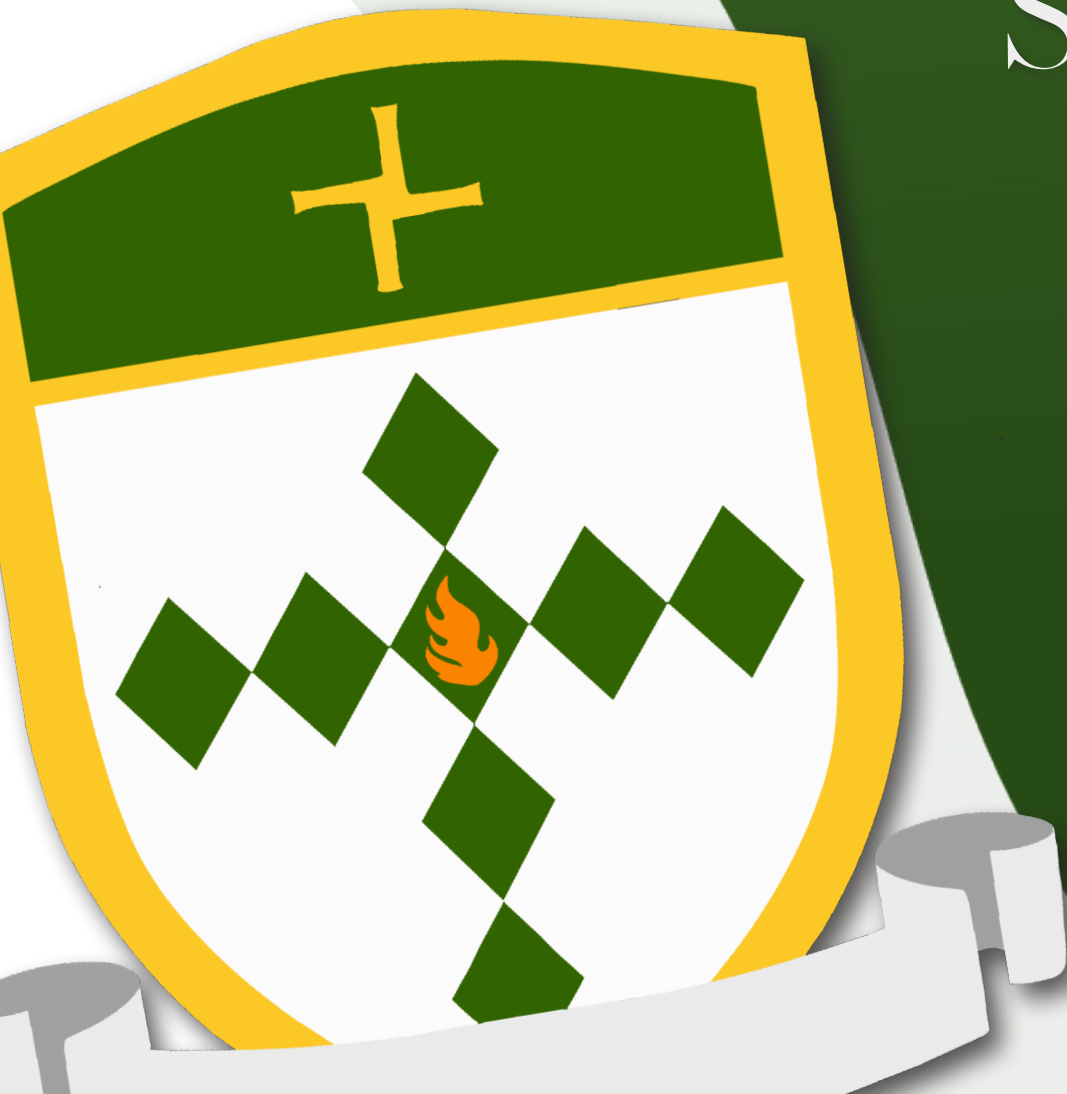




ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL

Denbigh

TO INSPIRE AND
BE INSPIRED





ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS



WELCOME

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WELCOME TO ST. BRIGID'S

Foreword from the Headteacher

Welcome to St. Brigid's school. As a past pupil of the school, I am incredibly proud to be welcoming you to our very special and unique community – St. Brigid's is a small school with a big heart, and we build on the legacy of those who have come before us. Those who have attended St. Brigid's and who work with us know that St. Brigid's is more than just a school- everyone who passes through our doors becomes a part of our family.

