

Ysgol Abernant Prospectws



Abernant School Prospectus

Abernant Primary School

Name and address of the school:	Abernant Primary School Abernant Carmarthen Carmarthenshire SA33 5RR
Telephone:	☎ 01267 281418
E-mail:	admin@abernant.ysgolccc.org.uk
Headteacher:	Mrs G. Jenkins
Chair of Governors:	Mrs G. Lewis Esgair hir Isaf Heol Henfwlch Caerfyrddin SA33 6AO ☎ 01267 230603
School Staff:	
Teacher:	Mrs L. Davies
Teacher:	Miss C. Davies
Classroom Assistant:	Mrs S. Smith Mrs H. Watts
Cleaner:	Ms. L. Wood
Cook :	Miss C. Thompson
School meals clerk :	Miss C. Thompson
Midday supervisor :	Mrs S. Smith
Peripatetic Teacher:	Mrs M. O'Toole Mrs E. Williams
Breakfast Club Supervisor:	Miss C. Thompson Mrs G. Thomas
Office Support-Administrator:	Miss G. Lewis
Clerk to the Governing Body:	Mrs G. Lewis Esgair hir Isaf Heol Henfwlch Caerfyrddin SA33 6AO

Dear Parents

Choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. Most parents want a good education for their children but they also want them to be happy and to feel safe and secure. At Abernant Primary School we believe we can offer all these things. We pride ourselves on the broad, balanced and full education we provide at both the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 and the high standards of teaching and learning are a credit to the hard work of both staff and pupils. Equally we are also proud of the atmosphere of friendliness and co-operation which is always evident. Many visitors to the school comment on the warm welcome they receive and the politeness and maturity of our pupils.

We do value our pupils and we believe that their time in school should be rewarding and fulfilling. Should you choose to send your child to Abernant School, I am fully confident that you will have made the right decision.

If you have any queries or concerns in regard to the school or should your child be unhappy with any aspect of school life, please contact the school immediately.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Geraldine Jenkins
Headteacher

The Ethos and Values of the School - Aims and Objectives

The main aim of Abernant School is to teach all its pupils to the best of their ability by ensuring that the education offered meets the individual needs of every one.

Objectives

- Ensure a level of achievement in literacy, numeracy, information technology and thinking skills.
- Promote moral values and nurture respect and tolerance of different races, religion and other ways of life.
- Ensure that pupils are taught in a happy and comfortable environment.
- Develop skills and attitudes for life long learning.
- Nurture a sense of self-discipline and encourage compassion towards others.
- Ensure equality for boys and girls in every aspect of school life.
- Provide a balanced and extensive curriculum according to the individual's ability and background in order to develop every child's full potential.
- Nurture a sense of every individual's responsibility to care for the environment and community and make pupils aware of their role in society.
- Educate the pupils through the medium of Welsh and English in order to be bilingual by the time they are 11 years old and be able to participate in a society where both languages are used.
- Encourage the pupils as individuals to become full members of the community.
- Ensure that the relationship between the school, home and community encourages co-operation between parents, staff and governors for the welfare of the pupil.



The Governing Body

Governor	Representation	Termination Date
Mrs. K. Gabillia	Community Council Nomination	16/05/2018
	Community Nomination	
Mrs. L. Beynon	Parent Representative	23/11/2018
Mrs. N. Rees	Parent Representative	13/03/2020
Mr. P Smith	Community Nomination	01/01/2020
Mrs. E. Jones	Parent Representative	01/01/2020
Mrs. Gaynor Lewis (Chairperson)	Local Education Authority	25/09/2020
Mrs. M. Griffiths	Local Education Authority	30/03/2018
Mrs G. Jenkins	Headteacher	-
Mrs. L. Davies	Teachers Representative	03/01/2020

Type of School and Location

Abernant School stands in the heart of the beautiful village of Abernant. At present there are 23 pupils on the register. The school is surrounded by the wonders of nature, which is a means of enriching the pupils' education and experiences. The school endeavours to nurture the feeling of belonging to a community by participating in events held in the village.

