and swimming.

We offer extra-curricular activities such as football, cricket and netball. We are proud to hold the Active Marc Cymru recognising excellence in the teaching of PE.



The Daily Mile

Pupils participate in a 'daily mile', encouraging health and fitness with dedicated time for every child to walk, jog or run at least a mile every day.

Coastal School and Forest School

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



We also have two Forest School areas on site that is enjoyed by all classes in regular visits. Children engage in a wide range of activities to learn about risk and challenge and to experience nature first hand. They also have the responsibility to attend to our school chickens.

Welsh

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

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

Cwricwlwm Cymraeg promotes Welsh Heritage and Culture and underpins many curriculum areas. We encourage pupils to identify strongly with their Welsh background.

We are very proud of our current Bronze status for Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus



Religious Education and Collective Worship

Through statutory RE lessons we provide children with an understanding of the values and beliefs of a range of different faiths. George Street Primary is a community primary school and celebrate all faiths and traditions.

Class assemblies are held to provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on events around the world. Pupils' efforts are frequently celebrated during a weekly Seren yr Wythnos (Star of the Week) assembly. Children who receive certificates join the acting headteacher on our Star Table at lunchtime.

Any parent who wishes to exercise their right under the 1988 Education Reform Act to withdraw their child from assemblies or RE lessons are asked to contact the Head teacher in writing.

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is a statutory requirement in the new Curriculum for Wales framework and is mandatory for all learners.

Statutory guidance (2022) in relation to RSE is published under section 71 of the Curriculum and Assessment Act 2021 (Wales). It is designed to assist those responsible under the Act to design RSE as part of the curriculum. It sets out the themes and matters that must be encompassed for learners from 3 to 16 years.

Our school policy and curriculum have been developed in line with Welsh Government statutory guidance and legislative summary and aligns with the Equality Act 2010.

More information can be found on our website:

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/4354/growing-up-booklet-2018.pdf>

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A wide range of extra-curricular clubs are available throughout the year such as:

- Forest School
- Singing
- Netball
- Football
- Choir
- Welsh
- Digital Leaders
- Drawing Club
- Construction
- Film Club

There is a capacity of 30 children per club. Club leaders send forms to all parents/carers which need to be completed if interested. A text to confirm your child's place will be sent. Clubs run on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 3:15pm to 4:00pm.

Additional Learning Needs

Details relating to individual children are discussed with parents prior to the child starting school to ensure that the school can fully plan and prepare for a smooth transition into school life.

We have adopted the ALN Code of Practice as our ALN policy. Pupils' needs are identified by the class teacher and the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo), in collaboration with parents/carers and outside agencies where applicable. Those pupils who are identified as having an ALN will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP), written by the ALNCo in collaboration with all adults involved with the child. If necessary, the school may involve other outside agencies such as the Educational Psychology Service, The Hearing and Visual Impairment Services, Speech Therapy, as well as a range of NHS services such as Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

All reasonable adjustments are made to the environment and teaching and learning activities to ensure that children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are not disadvantaged. They will have access to support in line with the Local Authority policy, as and when needed.

The school ensures that any parent with a disability will have equal access to all events and communications, and that reasonable adjustments are made as appropriate.

Please refer to the ALN section on our website for further information or contact the school office to arrange an appointment with our ALNCo, Mrs Ralph.

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/our-school/aln-information/>

Social and Emotional Support

At George Street, we pride ourselves with the social and emotional support interventions we have on offer. These interventions support children with their emotional health, well-being and social skills, all of which are needed in order for learning to take place.

Within our school we have:

Thrive practitioners

Trauma Informed School practitioners

Emotional, Literacy Support Assistants

All children have access to personal and social education lessons using the Jigsaw programme. Jigsaw, the mindful approach to health and well-being, for ages 3-16, is a comprehensive teaching programme for Personal, Social and Health Education.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

As a Rights Respecting School, children's rights are actively promoted and realised by both learners and adults alike. This means that children's rights are at the heart of our school. Following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ensures that the whole school community works together to create a safe and inspiring place to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. Through specific Rights of the Child lessons, assemblies and Human Rights education, pupils gain a strong understanding as their responsibilities as 'Rights Holders' and 'Duty Bearers'.

Home Learning

Parents/carers can help greatly by assisting and encouraging children to continue their learning at home. We strongly encourage parents to spend time recapping basic skills children need throughout their lives, such as reading to and with your child, spelling, number work and life skills.

There may also be times when teachers encourage topic work to be completed at home. All homework suggestions can be found on Parent Planners on our website. Links to these planners are also sent to families via our text messaging service.

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/parent-zone/parent-planner/>

Home learning is discussed at parent meetings throughout the year.

