

CASTLE CAEREINION



CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



Be the best that you can be!

Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 9AL. 01938 850275: office@castle.powys.sch.uk

www.castleschool.org.uk

Foreword

Dear Parents

I am delighted to offer you a warm welcome to Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School and thank you for considering our school for your child. I hope that our prospectus will help you to decide that the warm, caring and stimulating environment at Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School is one in which your child will be happy and thrive. Choosing the 'right' school is one of the most important decisions that you will make for your child. Please feel welcome to make an appointment for a visit if you wish to see and learn more about our school.

We pride ourselves in providing a caring friendly environment where it is possible to know all our children and their families. We believe that every child is different, yet equally important and valued. We aim to give the highest priority to raising standards through a broad-based, balanced and exciting curriculum.

We aim to nurture happy, confident children with enquiring minds; who learn to succeed and to contribute to their class, their school environment and the wider community.

We hope that every child will want to be at Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School every day and we will promise to work hard with you to ensure this is achieved.

The pupils, staff, governors, parents and carers are all extremely proud of our school.

Please feel welcome to telephone to arrange a visit or to ask questions that reading this prospectus may have raised.

We look forward to hearing from you. Yours sincerely

Sarah Brian

Sarah Brian

Head Teacher

School Details

Name of School	Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School
Language Category	English Medium
Address	Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School Castle Caereinion Welshpool Powys SY21 9AL
Office Telephone	01938 850275
Office Email	office@castle.powys.sch.uk
Website	http://www.castleschool.org.uk
Education Office	Powys County Council County Hall Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 5LG 01597 826000
Headteacher	Miss Sarah Brian
Chair of Governors	Mrs Sian Owen

Our School

Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School is situated in the village of Castle Caereinion in spectacular grounds.

We accept children from the Castle Caereinion community and from the wider surrounding areas of Berriew, Llanfair Caereinion and Welshpool.

A school was first established in Castle Caereinion over one hundred years ago. Today the school still stands near the Church of St. Garmon and in the heart of the village.

The school building comprises of the traditional Victorian, two-room design with several modern additions that include two new classrooms, an ICT suite and Library, and a staff room. The building also adjoins the recently extended Community Hall, which the school uses for lunches, collective worship, PE, storage and school performances.

The school is set in beautiful surroundings. It has its own field, garden area, playground and has the use of adjoining larger playing fields.

There are four teaching areas, one of which is available on occasion to Bright Sparks Playgroup with which we have close links, thus ensuring a seamless transition and continuity from pre-school to eleven years of age.

Our Vision

We aim to develop the qualities of independence, self-motivation, self-discipline and self-confidence. By valuing these qualities, we encourage children to enjoy learning and to have high expectations and good self-esteem.

Opportunities for spiritual growth are developed across all areas of the curriculum. We aim to develop an understanding of the Christian faith whilst at the same time respecting those of other faiths and those of no faith. We aim to give children an informed awareness of other world faiths, so building respect, responsibility and an ability to contribute in a meaningful way to life within, and later, without the school.

We hope that during their time at Castle Caereinion CiW School, children will build foundations of inner strength and be inspired to search in awe and wonder throughout their lives.

At Castle Caereinion CiW School we pride ourselves on providing a broad, balanced and full education in an atmosphere of warmth, care and co-operation.

We value all pupils for their individual qualities and talents, and our central concern is for them to realise their goals and aspirations. We provide a stimulating and purposeful working environment that motivates our pupils to strive for high standards.

Our mission statement is 'To be the best that you can be' and it is underpinned by:

- providing a safe environment
- providing a caring environment where children's happiness is paramount.
- providing teaching and learning opportunities through the four core purposes of the New Curriculum in Wales which enable children to realise their potential and develop the skills needed for their future
- believing that everyone has special qualities
- providing an attractive environment that stimulates teaching and learning
- belonging to and working with the community

The school promotes a close working relationship with parents to ensure that your child has a successful and rewarding time at school.

The Ethos and Values of the School

Our School Values

'Perseverance, Friendship, Thanks, Truth, Respect, Forgiveness, Generosity, Compassion'

Through our holistic approach and family atmosphere we aim to prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that will face them in their lives within, and later, outside the school.

Our teaching, and school ethos encourages the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of all children.