St. Brigid's is a Voluntary-Aided 3-19 school in the local authority of Denbighshire. We are a school with a designated religious character and follow the Catholic tradition. The school is very proud of its traditional values and high standards. At St. Brigid's we promote excellence through the development of our young people as successful learners, confident and caring individuals, well-rounded and responsible citizens who contribute to society. We are justifiably proud of the achievements of our pupils, not only our outstanding academic results, but also in the fields of arts, sports and in the wider community.

We pride ourselves as being a 'family' school. As the oldest 3-19 school in Wales, we are able to nurture and develop our pupils from Nursery, until they leave us for university and the world of work. We strive to provide all of our pupils with an excellent education, allowing each individual to attain their optimum intellectual, spiritual, emotional and physical development.

We are delighted to share our school community with you in a small way via our prospectus and look forward to welcoming you into school in the future.

God Bless you and your families.



Mrs. Leah Crimes MA NPQH FRSA MCCT

Pennaeth/Headteacher



A group of five school children, three girls and two boys, are sitting outdoors in front of a large tree. They are all wearing dark green school uniforms with red trim and a crest on the left chest. The girl on the far left is wearing red-rimmed glasses. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with green foliage and the trunk of a large tree.

*'Fortiter et Suaviter'
Strength and Gentleness*

'St Brigid's provides an environment within which the values of the Catholic church are of prime importance.'

OUR SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL ETHOS

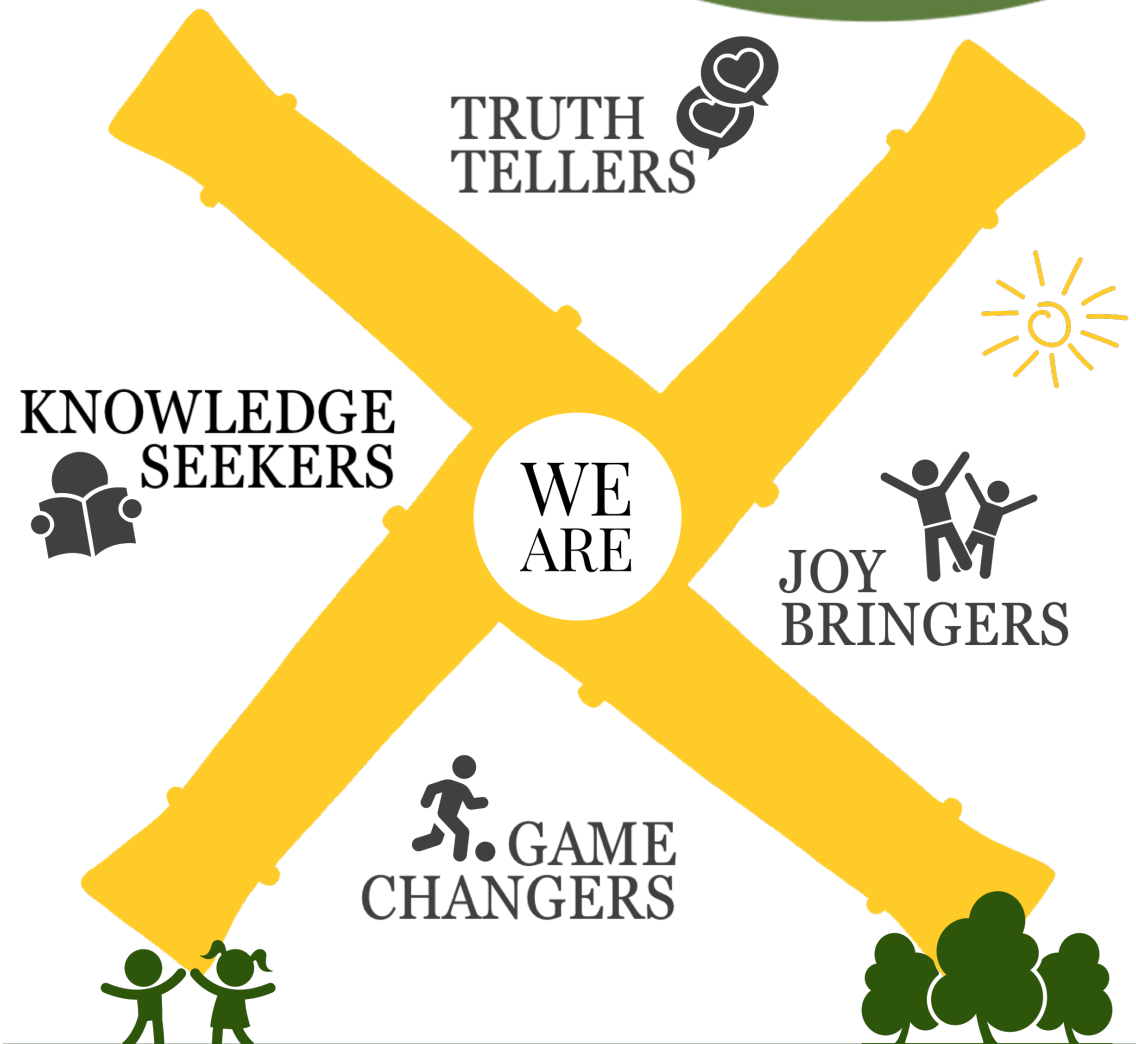
'To inspire and be inspired'

