

Love Learning for Life  
Caru Dysgu am Oes

# St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School

## School Prospectus



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COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION



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**Our Vision** – With Christian values at our core we nurture tolerance, confidence and compassion within a safe and happy school community. We challenge our children to become future guardians of the world and achieve their full potential.

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Choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. All parents want a good education for their children but they also want them to be happy and to feel safe and secure. At St Brides Major CW Primary School we believe we can offer all these things.

We pride ourselves on the broad, balanced and full education we provide in St Brides. The high standards of teaching and learning are a credit to the hard work of both staff, pupils, and our partnership with parents. Equally we are also proud of the safe, caring, happy, stimulating Christian environment in which your child will develop.

St Brides is at the heart of a busy, thriving community. Our links with community groups and the parish around us are a strong and vital part of the work that we do. Underpinning this work are the Gospel values of kindness, friendship, compassion, honesty and love.

Many visitors to the school comment on the warm welcome they receive and the politeness and maturity of our pupils.

The most recent Inspection Report noted “The school is a welcoming and caring community, which fosters positive attitudes to learning and living together”. We believe that our pupils time in school should be rewarding and fulfilling.

Should you choose to send your child to St Brides I am fully confident that you will have made the right decision. I look forward to meeting you soon and if you have any queries or concerns please contact me at school at any time.

Yours sincerely

*Mr D Mottram*  
Headteacher



**St Brides Major School is a voluntary aided, co-educational school for children aged between 3 and 11 years of age. There are currently approximately 240 pupils in the school.**

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The school is set in beautiful grounds with a field, trees and meadow area. We have a number of award-winning gardens that are maintained by the children.

We enjoy very close links with the picturesque village church, St Bridget's, which is situated just two or three minutes walk away. We also have strong links with the other churches in the catchment, such as, Ewenny Priory Church. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated by the whole school in church several times each term. Everyone is welcome to join in; baptised Anglicans and communicant members of other Christian churches are welcome to receive the Sacrament.



**St Brides Major is a voluntary aided Church in Wales Primary School serving the communities of Ewenny and St Brides Major in the Rectorial Benefice of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Children are admitted to the School Nursery the term after their third birthday and to the Reception class in September during the academic year of their fifth birthday. The standard intake number for pupils entering the reception class in any given year is 30.**

The Governing Body will consider applications received by January each year and priority will be given to children with

- a. Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need where the school is named as the most appropriate setting.
- b. Looked after children or previously looked after children.

The remaining places will be allocated (in order of priority) to

- a. Children who are resident solely within the communities of Ewenny and St Brides Major.
- b. Children who are resident some of the time within the communities of Ewenny and St Brides Major and some of the time elsewhere.
- c. Children resident outside of the communities of Ewenny and St Brides Major.

Children who will have an older sibling (full, half or step brother/sister, adopted or fostered) attending the school at the time of the actual enrolment at school.

Full Admissions details and the oversubscription criteria can be found in the Schools Admissions Policy available on the school website or from the school office.

Parents are genuinely welcome in school. We believe that a strong partnership between the home, school, Church and community is essential if our children are to receive the best education. As parents you have the most important part to play in preparing your child for school. Each year we have a transition week in the term before your child starts with us. Children are invited to spend some time in school over the period of a week to familiarise themselves with our set up.

We have an 'open-door' policy at school and welcome parents to discuss their concerns as soon as possible. Teachers are always available after school and you can always make an appointment to see the Headteacher.

Weekly newsletters and the termly 'Curriculum News' give details of each class' work in all subjects, the extra curricular clubs and special events for the term. Full schemes of work, policy documents and National Curriculum guidelines are available on request. Our weekly newsletter contains an update of school activities. These are an important part of communication from staff to parents. The school has a website and Twitter account that are updated daily.



### School Times

8:45am

Children allowed on site

8:55am

School Day Begins

10:45am until 11:00am

Morning Break

12:15pm – 1:15pm

Lunchtime (12pm in Foundation Phase)

2:40 – 2:50pm

Afternoon Break

3:30pm

School Day Ends



### Nursery Times

Morning Session

9am – 11:30am

Afternoon Session

12:55pm – 3:25pm

### Medical and Dental Examinations

These are carried out at suitable intervals by the school nurse. Parents are informed and invited to attend with pupils on such occasions.

### Illness and Emergency procedures

We will always do our best to deal with illness and accidents occurring in school.

Parents are informed of any incident that occurs. In cases of emergency, parents are contacted by telephone. It is important that school is kept informed of changes of address and telephone numbers. A confidential form is supplied with our registration form, and it would be helpful if you would include at least two emergency contact numbers, should we fail to contact you.