Our Aims

At Castle CiW School we aim to:

- ✓ provide high quality teaching and learning in a friendly, caring environment, free from any form of discrimination.
- ✓ have high expectations, which will involve the recognition for continuous improvement by both staff and pupils.
- ✓ encourage a lively active interest in learning, so that children take responsibility for their own learning and strive hard to reach their potential.
- ✓ provide a broad and balanced curriculum for the children, by reviewing, evaluating and updating teaching policies, bearing in mind the needs, abilities and interests of individuals.
- ✓ provide enlivening experiences, both in and out of school; to foster an appreciation of the world in which we live, and to develop the intellectual, physical, spiritual, moral and aesthetic facets of the children in our care.
- ✓ encourage mutual respect and trust, and by so doing, an awareness of how children's actions and reactions affect others.

- ✓ secure the provision for any additional needs, thereby enabling the children in our care to take advantage of what the school has to offer, both educationally and socially.
- ✓ strive to raise standards of attainment, thereby ensuring opportunity for high attainment.
- ✓ foster the development of responsible, courteous, considerate and tolerant individuals.
- ✓ develop a positive and close relationship between home and school.
- ✓ make school an important part of the church and community life and the church and the community an important part of the life of the school.

Our Staff

Teaching Staff

Sarah Brian	Headteacher
Sarah Brian/ Sadie Lloyd	Key Stage 2 Class Teachers
Molly Evans	Foundation Phase Teachers
Cheryl Andrew	Peripatetic Welsh Teacher

Non-teaching Staff

Olga Pugh	School Administrator
Elaine Savage	Foundation Phase Teaching Assistant
Donna O'Brien	Additional Learning Needs Support Assistant
Eirlys Jones	Lunchtime Supervisor/ Breakfast Club Leader
Christine Williams	Breakfast Club Assistant
Julie Taylor	Cleaner

The Governing Body

The following organisations and areas are represented on the

School's Governing Body:

- The County Council (LA)
- Parents
- Teachers
- School Staff (non-teaching)
- Foundation Governors (appointed by St. Asaph Diocesan Board of Finance)
- Community Governors
- Head Teacher

The role of the Governing Body has developed significantly over the years. The day to day management of the school is the responsibility of the Head Teacher. She will consult and co-operate with the Governing Body in order to ensure that the pupils and the school thrive. In turn, the Governing body holds the Head Teacher to account for the performance of the school.

The Governing Body meets at least once every half term in order to fulfil its governing duties. The Governing Body publishes an Annual Report to Parents.

You, as a parent, elect three parent governors for a four-year term of office. You will be notified when the next election is due. It is the staff's professional duty to present the curriculum to pupils in the school and the Governors work in close co-operation with the Head Teacher with regard to the systems, policies and support, which are so important to ensure this process is successful.

Governing Body Members

Mrs Sian Owen	Chair of Governing Body/Parent Governor
Mr Clive Jones	L.E.A. Governor
Mrs Sue Oke	Foundation Governor
Mr David Jones	L.E.A Governor
Mrs Ann Morgan	Co-opted Governor
Mrs Lucy Mason	Parent Governor
Mrs Debbie Roberts	Parent Governor
Mr Gareth Davies	Community Governor
Rev Steve Wilson	Foundation Governor
Miss Molly Evans	Teacher Governor
Mrs Elaine Savage	Staff Governor
Miss Sarah Brian	Head Teacher
Mrs Olga Pugh	Clerk to Governors

School Organisation

The children are taught in whole Key Stages so children from age 4 to 7 are taught in the Infant class (Foundation Phase) and from age 7 to 11 years in the Junior class (KS2).

Our classes are able to cater for each child at their own level. These mixed classes make our school a very friendly place and children mix well together, with everyone looking after everyone else.

Starting School

Your child is eligible to start school full time, in Powys, at the beginning of the term in which their fourth birthday falls. By law, your child is required to attend school from the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday.

Our main aim when your child starts school is to make them feel happy and secure. Prior to officially starting school, your child will be invited to join the Foundation Phase class for some taster sessions in order for them to meet their teachers and fellow classmates and for you as a parent /carer to become familiar with your child's new school.

Admissions Policy

The school operates Powys Local Education authority's current admissions policy. Full details of this policy can be found on the Powys County Council website under 'admissions'.

Parents seeking a place for their child at Castle Caereinion CiW School should complete an application form. Decisions about granting places will be based on the number of places available, where you live and whether you already have a child at the school.