Our Aims

The aim of St. Brigid's School is to provide an excellent Christian Education which will enable each individual pupil to develop their talents to the full and produce the qualities of character, both spiritual and academic which will lead them naturally into responsible adult life.

As a part of the Welsh national curriculum we aim to develop young people who are:

- *Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.*
- *Enterprising creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.*
- *Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.*
- *Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society,*



WE ARE BRIGIDINE

ABOUT ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL

St. Brigid's School was established in 1939, by the Congregation of St. Brigid, and set up in premises in the town of Denbigh. In 1943, the nuns moved the school from Park Street to the present premises, and the school became St. Brigid's Convent School, catering for children from the age of 4 to 18. In later years, it was known as Brigidine Convent.

In 1996, the school became the first Maintained (state) Boarding School in Wales. With changes introduced in 1999 by the Schools Standard and Framework Act, the School became a Voluntary-Aided school supported by the Denbighshire Local Education Authority. In 2013 boarding closed and St. Brigid's became a day school only.

St. Brigid's serves a large catchment area stretching from Llandudno in the West to the Welsh Borders in the East, and beyond Ruthin in the South.

Contact Information:

Mrs. L. Crimes - Headteacher
Mrs M.Hammersley - Chair of Governors

St. Brigid's School
Plas-yn-Green,
Mold Road,
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LL16 4BH
Tel/Ffon: 01745 815 228
email: stbrigidsadmin@denbighshire.gov.uk
website: www.st-brigids.co.uk



A historic location'

One of the first 3-19 schools in Wales.



OUR SCHOOL FAMILY

St. Brigid's School with its Catholic foundation and ethos has had a long tradition of being a family school with a Christian, caring environment. In daily school life, we build a strong moral and spiritual framework based on our values as a former Brigidine Convent School, which enables our students to explore, understand and manage the challenges of today's society. The Brigidine motto, Fortiter et Suaviter challenges students to be "People of Strength, People of Gentleness". These seemingly opposing virtues are in fact complementary notions of moral courage (fortiter) and consideration of others (suaviter).