Inspection

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

THE SCHOOL DAY

Times Of Sessions

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

	Day begins at	Day ends at	Access via
Nursery	9.00 / 12.45	11.30 / 3.15	Conway Road/School Lane
Reception	8.50	3.05	Conway Road/School Lane
Year 1	8:50	3.10	Conway Road/School Lane to playground
Year 2	8.50	3.15	Conway Road/School Lane to playground
Year 3	8.50	3.15	Drop off zone / Front ramp
Year 4	8:50	3.10	Drop off zone / Front ramp
Year 5	8:50	3.15	Front steps
Year 6	8.50	3.10	Front steps

Pupils should not arrive more than 10 minutes before the start of the school day unless attending Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club starts at 8:30am and pupils should arrive promptly as entrance gate is closed at 8:35am.

Staff are at entry/exit points during drop off and pick up times.

Gates will remain open and attended until 9.05am. Parents/carers arriving with pupils after 9.05am will need to go to the main office. A member of staff will come to meet you and admit your child.

Arriving/Leaving School

It is the parents, carers, or guardians responsibility to ensure that pupils arrive safely in school and are collected from school.

To ensure school security, all gates will be locked at 9.05 a.m.

Parents, carers, or guardians are also asked to ensure that they park appropriately outside school and do not park on the restricted areas outside the grounds (yellow zig zag area) and do not double-park.

Parents, carers, or guardians are encouraged to walk their children to school whenever possible. There is a link path from the cycle way to school which provides safer access for children than the narrow pavement on Wainfelin Road.

Leaving School At The End Of The Day

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

LUNCHTIME

All children of primary school age can receive a free school lunch every day.

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

We would encourage you to allow your child to have school lunch, but if you wish for your child to have a packed lunch from home, we encourage you to send in healthy food. Fizzy drinks, energy drinks or foods containing nuts are not permitted. Treats should be kept to a minimum.

HEALTHY SNACK

All children are welcome to enjoy a healthy snack at snack time/break time.

Children in Early Years pay £1.50 per week for their healthy snack. This money needs to be paid via our **CASHLESS** system. Details on how to use the cashless system are provided to all parents separately.

Children in Years 1 to 6 are invited to bring in snack from home. No sweets, chocolates, crisps etc. are permitted at break.

DRINKING WATER

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

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

MILK

The Welsh Government provides free milk for all pupils from Nursery to Year 2. If your child has a milk allergy please inform the school.

OUT OF HOURS PROVISION

An independent out of hours **After School Club** is run at George Street by Isobel Yacomen. Details of how the club runs can be obtained from Isobel on 07889 346348. There is a charge for this facility. The sessions run from 3:15pm to 5.30 pm.

Wraparound for Nursery

Nursery pupils can access either morning or afternoon wraparound provision until 3.15pm. There is a charge for this service, more details can be obtained from Isobel Yacomen on 07889 346348

SCHOOL UNIFORM

There is an expectation that children wear school uniform. The wearing of uniform gives pupils a sense of identity, gives status to the school and encourages pupils to dress neatly and wear

suitable clothing. Uniform removes peer pressure to dress in particular fashions and enables pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identify.

We aim for uniform to be as affordable, functional and easy as possible. Branded items are not compulsory, and we have arrangements in place for parents/carers to access preloved uniform (please contact the school office). Trac2, based in Trevethin, also has a wide variety of pre-loved uniform and PE kits. Non-branded uniform can be purchased from most supermarkets.

Should parents/carers wish to purchase branded items, our local outlets for school uniform with the George Street Primary School logo are:

- 'Pretty Miss' www.Kidsschoolkits.co.uk
- Ruck Um Maul Sports www.ruckummau.sports.shop

Uniform Items

Grey/black trousers, shorts and/or skirts/dresses

White polo t-shirt

Red sweatshirt or cardigan

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

Clothing for PE/Forest School

Our PE uniform is made up of a blue T shirt and black shorts and must be worn to school on your child's PE day. Children will need to wear suitable footwear for PE lessons.

Tracksuits may be worn in cold weather.

Children will need to bring wellies to school, in a labelled bag, for Forest School sessions.

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

Jewellery

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

No other body piercing is permitted.

TELEPHONES

We understand that many children in Year 5/6 walk home and may need phones for their safety. For this reason, phones must be handed over to staff on entry into the school and will be handed back at the end of day. Staff will not be held responsible for any damage or loss of phones. When children are in school, the staff have full responsibility for them and therefore all communication should go through staff.



SMOKING/VAPING

We would like to remind parents, carers, or guardians that the entire school grounds and school building are designated no smoking/vaping zones. It is illegal for any person to smoke inside the school building.



DOGS

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

EQUALITY

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



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

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

Pupils with Disabilities

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



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

The governing body will ensure that employees:

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

SAFEGUARDING

George Street Primary School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of every child in school. This means staying alert to possible signs of abuse. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

Children may suffer:

- physical
- emotional
- sexual abuse
- neglect.

Schools are well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. These signs may give cause for concern. They are not in themselves proof that abuse has occurred.