Currently our admission limit for each year group is eight. Where the year group is full, but the parents' wish is that their child should still come to our school, there is an appeal procedure

Curriculum

Teaching Organisation

Pupils are divided into two classes:

Foundation Phase Class

Pupils aged 4 years old to 7 years old
Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Junior Class

Pupils aged 7 years old to 11 years old Year 3,
Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6



Infant Class – The Foundation Phase Nursery – Year 2: Ages 3-7

Children are taught by 'stage not age' therefore what is being taught is always appropriate for them. The principle we teach by is that young children learn most effectively when they are playing (in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government Guidance). Children learn by building on their own experiences and they use these to make sense of the world around them.

Foundation Phase Areas of Learning

There are 7 areas of the curriculum:

- Personal, Social and Cultural Development and Well-Being
- Communication, Language and Literacy (English) (Literacy Framework)
- Mathematical Development (Maths) (Numeracy Framework)
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World (Science, History, Geography)
- Physical Development (PE also fine motor skills, e.g. cutting out, threading)
- Creative Development (Art, Music, Dance, Drama)
- Welsh Language Development.



The classroom is arranged into 'curriculum areas'. Children are allowed to access the areas freely, as continuous provision. They have an understanding of the equipment available in each area and how it can be used. This provision is then enhanced on rotation, allowing for more focused learning opportunities. These specific challenges are differentiated depending on the child's learning needs. In addition, children complete focus tasks, with an adult, which are appropriate for their stage of development. Area challenges and differentiated focus tasks allow children to extend their learning and stretch the more able and talented pupils. During the day there are short planned periods of numeracy and literacy to ensure the children acquire their key skills for learning. This means that every day the children will read with an adult, have handwriting practice, take part in a phonics lesson and carry out number and literacy tasks. Welsh phrases are used in the classroom for familiar instructions and questions and they have a Welsh lesson each week. Each half term we investigate and explore a different topic. These topics are designed to bring in all areas of the curriculum the children need to cover. The children initially explore what they know about the topic, discuss what they want to know and write questions, which informs the teachers planning. In this way the children direct their own learning and build on what they already know.

Homework

We encourage home-school communication and co-working. Children take home spellings which reflect what children have been learning that week. We encourage children to share books and read at home as often as they can. This gives parents the chance to work with their children and share their learning experiences.

Juniors - Key Stage 2 Year 3- 6: Ages 7 -11

Within the Junior classroom children from Y3 to Y6 are taught in small groups for most subjects. The curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of all children. Children learn through experiences that build on previous learning. This supports, extends and challenges all to meet their targets.

Curriculum

The children learn through an evolving creative curriculum that covers the following national curriculum subjects:

- English (Literacy)
- Maths (Numeracy)
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Science
- Welsh as a second language
- Physical Education (Sport, Dance)
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Design Technology
- Music
- Personal and Social Education (PSE)



We aim to give all our pupils equal access to a broad, balanced and relevant learning curriculum that includes all aspects of the National Curriculum. A range of teaching and learning approaches are used as appropriate and we recognise that learning is a continuous process and children acquire knowledge at varying speeds. Independent learning continues to be encouraged and supported in the juniors. They are encouraged to share and support each other's learning through various methods, for example brainstorming, peer feedback, paired work and to employ self-help strategies such as 'The 3Bs' (brains (ask yourself), buddies (seek help from friends and other sources), boss (ask the teacher))



The curriculum is divided between morning and afternoon sessions. The children are taught skills in reading, writing, spelling, number, place value, shape, measures and data handling in the morning. Investigations, 'real life' problems and problem solving are used to extend the children's thinking, develop independence and apply skills learnt. During the afternoon the children explore a termly creative curriculum focused around history, geography, science, art, design and technology, and RE. Within the creative curriculum, key skills from the Literacy and Numeracy framework and the Digital competency framework underpin all lessons; including the learning opportunities, activities and investigations taught.

The children are encouraged to ask questions, explore avenues of learning that interest them and develop skills that allow them to become autonomous learners. ICT skills are taught and used to create opportunities for independent topic exploration and communication.

Children of all needs and abilities are supported within the junior classroom. For the more able and talented pupils, a more investigative and independent learning focused approach is used. This is led largely by the pupils' interests and areas of skills.

Performance Data

The most recent school performance data can be obtained on request.



Religious Education – Foundation Phase and KS2

At Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School, Religious Education is provided in accordance with the Powys Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and the St Asaph Church in Wales syllabus.