Language Policy

The school is classed as a 'Welsh Category' school in accordance with Carmarthenshire County Council's language policy which means that Welsh is the main medium of the Foundation Phase, thus ensuring a sound foundation in the language. In Key Stage 2 (KS2), there is a strong element of bilingualism in the teaching. The school aims to ensure that every pupil is comfortable, happy and confident in the language in which he/she is taught. The aim of this bilingual policy is to teach children to be totally bilingual by the time they leave primary school.

School Organisation

The school is organised into two classes according to the children's age:

Class 1 [Foundation Phase] - Nursery, Reception, Years 1, Year 2

Class 2 [Key Stage 2] - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

At appropriate periods during the day, work is introduced as a whole class activity, with other periods set aside for group or individual tasks. Each learning unit affords opportunities for both formal and informal teaching.

School Hours

Morning 9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.

Afternoon 1.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

It helps if children can be in school a few minutes before the morning session commences. The school can take no responsibility for any child who arrives more than fifteen minutes before the morning session starts i.e. before 9.00 a.m. A member of staff is on duty fifteen minutes before the commencement of each day and fifteen minutes after its close in the afternoon.



School Transport

Carmarthenshire County Council provides free transport for eligible pupils from their fifth birthday until they leave the school. Eligibility is established by the County Council.

Attendance and Absence

The school attendance register is marked at 9.15 in the morning and at 1.00 pm in the afternoon. Abernant has an excellent attendance record. In order to maintain this, parents are requested to send notes to the school or to telephone, giving reasons for any absence. In the event of no explanation then the child will be deemed to be absent without permission. Application for short leave of absence for any child, preferably made in writing, can be authorised by the Head teacher. Requests for longer periods should be made to the Local Education Authority. Family holidays are not authorised.

ATTENDANCE 2016/2017 96.3%

2017 ATTENDANCE		
	% attendance	% unauthorised attendance
Summer 2016	97.12%	0.40%
Autumn 2016	96.43%	0%
Spring 2017	98.09%	0.07%
Summer 2017	94.88%	0.04%

Medical Arrangements: If your child has a doctor's, hospital or dental appointment during school hours then you are welcome to collect your child from school or return the child to school. Unfortunately we have no additional staff to deal with children who become ill during school hours, so these children have to be sent home. It is imperative that we have an up-to-date contact telephone number for each child.

Emergencies: From time to time, the school is subject to closure at very short notice, e.g. when it snows, a water pipe has burst. Before school in the morning every effort will be made to inform parents as soon as possible either by an announcement on Radio Cymru, Radio Wales or on the County Council's website. During school time contact will be direct via the up-to-date telephone numbers.

School Uniform:

We encourage pupils to wear the school uniform whilst noting that it is not compulsory. Our school uniform is a royal blue polo/sweatshirt with the school badge. Black/grey shorts may be worn in the summer. Pupils should have shorts, T-shirt and suitable footwear for PE sessions. Contact the school for further details.

All the uniform items with the school logo already attached are available at 'Claire Adams' King Street, Carmarthen, CSG. Co, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen or Dorian's Heel Bar, The Market, Carmarthen.

Additionally, you can purchase second hand uniform which is like new from the P.T.A Please contact the school or P.T.A to make arrangements for this.

Physical Education: when taking part in Physical Education (PE) activities, pupils are expected to come in, or change to, suitable clothing and footwear and will be asked to remove any item that could present a danger to himself/herself or others during that activity e.g. watch, bracelet, earrings, rings, etc.

We aim to provide pupils with a stimulating, yet safe environment in which they can work towards developing health and well being.

Swimming: The whole school attend swimming lessons for a specific period each year. Pupils are expected to bring a swimsuit and swimming cap to these sessions.

Breakfast Club

A breakfast club is provided daily. Pupils may arrive between 8.15 and 9.00 a.m. A varied menu of cereal, juice, fruit and toast is available. This provision is free in accordance with Welsh Assembly guidelines.