In extreme emergencies an ambulance will be called.

### Medicines

We are happy to administer medicines in school if parents have completed a Medical Consent Form.

We will allow asthma pumps in school, but these must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name and instructions for use. They will be stored securely and safely by the class teacher.

## Absence from School

School must be informed in writing or by telephone of the reason for your child's absence. When a child is persistently absent, without reason, the school will inform the Education Welfare Officer, who will in turn visit you at home. Holidays in term time are not encouraged and will be unauthorised. However if this unavoidable, a Leave of Absence form must be completed and returned to school.



## School Uniform

School uniform is an important part of life in St Brides, it helps promote positive behaviour and discipline, it develops the school ethos and supports the schools high quality teaching and learning. For parents who are buying a new uniform our uniform supplier is 'Uniforms 2 Go' on Bridgend Industrial Estate. The following table shows you what we would like your child to wear to school.

Uniform	Red Jumper / Cardigan Grey / Black Trousers or Shorts / Skirt Summer – Red / White Dress Y6 – White Shirt, School tie, Red Jumper / Cardigan
Foot Wear	Black Shoes
Jewellery	None
Hair	Neat / Tied back
PE Clothing	White T Shirt Black or grey tracksuit bottoms or shorts Black hoodie
PE Foot Wear	Trainers

## Personal Property

Children should bring to school only what they need for lessons. It is recommended that all items of clothing and personal equipment should be marked with the child's name. Items of special value should not be brought to school. Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school.

## School Meals

All meals are prepared on site in line with Vale Catering Services guidelines. We can fully cater for any dietary needs pupils may have. Pupils may bring their own packed lunch, but meals/ packed lunches must be taken on a weekly basis. You must inform school if you intend to take your child home for lunch or to take him/her off school premises during the lunch hour. All school dinners should be paid for in advance via the Parent Pay System. Application forms for free school meals are available from the school clerk. They must be returned to the Civic Offices and not to school. Children are allowed fruit snacks for morning break.

We do not allow sweets in school and chewing gum is strictly prohibited. Soft drinks are allowed, but no fizzy drinks, cans or glass bottles.





↑ *Foundation Phase children using the outside areas.*

### Collecting Children from School

Parents are welcome to wait for children on the middle yard. If the weather is wet, parents may shelter in any covered area, but we ask that it be away from any teaching areas.

### School Transport

School buses are provided for children who live within catchment, but within the L.E.A. prescribed limit. School is not directly responsible for the organisation and co-ordination of school transport nor the behaviour of the pupils travelling to and from school.

### The George Francis Fund

The school benefits from the proceeds of a trust fund set up by a former native of the parish and named after him: The George Francis Fund. School's private income is also supplemented by profit raised from the sale of school garments and photographs etc and donations from local organisations. All money raised is used to the benefit of our pupils in ways which may not be covered by the L.E.A. budget.

### Promoting Good Behaviour

Our school policy is to encourage positive behaviour. Self-discipline and self-control are essential for effective teaching and learning to take place. Effort in school work and behaviour is encouraged and rewarded. Each week we celebrate achievement in our worship and teachers nominate pupils for merits in recognition of effort. A Headteacher's Award is given to a pupil who has been commended for outstanding effort and a class is chosen as class of the month, for being an example of good behaviour.

The school only has five rules called the St Brides Finger Rules. They are:

- Be safe
- Be kind
- Follow instructions
- Try your best
- Show respect

When rules are broken we have a system of sanctions will be applied. We strive to be fair in our delivery of these sanctions. Parents are informed when sanctions are applied and invited to discuss the matter further with the Headteacher.

Bullying is an issue which no school can ignore and we always investigate any allegation relating to an act of bullying. We have an Anti-Bullying Policy in school, copies of which are available on request.

### Equality for All

- Maintain the zero- tolerance approach to bullying across the school.
- To ensure that there is no level of digital exclusion for learners by implementing the WG Digital Exclusion Framework and Delivery Plan.
- To provide financial support to families who cannot afford the cost of school trips / residential experiences.
- To ensure that the RE curriculum is used to promote respect for the diversity of religion and belief.
- To create a healthy, safe and supportive work environment where employees can perform at their best.

## Parent – Teacher Consultations

Parents are invited to formal meetings with staff and governors on a number of occasions through the school year.

## Autumn Term / Spring Term – Open Evening

Appointments are given to parents for this evening. Books are viewed before a discussion with the class teacher takes place. Progress is discussed, along with ways in which school and home can help in the development of the child.