It is our aim to help children in their social, spiritual and moral development to enrich their own lives and in turn the ethos of our school. We will encourage children to understand how and why people worship and endeavour to increase the awareness of our children of other religions and cultures, whilst maintaining the strong Christian ethos of the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the RE lessons on grounds of conscience or belief and this can be arranged through the Head Teacher.

The School Day

Time	Activity	Total Teaching Time:	Total Teaching Time:
		Foundation Phase	KS2
8am	Breakfast Club		
8.45am	Daily Assembly (Fri 3pm)		
9.05	Teaching Time	1 hour 10 mins	1 hour 10mins
10.30am	Break		
10.45am	Teaching Time	1 hour 15mins	1 hour 25mins
12.10pm (Infants 12 noon)	Lunch		
1.00pm	Teaching Time	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
2.15pm	Break		
2.30pm	Teaching Time	1 hour	1 hour
3.15pm	End of the Day		
		Total Teaching Time: 4 hours 40 mins	Total Teaching Time: 4 hours 50 mins
Other:	Friday – 9.15pm-11.10pm – Bright Sparks & Mothers and Toddlers		



Special curricular and other arrangements made for particular categories of pupils, including those with statements of special educational needs

The Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCO) at our school is Miss Sarah Brian, Head Teacher. The ALNCO, in collaboration with the Governors, plays a key role in helping to determine the strategic development of the ALN Policy. Mrs Ann Morgan is our ALN Governor. Pupils with additional learning needs generally benefit from working within their class but may be withdrawn individually or in small groups for focused work.

Arrangements for making complaints about the curriculum or any other matters

If you become concerned in any way about your child's education, it is important that you tell us about it. As a first step, you should discuss your concerns with the teacher. Should this not resolve matters, please make an appointment to meet with Miss Sarah Brian, Head Teacher, through the school office. There may be some occasions when parents wish to complain about matters which are the responsibility of the Governors. The Governors may be contacted through the Chair of the Governors Mrs Sian Owen. Advice on how to pursue a formal complaint is also available from the LA.

The content and organisation of sex education policy

Sex/Relationship education is an important aspect of our PSE (Personal Social Education) curriculum for all children. Year 6 children benefit from discussions with the school nurse and watching a related video. Parents have the right to withdraw their children.

Religious Education and Collective Worship provided at the school

Collective Worship is a central focus of our school day. Collective Worship takes place daily and the children are given the opportunity to listen, reflect and participate in religious topics that relate to faith and 'real life', sing hymns, praise, celebrate achievement and say prayers. We have regular visitors to share and lead our worship, these include Reverend Steve Willson (St Garmon's) and Huw Ellis and Darren Mayer (Impact). The children visit the local church and take part in a variety of services and activities linked to Christianity with the school.

Use of the Welsh language

We want our children to understand and be proud of their own culture, language and heritage. Welsh is taught as a second language with an emphasis on conversational development in preparation for secondary school. Incidental Welsh is encouraged throughout the school day, including dinner time and on the playground, by the awarding of 'Tocyn Iaith'. We benefit from fortnightly support through our peripatetic Welsh teacher Mrs Andrews. The school has its own 'Crew Cymraeg' which is organised and led by a group of children. These children encourage the

use of Welsh outside the classroom including choosing the 'Seren Cymraeg' (Welsh star of the week), setting challenge tasks and playing 'Gemmau Iard' (yard games) on the playground. Pupils can gain 'Iaith' (Language tokens) which recognise their use of Welsh throughout the day in regular achievement assemblies. A growing number of pupils belong to the Urdd and participate in the annual Eisteddfod, on stage and through arts and crafts. They also have the opportunity of participating in a variety of sporting activities.

Sport

Sports are undertaken within the requirements of the National Curriculum. A wide range of sports are experienced by the children across the year including; hockey, football, tag rugby, netball, rounders, dance, gymnastics and athletics. Swimming lessons are given to all pupils for two half terms per academic year at the Flash Leisure Centre in Welshpool.

The school takes part in a variety of sporting events. These are organised by the local cluster of schools, the Urdd or by Powys Dragon Sports.

Our PE lessons are organised and taught by the class teachers. We hold all of our PE lessons on our school grounds, as we are lucky enough to have plenty of space.