The school has a Roman Catholic Foundation, and in accepting a place, parents and the child must agree that their education will follow the Roman Catholic ethos, and they will enter fully into the religious life of the school. All pupils attend school assemblies and follow a course of Religious Education which is included in the core subjects to GCSE.

Well-being and happiness are key to our health, relationships, our ability to perform, to think and to create. We believe that young people achieve their best if they are happy at school. We listen to our students and value their well-being. Our approach encourages a sense of a faith filled, family community, that supports students from Nursery all the way through to our Sixth Form.



We Care for our Learners

A caring school community where every pupil is to be held in equal esteem as a child of God!

PASTORAL CARE

PASTORAL CARE OF PUPILS

Our Pastoral Aims

- *to nurture a concerned and caring school community.*
- *to help each pupil enrich their personal life.*
- *to help each pupil to make meaningful and relevant choices.*
- *to help create and maintain an orderly and happy environment where pupils can grow and learn.*

The pastoral care system at St. Brigid's School is based on the Christian principals of respect, consideration, care and concern for every member of the school community. Pastoral Care is centred on the form group.

We want all learners to be happy at school; as learning is more effective when pupils feel safe, secure and cared for.

In the first instance, form tutors deal with pupils' educational and personal development. Sometimes however they need to be passed on to the relevant Head of Year.

Our pastoral system follows the model of best practice for 3-19 schools:

Lower School: Nursery – Year 4

Middle School: Year 5 – Year 8

Upper School: Year 9 – Year 11

Sixth Form: Year 12 – Year 13



A LEARNING JOURNEY

Middle School

The aim of our Middle School is to promote the safety, success, development and happiness of all learners at St. Brigid's.

The education, care, support and guidance of the pupils is firmly based around our Brigidine Learner Profile which has been adapted and developed to cross reference with the Curriculum for Wales Four Purposes.

Every day, pupils have time where they can check in with their Tutor. Time is spent in collective worship; discussions around current affairs; global issues and reading. This is a time for learners to prepare everything they need for the day and share experiences or concerns.



Lower School

As a child begins their educational journey at St. Brigid's we aim to nurture and guide them every step along the way. We want to inspire them to be the best they can be and to ensure that they thrive throughout their time at St. Brigid's and for the rest of their lives.

Children always have something positive to share about their time in Lower School and always make excellent progress. This provides them with additional opportunities when moving up through the school.

During Lower School we have six overarching themes around which each class plans and delivers their learning.

Sixth Form

St. Brigid's is part of The Dyffryn Clwyd, Dinbych Consortium

As a consortium we are not only able to deliver expectations of the learning and skills, but surpass them, in the choice of options that are available through the consortium.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is a key part of our Post 16 offer and pupils have the option to do this in conjunction with A level courses or BTEC qualifications.

Our sixth form pupils form part of our successful prefect team and assist the school in many ways including acting as Reading and Maths buddies, volunteering in and out of school and being positive role models to the younger pupils.

Upper School

As pupils enter Year 9, they start to focus on choices for GCSE, pupils are guided by mentors to think about option choices and potential. We encourage them to make forward thinking decision about their futures.

In Year 10 and 11 the GCSE courses begin, and pupils have opportunity to seek careers advice and to focus on the choices available to them post 16, whether that be returning to sixth form or looking at possible college courses.

Historically St. Brigid's GCSE results have been the best in the area, these excellent results are attained through first class teaching and the good working relationships that the school fosters between pupils and their teachers.





'We aim to ensure our curriculum provides appropriate progression for learners of different ages, abilities and aptitudes'

CURRICULUM

A CURRICULUM FOR ALL

We aim to give children an exceptional start to their education, in a holistic way that enables the whole child to flourish. We recognise the importance of early education and the impact this can have upon children as they progress through St. Brigid's School and their lives. We aim to provide the very best educational and spiritual experiences possible through delivering a thorough, broad, and balanced curriculum.

The curriculum is based around the Four Purposes and Catholic learner profile, which has inspired our Brigidine Learner profile in collaboration with all stakeholders. These purposes will be at the very heart and core of our curriculum design, planning and teaching moving forward.