## End of Year Reports

Parents are invited to make an appointment to discuss their child's written report at the end of the academic year with the class teacher.

## Friends of St Brides

The school has an active Association of Friends which plays a vital part in the life of our school. They organise excellent social occasions enjoyed by parents and children alike. These activities have included discos, raffles, quizzes and Christmas and Summer Fairs. As well as providing a way for fostering good relationships between parents and teachers, funds raised from these activities have provided extra resources for all the children at our school to enjoy. All new parents are made very welcome.

## Voluntary Help

Parents are encouraged to help in many other ways, either on a regular basis, or occasionally to share a hobby, interest or skill connected with a class' curriculum work.

We have parents and governors who help with aspects of local history, pottery, cooking, listening to readers, coaching teams, gardening, extending music activities, home school library . . . the list is endless.



## Regular Events

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Christmas Fair

—  
Summer Fair

—  
Book Fair

—  
Coffee mornings

## Involvement in Charities

As a Church school we believe that the act of giving or sharing with less fortunate people is important. Our Lent Charity is our main charity event, which supports a different local, children's charity each year.



↑ Reception children learning through play.

**The essential skills of communication, literacy, numeracy and digital competency are the central focus of our curriculum, these skills are learnt discretely and are applied across the wider curriculum.**



If you feel good about the school, this will quickly be translated to the child. We hope to offer you a warm welcome which will enhance the feel good factor. You are very welcome to visit us before school starts and we hope to see you and your child at our Familiarisation Week which is held each June. By visiting the school beforehand, their first experience should be a happy and relaxed one.

### **Nursery**

We are fortunate enough to have a purpose built nursery on the school site. The school Nursery opened in the Autumn of 2017. We offer morning sessions that run between 9am -11:30am and afternoon sessions that run between 12:55pm and 3:25pm. Children are eligible to attend the school nursery from the term after their 3rd birthday. Wrap around care is available with St Brides Playgroup.

### **The bespoke St Brides Curriculum**

Our curriculum has been designed by our teachers, for our children in consultation with input from governors, parents, children and local cluster schools. It's designed with cynefin (a sense of place) at its core. A topic approach that enables skills to be developed across the curriculum is used in each class. The topics are brought to life by high quality and challenging teaching, inspirational, purposeful learning activities and opportunities to listen and plan for the developing interests and motivations of children. The school uses topics where the philosophy is to engage, develop, innovate and express.

Pupils are given the opportunity to acquire, develop, practise, apply and refine skills through group, paired and individual tasks in a variety of contexts across the curriculum.

### **Early Years**

Starting school can be unsettling at times as well as exciting and by home and school working together, the anxiety can be reduced. Getting to know a school, its routines and policies can often be a daunting prospect for you as well as your child.

### **The 4 Purposes**

The 4 purposes will be at the heart of our new curriculum. They will be the starting point for all decisions on the content and experiences developed as part of the curriculum to support our children and young people to be:

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives

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- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work

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- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world

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- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

### **What Matters**

Each area of learning and experience contains statements of what matters which shape learning for all children. These statements help our children think about what they're learning and how topics link to each other. They also support them to progress each year as they build upon their understanding and skills.

↓ *Children have the opportunity to learn a variety of musical instruments.*



## **AOLEs**

Our new curriculum will cover 6 Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Expressive Arts

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- Health and Well-Being

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- Humanities (including RE derived from the Church in Wales agreed syllabus)

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- Languages, Literacy, and Communication (including Welsh and Modern Foreign Languages)

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- Mathematics and Numeracy

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- Science and Technology

Our curriculum will also include 3 cross curriculum responsibilities: Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency.

There will also be cross cutting themes taught throughout which allow learners to: consider Local, National and International Contexts; develop an understanding of Relationships and Sexuality Education, learn about Human Rights Education and Diversity, and learn about Careers and Work-Related Experiences.

## **Assessment**

Assessment will be part of our children's learning every day. They will work with their teachers to understand how well they're doing. This is important to help them see where they are in their learning, plan their next learning steps, spot extra support required and find ways to challenge them.

## **Progression**

Our curriculum is supported by effective learning and teaching that enables learners to make progress. Throughout curriculum design staff have developed a shared understanding of the progression steps and the principles of progression. We have mapped the knowledge, skills, and experiences that our children will gain throughout the curriculum in St Brides using the Statements of What Matters to consider what progress looks like in each AOLE.

## **Review and Refinement**

Our school curriculum will be kept under review in order to meet and respond to the changing needs of learners, social contexts and needs. This will ensure our curriculum is both inclusive and responsive, meeting the needs of all learners. The reviews will take into account the views of stakeholders and will be signed off by the Governing Body.