After School Club

The school has an 'After School Club' provided between 3.30pm and 5.30pm daily (except Friday). There is a small charge that includes a healthy snack and activity.

Milk

Children under 7 years old receive free milk daily

Dinner

A mid day dinner is provided for every child at the cost set by the County Council. Dinner money is collected on Monday morning. Provisions are in place for dietary needs or dietary options. If parents, who are eligible, wish to claim free school meals, please ask for an application form at school and return the completed form to the Free School Meals Office, Building 2, St David's Park, Carmarthen. SA31 3HB. If you prefer your child to bring their own mid day lunch box a suitable eating place can be provided for that purpose.

Safety

All doors in and out of the school are locked during the school day.

The school has a fire exit which can be opened from inside only.

The main gate to the school remains closed during the day and locked during the night.

Inclement weather

During inclement weather, parents should ensure that the school is open and that the teachers are there before sending the children. Telephone the school for information. If there is no answer please check the school website and information will be posted on the County website www.sirgar.gov.uk, on Radio Cymru, Radio Wales and on Radio Sir Gâr.

Inclusion and Accessibility

Any child who wishes to attend Abernant School is welcome, whatever his/her needs. Every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of every pupil.

Admission of children to school

Children are admitted to the school in accordance with the Carmarthenshire Local Education Authority guidelines:

Autumn Term - children aged 4 years before January 1st.

Spring Term - children aged 4 years before April 1st

Summer Term - children aged 4 years before September 1st

Towards the end of the term preceding their admission, the children may attend the school for a pre-arranged time agreed with the parents, in order to become familiar with their new surroundings. New parents are invited during this time to visit the school and for a discussion

with the class teacher and Head teacher. We appreciate that starting school can be a worrying time for pupils and parents, so any questions and queries are welcome.

Parents are encouraged to register their children on the Carmarthenshire County Council Website www.sirgar.gov.uk

Disabled Pupils

If a disabled child is admitted to the school, with support from Education Authority, the school would ensure that suitable arrangements are made so that the child has equal access and opportunity within the school.

At Abernant School, we are committed to ensuring equal treatment of all whatever the form of disability. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and to participate fully in school life. The achievement of disabled pupils will be monitored and the data used to raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that the school environment is as accessible as possible. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit the school.

The school's undertaking to promoting disability equality in every aspect of our school's life relates to:

- Pupils
- Parents/carers
- Staff
- Members of the wider school community

Please contact the School if you have any queries.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

The named persons with responsibility for child protection are:

Mrs Geraldine Jenkins (Head Teacher)

If Mrs G Jenkins is unavailable- Mrs Linda Davies

If unavailable:

Bethan Tinney (County's Safeguarding Officer) – 01267 246154

Social Services – 01554 742322

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs Gaynor Lewis

Chair of Governors:

Mrs Gaynor Lewis

Health and Safety

The school has a Health and Safety Policy which ensures we provide and upkeep a healthy and safe working environment for all. We provide information and training when required or deemed urgent and carry out regular inspections for this purpose. A copy of our Health and Safety Policy is available from the Head teacher on request. Risk assessments are carried out regularly to ensure that the building, site and visited places are safe for pupils, staff and visitors.

School Website

The school website is hosted via www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk or www.amdro.org.uk

Arrangements for the admission of pupils with Special Educational Needs

Children with special needs will receive as much individual attention as the class teacher and the school staff, are able to allocate. If greater in depth help is needed then referral to the Educational Psychologist may be necessary. In the event of a solution to the pupil's problems being impossible within the framework of the school, then transfer to a specialist unit is possible where expertise and resources are better geared to accommodate such problems.

Equal Opportunities

The school aims to offer each pupil the best possible education according to his/her individual needs whatever their gender, cultural background, age or ability. The school encourages the development of personal and social skills of each individual during extra- curricular activities. We aim to raise the educational expectations and occupational opportunities of every pupil.