Our goal is to develop pupils into independent, resilient, kind and caring individuals, ready to learn and prepared for life in our ever-changing world and community.

A Personal and Social Education programme is followed by all year groups. Vocational education is an integral part of this programme with particular emphasis on careers education in Years 9, 10 & 11 and is also reinforced through a programme of work experience in Year 10 and Year 12. A school-based Learning Coach provides advice for pupils in addition to mentoring.

We are also currently following the previous National Curriculum for Wales in some secondary year groups as the new curriculum rollout continues.



RAISING EXPECTATIONS

More Able and Talented

Our school has a long history of high achievements and success stories with talented pupils take next steps in West-end stage shows, attending Oxbridge universities and developing lifelong skill sets. Allowing those children with talents and gifts is central to what we teach at St. Brigid's school. We believe that children learning about what they enjoy, helps to develop higher order skills. Our provision also gives children time to develop their own personal interests.

We are aware that talents take many different forms. Whether is it a love for music, drama, mathematics, science, languages, art, sport or any other field of interest. We aim to encourage children to pursue the field that they have a talent for to the fullest. Our offer includes, but is not limited to, one-to-one music lessons, problem solving maths clubs, attending team sporting events and opportunities to take part in school productions and stage shows. Extracurricular opportunities are made available for these pupils to allow them to excel.

There is a separate policy for the More Able and Talented children and we aim to support the most able pupils to achieve their potential where practically possible. The school has appointed a More Able and Talented coordinator to oversee this provision.



WORKING WITH FAMILIES

Costs to Parents

Some activities such as sports fixtures, field trips and curriculum visits may incur costs. Financial assistance is available for pupils in receipt of Free Schools Meals via the Pupil Development Grant and application for assistance should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

A charge is made for materials or ingredients for Technology Subjects to ensure costs are covered, but the pupil will be able to retain the product. Re-sits of public examinations are charged, as are individual lessons in Music, Drama or Dance which will be charged at the appropriate rate. There are many extra-curricular activities including sports clubs, ski trips, visits to the theatre and other enrichment activities. Music, Dance and Sport are offered, and Drama productions are of a high standard. There is close communication between home and school. A full list of chargeable items is listed in the school charging policy which is available on the school website.

Provision for Pupils

St. Brigid's School as a community reflects and celebrates diversity. Our commitment is to meet the needs of every child admitted into the school where possible, whether long or short term, related to physical, emotional or behavioural difficulties or learning. We aim to be partners with parents who are the first educators of their children.

Our aim is to build on the child's strengths to allow maximum participation in all school activities. Special attention will be given to the child's spiritual development to reinforce the sense of dignity and value established in the individual child.



AREAS OF LEARNING

The Curriculum for Wales gives us the freedom to design our own content based on:

- 6 Areas of Learning and Experience and their What Matters Statements
- Cross Curricular Skills Development
- 5 Cross-Cutting Themes

Curriculum subjects are mapped across the entire curriculum from 3 – 19 years and framed within 6 areas of learning.

A Curriculum for Wales



1	Languages, Literacy and Communication	English Literature	English Language	Phonics Welsh	French Spanish
2	Mathematics and Numeracy	The Number System	Statistics Algebra	Fluency Geometry	Numeracy Reasoning
3	Science and Technology	Biology Physics	Chemistry Digital Skills	Computer Science	Design and Technology
4	The Expressive Arts	Art Music	Drama	Creative Media	Media Studies
5	Humanities	Geography History	Religion Values and Ethics	Psychology	
6	Health and Well-being	Physical Education	Emotional and Social Health	Welsh Baccalaureate	Well-being RSE

Whilst English is the school's main language. We aim to create a Welsh language ethos within the school to ensure children understand Wales' place in the wider world.

We want our learners to have opportunities to speak and use Welsh across all phases of the school. Children have opportunities to take part in our Criw Cymraeg which encourages Welsh across St Brigid's. At least 15% of the learners' school activities will be in Welsh. We also aim to support children, whose first language at home is any language other than English, to take part in our curriculum.



