

The Foundation Phase in Wales is a developmental curriculum for children aged 3-7 years old. The Foundation Phase is a key period for children with special educational needs, with high quality and focused early intervention impacting significantly on later development.

Starting school is a huge milestone for every child. We recognise for many of our families this can be an exciting, yet daunting time.

### **Foundation Phase Curriculum**

The Foundation Phase Curriculum follows Welsh Government Guidelines for the Foundation Phase Principles. There are seven areas of learning, into which stimulating and structured play activities are woven, offering a range of multi-sensory learning experiences.

- **Personal & Social Development, Well Being and Cultural Diversity.**
- **Language, Literacy & Communication.**
- **Mathematical Development**
- **Welsh Language Development**
- **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**
- **Physical Development**
- **Creative Development**

Our curriculum is currently being reviewed to reflect the new curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales proposed in Successful Futures by Professor Donaldson. It is due to be fully operational by 2022.

A multi-disciplinary approach is used, with close liaison between all agencies including physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, HI and VI team and medical experts.

### **Communication**

Each child has a home/school diary, which the class team write in daily to let you know your child's news. You are welcome to write your child's news in it, along with any important information. Phone calls are also frequently used, and we use Text2Parents service to keep you informed of any events & updates.

Central to this team, is close liaison with parents and carers- you know your child best of all, and your continued support is vital and much appreciated.

### **Home Support Team**

All families can access our Home Support Worker at any point in the school year, to offer support on a range of issues, and let you know of services available. Termly Parent Support Groups also run, which all families are welcome to join.

### **Transition**

Your child will be allocated a named transition lead, who will be your main point of contact at school leading up to your child's first day. We will work closely with you before your child starts school, to ensure that they are prepared for a smooth transition into school. For some children one or two visits are enough, whilst others will benefit from more preparation, such as photos of staff and school, a social story or further visits.

Prior to starting school, you and your child will be invited to a coffee morning, where you will have the opportunity to meet the class team, the other parents and your child's new classmates.

We appreciate that extended families are often very involved, and you are welcome to bring other members of your family to the visit with you.



### **Uniform**

Pupils are encouraged to wear our school uniform, and you will be given information about this during the coffee morning.

You will also be asked to complete an admissions pack, which includes an 'All about me' booklet, giving the class team valuable information about your child's likes, dislikes and interests as well as essential information such as feeding and toileting needs. We can support you completing these.

### **Starting School**

Your child is eligible to a full time placement in Nursery. We will work closely with you to make sure that your child settles in to school at their own pace.

### **Assessment**

Each child has a 'Baseline assessment' during the first few weeks at school, to identify their strengths and areas for development. Targets are set in conjunction with the therapists, and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written for each child. These are shared with you and reviewed termly. Parent evenings are held termly, and each child has an Annual Review to review their statement.

### **Events**

Throughout the year there are a range of activities and events you will be invited to join. These include events such as the Harvest Festival, Nativity performance, coffee mornings and family play sessions.

We look forward to working closely with you.

**Ysgol Hen Felin is a Rights Respecting School and a Healthy School**

**Ysgol Hen Felin is a Rights Respecting School and we are committed to the principles and values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across all areas of our work.**

We are also a Healthy School and we take responsibility for maintaining and promoting the health and wellbeing of the Ysgol Hen Felin team (pupils, parents, carers, staff, governors etc.) This includes teaching pupils about how to lead healthy lives but by enabling our pupils and staff to take control over aspects of the school environment which influence their health.

As a Rights Respecting School, we are committed to the principles and values of the United Nation Conventions for the Rights of the Pupil (UNCRC.) This approach enables all pupils to access and enjoy the following articles of the convention:

**Article 12**

*Every child has the right to be heard.*

**Article 28**

*Every pupil has the right to an education*

**Article 29**

*Education must develop every pupils personality, talents and abilities to the full.*

**Article 42**

*Every pupil has the right to know their rights.*

If you have any questions or queries about any information that appears in this guide please contact:

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**Children are at the centre of all we do at Ysgol Hen Felin.**

**We believe each child is unique and special.**

**We work in partnership with home to ensure that every child reaches their full potential.**

**By working together we will achieve the best for every child.**

**This leaflet aims to give you an overview of what to expect when your child starts school in the Foundation Phase at Ysgol Hen Felin.**

**Further information can be found on the school website and in the full policy document.**

*'Working and learning together to promote excellence and enrich lives'*

# **Parents/Carers' Guide to Starting School The Foundation Phase**