Attendance

When a child is absent a parent needs to inform the school on the first morning; either by phone, email or in person via the message book. Absence which cannot be reasonably explained will be reported as unauthorised. The school expects families to take holidays during the school holiday periods. Our school day begins at 8.45am and children are expected to be in school and settled by that time. Good attendance is very important to us in Castle Caereinion CiW School.

School Meals

All children stay at school during lunch time and supervision is provided for all. School meals are cooked and prepared off site, transported to the school and served in the community hall. The children can have a hot meal or jacket potato. There is also a vegetarian option. The cost of school dinners is £2.75 a day. This needs to be paid for through your child's Parent Pay account.



Medical Issues

No member of school staff should be asked to administer medicine barring exceptional circumstances, when written confirmation will be sought. Parents of children requiring medication during the school day are welcome to come into school to administer it themselves. All staff are first aid trained to deal with minor accidents and use their judgement to seek additional help as required.

Contact Details

It is necessary for us to know where a parent or guardian may be contacted in an emergency, or for us to know of another person you have authorised us to contact e.g. grandparent or neighbour. These details are kept on an Emergency Contact Form which should be kept up to date at all times. Details are held in the school office.

School Uniform

All children are encouraged to wear school uniform. This consists of a pale blue shirt or polo shirt, burgundy jumper, hoodie, cardigan or fleece with the school logo and black or navy skirt, dress, trousers or shorts.

During the summer months, girls can also wear a light blue checked summer dress.

The burgundy jumpers, fleeces and polo shirts etc, with the school emblem, are available to order from the school office.

The school also sells book bags and swimming bags. These items are also available to order from the school office.

We encourage children to keep a PE kit in school at all times, consisting of trainers, jogging bottoms or shorts, t-shirt and warm jumper.

Friends of the School

The school is very well supported by the Friends of the School. Most parents and carers are members of the Friends. The Friends hold regular fundraising and social events to fund new equipment and support school activities.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care of the pupils is the responsibility of the class teacher. However, as a school, all staff take a major role in the guidance of pupils. The school aims to enhance all children's self-esteem through encouragement and support. A strong family atmosphere is fostered where children care for each other and older children are encouraged to develop a caring attitude towards the youngest pupils.

Behaviour

As a school, we place considerable importance on high standards of personal behaviour. Good behaviour is not based on a set of rules, but on an understanding of acceptable behaviour founded on care and consideration of others, thus creating a safe secure environment in school. These standards of behaviour are normally reached through encouragement and rewards.

Bullying

Every opportunity is taken to ensure that an anti-bullying approach is built into every aspect of school life. Bullying is not tolerated in school and children are encouraged to tell their parents or teachers if they are unhappy for any reason. This is supported through our participation in The Incredible Years and Kiva programmes. If you have any concerns please contact the school immediately.

Child Protection

At Castle Caereinion CiW School we have a pastoral responsibility and duty of care towards our pupils. An important part of this aspect of the school's role involves the prevention of abuse and neglect. Miss Sarah Brian is our Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer, Miss Molly Evans our Deputy Officer and Mrs Sian Owen our Responsible Governor. We comply with the "All Wales Child Protection Procedures" and all staff undergo regular training. In circumstances where abuse or neglect are suspected the school will implement procedures in accordance with the Child Protection Policy. This may involve the sharing of information with other agencies and professionals as appropriate. The Child Protection Policy is available from the school office.

Equal Opportunities

Castle Caereinion CiW School, and all its stakeholders, promote equality in all aspects of school life. We believe that people must be educated to be able to live together in a mixed society respecting the value of all as individuals in their own right.

The school promotes equal opportunities and good relationships by:

- Treating everyone as an individual and with equal concern
- Giving every child an equal chance to learn and develop
- Taking into account each child's age and stage of development, gender, ethnicity, home language and any disability
- Encouraging each child to develop a sense of their own identity and culture
- Helping children learn about cultures different from their own and to develop positive attitudes towards people who are different from themselves

Pupils with disabilities

As a school we recognise the importance of understanding and respecting all people. Our school makes appropriate arrangements for the admission and access of pupils with disabilities. We ensure that pupils with disabilities are not treated less favourably than other pupils. Our school access plan and our disability equality policy are available on request.

Home School Agreement and e-safety

On accepting a place at Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School, and at the commencement of each subsequent year, parents and pupils are expected to sign the acceptable use of the internet agreement. This will be circulated annually for signature.

Disclaimer

The information supplied in this document is in accordance with information at present available to the Governors and is believed to be correct at the date of printing.

01597 8260