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

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

ALL INCIDENTS INCLUDING STAFF MEMBERS SHOULD REPORT TO:

The named designated senior person: K.Manley

IN THEIR ABSENCE, ALL INCIDENTS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO:

The named deputy designated senior person: S.Ralph
D. Mollaney

IN THEIR ABSENCE, OR AGAINST THE HEADTEACHER, ALL INCIDENTS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO:

The named safeguarding governor: M.Boucher

Torfaen child protection: 01495 762200

The school always aims to maintain a positive relationship with all parents. The school's safeguarding policy: <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/4363/safeguarding-policy-sept-2023.pdf>

HEALTH AND WELFARE

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



Accidents or Illness at School

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



Medical/Dental Appointments

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

Medicines

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

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

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

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

Headlice

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

Visits by the Medical Services

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

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

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

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

TRANSITION

Starting Nursery (part-time only)

Children are eligible to start Nursery in the September after they turn three. If the school has places, some pupils may start the term after they turn three. (January or April start for Rising 3s). A Nursery place is offered on a part-time basis and is considered educational provision. Therefore, all children must be fully potty-trained before taking up their place (unless children have a specified additional need or disability). Prior to starting Nursery, arrangements will be made for a welcome visit for children and parents before the child starts as well as a home visit.

Starting School (Reception – full time)

Children are eligible to start full time school in the September after they turn four. Prior to starting Reception, arrangements will be made for a welcome/transition visit for children before the child starts. Home visits for new pupils are arranged.

Transition within Primary School

Each year, before your child enters a new year group, they have the opportunity to meet their new teacher during 'Move Up Day'. Current and new teachers discuss the progress your child has been making, any additional needs and other relevant information before the beginning of a new academic year.

Transition to Secondary School

Children make the transition to secondary school in the September after they turn eleven. Our cluster Secondary School is West Monmouth Comprehensive and most of our pupils transfer there at the end of Year 6.



During the summer term, Year 6 pupils make transition visits to their chosen secondary schools. Most pupils currently transfer to West Monmouthshire Comprehensive School although some may go on to Abersychan or St. Albans.

Online applications for secondary school are made in the autumn term in the previous year.

George Street is part of the West Mon cluster and shares a close partnership with the school. From early on in key stage 2, George Street pupils participate in workshops at the school and parents/carers are also invited to the school to meet the headteacher, to look around and to have questions and queries answered. School records and assessments are forwarded to secondary school by us to ensure continuity in pupil's education. Enhanced transition meetings are held for pupils with additional needs.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

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



The development of self-discipline is seen as a partnership between home and school. We feel confident that we can look forward to the support of all parents/carers in this matter. At George Street pupils are encouraged to co-operate with teachers and other children, to show respect to others as well as property, be kind and helpful. Staff in school always manage behaviour in a positive way and provide consistent guidance about our expectations.

PARENT/CARER PARTICIPATION

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

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

Class events are held throughout the year for parents/carers to enjoy.

PARENT AND TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

All parents/carers are invited to join George Street's PTA.

The objective of the PTA is to support parents and the community to fund-raise, organise events for pupils and support school events. The PTA are always looking for new members. If you have any questions about becoming a member, please see the school's website:

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/parent-zone/george-street-primary-pta/>

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to sign up to the website to receive regular reminders about events, activities and unexpected notices. www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk

The school also has its own X (Twitter) account. Many of the year groups also have personal Twitter accounts keeping you up to date with daily class activities.

Twitter Account: @georgestreetpri

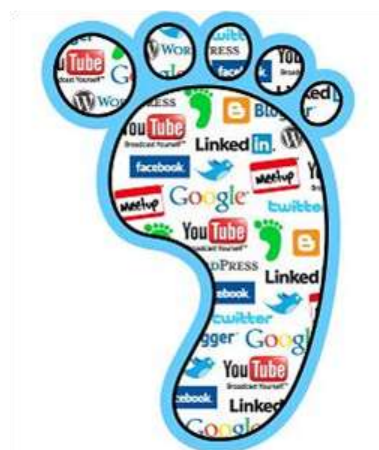
Please use the following email address for routine queries e.g. term dates, cost of trips etc. and we will endeavour to reply to you within two days: office.georgestreetprimary@torfaen.gov.uk

School sends regular updates via our text messaging service. Please ensure we have your correct phone number.

Safe and appropriate use of Social Networking Sites

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

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



Expectations of parents and carers can be found on our website:

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/4362/expectations-of-parents-and-carers.pdf>

TERM DATES FOR 2024/2025

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 02.09.24	Monday 28.10.24	Friday 01.11.24	Friday 20.12.24
Spring	Monday 06.01.25	Monday 24.02.25	Friday 28.02.25	Friday 11.04.25
Summer	Monday 28.04.25	Monday 26.05.25	Friday 30.05.25	Monday 21.07.25

Inset Dates (Training Days)

Monday 2nd September 2024

Friday 18th October 2024

Friday 20th December 2024

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 23rd June 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We are always ready to listen to your concerns as parents and to deal constructively with any issues you bring to our attention. In the first instance it is usually best to speak with your child's class teacher as nearly all matters are speedily resolved this way. Should the issue still not be resolved you are welcome to request a meeting with the deputy headteacher then the headteacher who will try to resolve any issue with you.

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

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/4361/complaints-policy-final-september-2023.pdf>