The Curriculum for Wales gives us the opportunity to ensure that learners' progress is the primary purpose of assessment and not an accountability exercise. To this end, we at St. Brigid's School place a premium on developing a holistic picture of each learner's development, including their well-being, readiness and desire to learn as well as the development of their skills, knowledge and understanding. We emphasise the importance of ensuring a shared understanding of progress across the school and cluster and on regular discussions with parents and carers to discuss their child's progress.

Most of the learning experiences at St. Brigid's School will be based on a Big Question or Theme.

We feel it is important for learners to receive quality learning opportunities, so as to ensure that they leave us with the self-confidence to succeed and overcome future challenges. We also aim to develop for our learners, a sound knowledge and appreciation of their locality (Cynefin) combined with an awareness of everyone's right to education and the challenges facing some young people across the world.

These Big Questions or Themes, also provide exciting opportunities to develop cross-curricular skills, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence within and across the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience.

As St. Brigid's School is a voluntary aided school, the Religion, Values and Ethics Act requires our curriculum to make provision for teaching and learning in respect of RVE that accords with the school's Christian ethos with a Roman Catholic tradition.



'Moving futures forward'
A curriculum for high achievers.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sporting Aims and Provision

The school fosters an enthusiasm for as many sporting activities as can be provided with the existing facilities. All pupils follow a course in Physical Education, and this is supplemented by after-school activities such in both Primary and Secondary Departments. Some of the clubs offered are Orienteering, Cross-Country, Netball, Tennis, Athletics and Aerobics. There is usually an annual ski trip which is extremely popular. The school Combined Cadet Force also contribute to the sporting activities on offer for pupils from Year 9, these include climbing, canoeing and orienteering.



'Beautiful Grounds and Setting'
Sporting success with a view

St. Brigid's Combined Cadet Force

The school has a Combined Cadet Force which is available for all pupils over the age of 12. Cadets join at the end of Year 8 and are able to attend Annual Camp in June/July. The Contingent meets on a Monday evening from 3.45pm to 5.45pm. Uniform (except boots) is provided. Cadets can join either the Army or RAF Sections. The training can lead towards Advanced Proficiency Certificates and The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

There are many opportunities for Adventure Training and openings for sport and expeditions. Cadets have the chance to be selected for visits to Canada, Cyprus, Patagonia, Kenya and other locations around the world.

Club and Societies

St. Brigid's also offers a wide range of extra-curricular clubs including young writers club, science club, bible study groups, art and design club. Children can also take part in choir practises the school orchestra and we as opportunities to receive peripatetic music lessons throughout the school day.

Rosary sessions take place daily and the chapel all allows for mindfulness and meditation while at school.





FURTHER
INFORMATION

THE SCHOOL DAY

Nursery - Year 2

Time	Activity
8:50	Start of School Day
9:00 - 10:30	Lesson 1
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:45	Lesson 2
11:30	Nursery - End of Day
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 1:55	Lesson 3
1:55 - 2:05	Break
2:05 - 3:00	Lesson 4
3:00	End of Day

Year 3 - Year 6

Time	Activity
8:50	Start of School Day
9:00 - 9:30	Reading and Spelling Activities
9:30 - 10:30	Lesson 1
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:00	Lesson 2
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 1:55	Lesson 3
1:55 - 2:05	Break
2:05 - 3:00	Lesson 4
3:00	End of Day

Year 7- Year 11

Time	Activity
8:50	Start of School Day
8:50 - 9:15	Registration
9:15 - 10:15	Lesson 1
10:20 - 11:20	Lesson 2
10:20 - 11:35	Break
11:35 - 12:35	Lesson 3
12:35 - 1:15	Lunch
1:15 - 2:15	Lesson 4
2:15 - 3:20	Lesson 5
3:20	End of Day

Year 12- Year 13

Time	Activity
8:50 - 9:15	Registration
9:15 - 9:45	Travel Time/ Self Study
9:45 - 11:20	Lesson 1
8:50 - 9:15	Registration
11:20 - 11:35	Break/Travel Time
11:35 - 12:35	Lesson 2
12:35 - 1:20	Lunch/Travel Time
1:20 - 2:20	Lesson 4
2:20 - 3:20	Lesson 5
3:20	End of Day

Arrival

Pupils should arrive at school not later than 8:40a.m. and proceed to their class or form room for registration.