School and Home Contract

The safety, happiness and education of the pupils are our priority as staff, parents, governors and friends of Abernant School. It is essential that this partnership is strong and successful to ensure a prosperous future for the pupils. We believe that discussing the contract with your child and signing it, displays a commitment to supporting the good intentions and future of the school.

Guidance for parents on preparing a child for school

- Talk to the child in a positive way about the school, telling him/her what to expect e.g. new friends, exciting things to do like playing with water, sand, paint, craft work.
- Leave the child with friends or relatives for short periods of time to familiarise him/her with being away from home
- Register with a nursery so that he/she learns to play and share with others.
- Invite other children to the house.
- Encourage him/her to use pencils, crayons, child-friendly paints, sand and scissors.
- Read and tell stories, discuss books, referring to the pictures and the story and teach him/her to respect and care for books.
- Sing nursery rhymes and simple songs and hymns together.
- Teach the child to:
 - eat tidily
 - use the toilet properly
 - wash his/her hands
 - dress and undress
 - blow his/her nose



Remember that it is possible to arrange a discussion at any time should the parents or school feel this would be helpful.

Language

The aim is for all pupils to be bilingual according to their age, so that they may participate fully as members of the bilingual community in which they live and be aware of the cultural heritage and history of the Welsh people.

As Abernant School is a Welsh Category School, Welsh is the natural medium of communication in the school. Morning assembly and school activities are conducted mainly in Welsh. When a non-Welsh speaker becomes a pupil of the school, he/she will be treated with sensitivity and introduced gradually to the second language until he/she has settled in the school and becomes familiarised with the situation.

The provision within the school shall ensure that every pupil is able to communicate in both languages with confidence.

The Curriculum

The school aims to provide an extensive and balanced education, which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of every pupil in the school. We also aim to ensure that the Curriculum is suitable for every pupil in the school.

The Foundation Phase. In the Foundation Phase the nursery, reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils are taught in one class of mixed ability, age and language

The education is planned using 6 fields of learning:

- language, literacy and communication
- personal and social development
- mathematical development
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- physical development
- creative development

Foundation Phase Principles

- learn how to learn
- literacy and numeracy taught across all fields of learning
- develop thinking skills
- nurture a positive attitude to long life learning
- become confident, independent learners, full of enthusiasm for their education and learning

Key Stage 2. The National Curriculum for Years 3-6 includes the following **core subjects**: -

- Welsh
- English
- Mathematics
- Science

and the **foundation subjects**: -

- Design and technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Information and Communication Technology
- Personal and Social Education
- together with Religious Education

The school delivers the curriculum mainly through a cross curricular approach. This entails teaching selected parts of the National Curriculum under a topic or a theme. There are certain times when work will be subject based.

Teachers use a variety of teaching methods, which involve pupils working individually, in small groups or as a class. The school's aim is for pupils to master the basic skills of speaking,

reading, writing, numeracy, IT, and thinking skills. We develop our pupils' literacy and numeracy skills across the wide range of subjects in the curriculum

We are aiming to deliver a curriculum that will be:

- **Bilingual** - pupils will be required to study English and Welsh culture and history as well as language.
- **Broad** - introducing the pupils to a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills.
- **Balanced** - each part will be allocated sufficient time to make its special contribution, but not so much that it squeezes out other essential parts.
- **Relevant** - subjects taught so as to bring out their application to the pupils' own experience and to adult life and to give due emphasis to practical aspects.
- **Differentiated** - what is taught and how it is taught need to be matched to pupils' abilities and aptitude.
- **Continuous and progressive:**
 - planned across the curriculum within a whole school policy
 - records kept by every teacher
 - dialogue between teachers

Special Educational Needs

Every school should identify pupils that have educational needs and ensure equality of curricular and social provision that meet their needs.