Lunch

Pupils are expected to take School Lunch in the Dining Room, in their Form rooms or in the school grounds. Only Sixth form pupils are allowed to leave the school premises during the lunch period.

Dismissal

School finishes at 3:00p.m. for Primary pupils and 3:20p.m. for Secondary pupils.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions to the school are in line with our admissions policies for Primary and Secondary which can be found on the school website. As a Voluntary Aided school, the school acts as its own Admissions Authority. Applications to the school must be completed on the school application form which can be found on the school website or by contacting the Admissions Secretary at the school. There are admissions into Nursery, Reception, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 7. Mid-year applications are considered on a case by case basis. As the school is regularly oversubscribed the admissions criteria are applied rigorously.

School Uniform

Full School uniform is worn by all pupils during the school day, a Uniform List will be supplied. Forrester/Monkhouse supply our school uniform supplier and they sell uniform online or through Forrester by Monkhouse in Mold.



APPLYING TO ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL

St. Brigid's is a beautiful setting and a vibrant place to learn. We place equal importance upon the academic development of our pupils as and the growth of our individuals. We understand that success can come in many formats and that recognising the value of this is crucial. Such an ethos has embedded St. Brigid's School as an important figure within the local community, something that we are immensely proud of.

St. Brigid's is a Voluntary Aided school, and the Admissions Authority is the Governing Body (not Denbighshire County Council). It is therefore essential that you complete the school's application form should you wish your child to be considered for a place.

If you too would like to become part of this success, please visit our website www.st-brigids.co.uk, alternatively call our admissions officer on 01745 815 228.



COME AND SEE US

Book a Visit

Come and enjoy the beautiful scenery, and talk to the friendly staff and pupils.

You can drop into our reception area via our historic Victorian entrance. View our beautifully renovated chapel before you begin a tour of the school facilities. We offer dedicated science labs, music studio and computing suites. Explore the stunning grounds offered to our learners.

You can book a personal tour of our school by contacting the admissions department. We can provide bespoke visits to the school for you and your child.

Contact our Admissions Officer to book a visit today.

Open Day

We offer an open day each year at the end of September. This day is tailored for aspiring admissions to our school. Parents and children can explore our grounds, get more information about the school and meet some of the teachers here.

Check our website or twitter feed for specific dates.

Speak with Staff

If you'd like to meet any of our pastoral learning team please contact them via e-mail at the following addresses:

Mrs. L. Crimes, Headteacher - P.A @ stbrigidsadmin@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dr. P. Humberstone, Deputy Headteacher - humberstonep@hwbcymru.net

Ms. H. Parry-Hughes, Head of Sixth Form - parr-hughh@hwbcymru.net

Miss. L. Price, Head of Upper School - pricec362@hwbcymru.net

Ms. G. Newnham, Head of Middle School - newnhamg1@hwbcymru.net

Miss. H. McMurray, Head of Lower School - mcmurrayh@hwbcymru.net

Mrs J. Morris, Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator - morrisj291@hwbcymru.net

Administration Office Telephone: 01745 815 228
e-mail: stbrigidsadmin@denbighshire.gov.uk



FINAL DETAILS

Language Policy

The school is designated as an English language school but encourages the use of Welsh in and around lessons as part of our commitment to the Welsh language and culture. The school has a policy for developing pupils' language, which recognises that success in school subjects is likely to be greater if pupils are encouraged to practise their language skills within all curriculum areas. All pupils are expected to study Welsh and all pupils have left the school with a Welsh qualification in the last 5 years.

The school actively promotes the Welsh language and culture in accordance with the Welsh Government Programmes of Study, as well as reflecting its position within the local community. The school has active participation in the Urdd.

Equality

The overall structures and policies and attitudes are to be kept under review in order to see that no individual adult or child is subject in any way to prejudice or discrimination in terms of their membership of the school community.

Every 2 years the school sets out its Strategic Equality plan which outlines the school commitment to equal opportunities for all regardless of race, gender, disability and other protected characteristics in line with our school ethos.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and RE lessons at any phase of the school if they choose to. We ask that this is submitted to the school in writing.

Additional Learning Needs

We will ensure that pupils with Additional Learning Needs and those who are Looked After are made known to all who will teach the child and that appropriate provision, within financial constraints and where practically possible, is available in all curriculum areas.

Looked after pupils will have access to all areas of the curriculum and school life to enable them to have the same opportunities as other pupils. This is reviewed regularly by the Looked After Children and Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator.

Relationships and Sexuality Education

This School incorporates in its general curriculum appropriate teaching on matters of human love, the functions of the body and an understanding of God's creative love as embodied in human reproduction at a level suitable to the growing child at various stages of development. Sex education as such is not a subject in itself on the curriculum. However, there will be from time-to-time specific classes devoted to various aspects of sex education in a variety of subjects. Moral teaching on sexual behaviour will be covered from the Catholic point of view in all subjects although the RE department may take special initiatives in this area in liaison with other subjects. Questions arise in a wide variety of topics. Teachers are asked to answer questions honestly, taking care that especially in the case of younger pupils' answers are simple and straightforward and do not give rise to confusion or anxiety. Parents no longer have a right to withdraw from this area of learning. The RSE policy, created in conjunction with Denbighshire County Council, is available on the school website.

School Security, Health & Safety

The Business and Facilities Manager oversees the upkeep and maintenance of the school site. We are very fortunate to have beautiful parkland surrounding the school with views of the vale of Clwyd. Facilities are shared between the whole school community and most areas are communal to all pupils. The school kitchen received a complete renovation in 2021. Toilet facilities are reported as being clean and to a high standard. All facilities conform to the standard regulations for schools in Wales.

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring the Security, Health & Safety of all persons who have access to the school, including pupils, staff, parents and other visitors. Whilst it is impossible to secure the whole site, measures have been taken to ensure access to individual buildings is controlled. Risk Assessments are in place to ensure that the safety and security of pupils, staff and visitors.

All Governors, staff and teaching assistants are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS), and all staff and visitors are required to sign-in at Reception.

Under no circumstances (with the exception of the sixth form) is a student allowed to leave the school during the school day without the express permission of their pastoral head. Permission is normally granted when a pupil produces written request from a parent. These requests are usually for dental or medical appointments or urgent matters which cannot be dealt with outside school hours.

Absence and Holidays

All periods of absence, however short, should be covered by an explanatory note addressed to the Form tutor. When a pupil is likely to be absent from school for an extended period, the school should be informed by letter or telephone.

The school strongly discourages holidays being taken during school terms as such absences are likely to have a negative effect on children's education. If parents wish their children to accompany them on holidays during school time, authorised absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstance at the discretion of the headteacher, provided the appropriate holiday form is completed and returned to school in advance of the absence. Absence forms can be obtained from the reception.

Complaints Procedures about Curriculum and Related Matters

Under the terms of Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988, procedures have been laid down concerning complaints made by parents or others on specific items.

Any concerns expressed by parents and others about the school curriculum and related matters will continue to be considered and, so far as possible, dealt with through informal discussion with teachers and the Headteacher in the first instance. Where the issue is not resolved, the matter may then be the subject of a formal complaint and, if appropriate, referred to the Governing Body. If deliberations fail to provide a satisfactory response to the complainant, the issue will then be referred to a Curriculum Appeals Panel. A copy of the document detailing arrangements for the consideration of complaints is available on the school website.