Objectives

- Early identification of the child with learning difficulties
- Provide the necessary provision for the child
- Ensure the support and partnership of the parents
- Ensure the co-operation of other external agencies
- Give attention and guidance to exceptionally able and talented pupils

Steps

- The class teacher will identify the child with special needs and enter his/her name on the Local Authority Special Educational Needs register
- Following a detailed review, an Individual Education Plan is formed
- Ensure close co-operation between the SENCO and L.E.A. support team
- Support the Local Education Authority's provision arrangements

A copy of the Special Educational Needs Policy is available in the school

Religious Education

The Education Act 1988 states that Religious Education in schools should "reflect the fact that the religious traditions of this country are Christian traditions but that it should also consider the teaching the religious practices of the other religions represented in the United Kingdom."

Collective Worship: Morning assembly is a key part of school life and is very important to the development of the family ethos of the school. We use song, prayer and stories during assembly. This provides an opportunity to deal with moral issues, the welfare of others and positive behaviour.

All registered pupils take part in a collective act of worship every day. Collective worship wholly or mainly, reflects a broad tradition of Christian belief but is non-denominational; all pupils are expected to attend unless exempt on religious grounds.

A Harvest Thanksgiving Service is held in the local Church during the autumn term and as part of celebrating Christmas, an aspect of the 'Nativity' and carol singing are included.

Parents have the right to exclude their child from religious education and collective worship. As none are currently exempt, alternative provision has not been arranged by the school to cater for excluded pupils.

Music Service

Junior pupils have the opportunity to learn to play the violin, the recorder and the guitar. The county's peripatetic teachers give weekly lessons at the school.

Sport

Our aim is to educate our pupils to recognise that there is a connection between physical education through sport and living a healthy lifestyle by giving them a wide range of sporting activities through lessons and clubs.

All pupils are expected to take part in Physical Education[PE] lessons and sport. Gymnastics, creative dance, football, cricket, netball, rounders, athletics, cross-country running and swimming are all on offer. Swimming lessons are held for a specific period each year at the Carmarthen Leisure Centre's swimming pool. We use the yard, school playing field and Hall to accomplish different aspects of the curriculum.

Sex Education

As agreed by the School's Governing Body sex education is not taught as a separate subject except for elements in the National Curriculum. When a relevant question is asked by a pupil it is answered in a sensitive and appropriate way according to the child's age and maturity.

During the summer term the School Nurse gives a talk to Year 5 and 6 pupils on the individual's physical and emotional developments and puberty.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any form of Sex Education. Please contact the Head teacher if you wish to do so.

Homework

Pupils should read every evening.

Parents could support a child by:

- reading with your child
- listening to your child reading
- discussing stories

Pupils in the Foundation Phase will be given a record book as they progress, which will be a weekly link between the classroom and home.

The juniors will be given a weekly homework task, which should take about half an hour to complete. These are flexible guidelines. Other factors have an effect on homework e.g. the child's needs, the length of the work etc. Occasionally pupils will be required to learn pieces off by heart e.g. before a school performance or eisteddfod.

Should you need more information regarding homework you are welcome to arrange a meeting with the teachers.

Educational visits

Occasionally the pupils will go on arranged educational visits, which will extend their understanding of classroom work. We also invite visitors to the school.

Charging Policy

No fees are charged for school based activities, except for educational outings and extra curricular activities arranged by outside agencies, where contributions may be sought from parents. Access to a copy of the Charging Policy is available at the school by asking the Head teacher

Access to documents relating to the school's education provision

Copies of all policies and teaching schemes of work are available at the school. If parents wish to access them, please make arrangements with the Head teacher.

Your child's development

- We have a 'School at Work' evening arranged for parents in the Autumn Term
- Parents are invited to the school during the spring term to discuss the child's work and to set targets.
- Written end of year progress reports on each child is distributed before the end of the summer term. Parents are invited to arrange a meeting with the class teacher on a specific evening to discuss the contents of the report and the progress made by their children.

Open Door Policy – It is important to note that you are welcome to arrange to come to the school at any time during the school year and discuss with the class teacher or Head teacher any worries you may have regarding your child's education and progress.

Parent's Evenings

Pupils' work and standards are discussed with parents during designated evenings. There are three opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress with the respective class teacher during the year. The last of these is an optional evening to discuss the end of year written report.

School Council

School pupils are represented by the School Council. Every pupil has the opportunity to become a member of the Council by means of an election held every September.

Role:

- set a timetable
- create and present a manifesto
- vote
- elect officials

The council is responsible for:

- organising school events e.g. 'World Book Day'
- fundraising
- letter writing



Pastoral Care

In general, childcare is the responsibility of the class teacher and Headteacher.

At Abernant School we believe that the welfare of the child is the responsibility of everyone who has anything to do with the child, which includes both teaching and non-teaching staff.

School Rules

We teach children to be considerate of each other and to take care of school property as well as their own and other pupils' possessions. It also means that we aim to create a calm, orderly atmosphere in which enjoyable and effective learning can take place. Therefore it is important that we have some reasonable and simple rules so that everyone can work together smoothly in a safe environment.

Medication

Parents are asked to contact the school if it is essential that their child takes medication (antibiotics prescribed by GP) during school hours and also to provide the school with written instructions regarding dosage and administration.

Medicine



Transferring to Secondary School

Normally children transfer to either Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin or Queen Elizabeth High School and there are close links formed between Abernant School and these two secondary schools.

Parents of Year 6 children will receive information from the Carmarthenshire Education Authority in December before transfer and parents will be able to state a preference for a school by completing the appropriate form.

Complaints

Parents should contact the Headteacher immediately regarding any complaints against the school or staff. If those concerns relate to the conduct of the Headteacher, the matter must be referred for the attention of the Chair of the Governing Body. Should a complaint develop into an official complaint the situation will be dealt with by the Governing Body and the Education Authority in accordance with the guidelines of their Complaints Policy.

Additional School Activities

The Urdd: there is a branch of the Urdd at the school and pupils have the opportunity to renew their membership annually. Urdd activities are held locally and pupils are able to compete in sport, art and stage competitions at the eisteddfod. Year 5 and 6 pupils will have the opportunity to visit an Urdd camp at Llangrannog or Cardiff annually.

Parents Association

The Association is very supportive of the school and holds a variety of activities. The arranged events raise funds for the school and are opportunities for pupils, parents and friends of the school to socialise. Thanks to the work of the Association the school has greatly benefited by their generous financial contributions. The Association holds its annual meeting in September. A warm welcome is extended to all parents and friends.

The School in the Community

We strongly believe in maintaining a close and active link with the local community. The residents of Abernant and district are able to witness and support the work and talent of the pupils by attending various performances held in the village during the year.

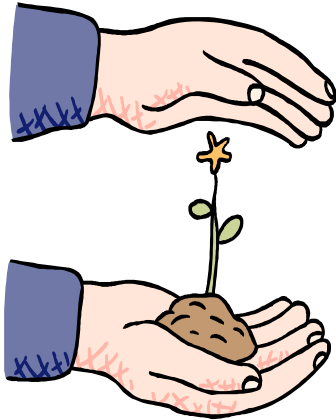
Pupil Assessment Results 2013/14

Foundation Phase: due to the fact that only 4 children or fewer were eligible for assessment in the Foundation Phase, the results of the children who were assessed will not be published so as to safeguard the personal details of the individuals.

KS2 results: As there were fewer than 10 but more than 4 pupils eligible for assessment, we report on the percentage of pupils who have achieved Level 4 or above.

ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the philosophy of the National Curriculum, all pupils will have their work assessed continuously throughout their school years. The first formal assessment takes place during the first six weeks of their Reception year. A profile is commenced on the child from the first day he/she starts school in which all information relating to the child's progress is kept. Samples of the child's work are periodically kept as a record which can be referred to in order to check the child's progress and for diagnostic purposes. A written report will be issued at the end of each academic year and these may be retained by parents.



*From the little seeds we plant today,
beautiful flowers will grow tomorrow*

Thank you for reading our prospectus.
Mrs G Jenkins
Headteacher