## **Peripatetic Music Lessons**

There is a wide range of specialist tuition available through school including violin, brass, woodwind, guitar and recorder. All tuition, with the exception of recorders, has a nominal charge and is provided by Cardiff and the Vale Music Service. We also provide music workshops for our pupils as part of the Music curriculum programme. Pupils perform regularly in school events and we receive many compliments about the standard of their performance.

Our pupils have the opportunity to work with professional musicians who visit the school to perform and share their expertise.

## Digital Competency

Good use of technology has the potential to enhance the quality of teaching and learning across the curriculum. We provide children with the basic skills and techniques needed and further opportunities to use technology within the wider curriculum of the school in order to enhance their communication and learning. Our aim is for all pupils to be digitally competent.

A high proportion of work using technology will be using shared resources. We aim to foster group work, sharing and collaboration between peers. Digital skill development is integrated into all other subjects and used as a tool to enhance learning at appropriate stages. In addition we teach digital skills and knowledge in discreet lessons when this is more appropriate.

## Sport

We are very proud of our sporting achievements, we make every effort to give pupils experience of a wide range of sporting activities including rugby, football, cricket, dance, gymnastics, swimming and other team sports. Every pupil has the opportunity to join an after school club to practice skills for a specific sport. Girls and boys have equal access to every sport.



Infant pupils learn basic skills through P.E. lessons and can further improve their fitness in our after school clubs.

## Curriculum Cymreig

The Curriculum Cymreig is a part of the curriculum that is special to Wales. It is designed to reflect the history, geography and culture of Wales both nationally and locally.

The Curriculum Cymreig helps develop:

- a sense of belonging

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- a sense of place and heritage

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- an awareness of the importance of language and literature in the history and life of Wales

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- an understanding of the creative and expressive arts in Wales

## R.V.E. and Collective Worship

There is a legal requirement that the school delivers Religion, Values and Ethics effectively and that a daily act of collective worship which is of a Christian nature is provided for every pupil.

As St Brides Major is a Church in Wales Primary School, the content of our Religion Values and Ethics teaching is derived from the Church in Wales Agreed Syllabus and is based in the faith and practices of the Church in Wales. We are aware that our children live in a multi cultural society and the RVE scheme takes into account the teaching and practices of other principal religions and non faith groups in order to develop a respect for other cultures represented in Great Britain.

Daily acts of collective worship are held in various forms and are led by visiting clergy, guest speakers, members of staff and the children themselves. Classes lead worship and Eucharist Services at St Bridgets Church and Ewenny Priory throughout the year. Each Friday we hold a Merit Worship to celebrate positive attitudes to school life.

## Homework

We have a structured whole school approach to homework. Our aim is to gradually increase the amount and type of homework children receive as they move up through the school. At the start of each academic year pupils will be given a homework guide for that year. In Foundation Phase pupils are encouraged to take reading books home and to build up their sight vocabulary. A reading diary will be provided as a record. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be expected to learn spellings, tables and number bonds. Years 5 and 6 will be given research projects to develop over a term. Homework diaries will be provided and parents are asked to check and sign these regularly.

## Class Organisation

St Brides Major CW Primary School is a single form entry school. The Governing Body will always aim to have a separate class for each year group. Where this is not possible because of exceptionally low or high numbers then year groups could be combined.

## Safeguarding

The safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils is of paramount importance to us. The school has a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy which is available from the school website or office. All staff receive annual training in Child Protection. Our designated safeguarding person is Mr Mottram our Headteacher, Mrs Jenkins is the deputy designated safeguarding person. Security in school is important, the school gates are locked at 9:10am and all visitors should report to the school office after this time.

## Extra Curricular Activities

The staff at St Brides acknowledge the importance of striving for high standards ensuring that every child reaches his or her full potential. They understand too, the importance of developing the whole child and we pride ourselves on the wide range of additional opportunities which we offer children after school. Current opportunities include gardening, multi sports, football, cricket, arts and crafts, Welsh and ICT. At the beginning of each term, all parents receive details of the curriculum and extra curricular activities for the forthcoming term. All pupils are placed in a house on their arrival at school. Sports' Day and our Eisteddfod are run as inter-house competitions. Where ever possible pupils are usually placed in the same house as siblings.

## Pupil Voice

As a school, we are committed to pupils having a voice and making a difference to their own learning. Pupils represent their peers on the Pupil Parliament and many

other pupil voice committees which make decisions that influence the life of pupils within school. In addition, the school has a 'Worship and Values' committee which looks particularly at our role as a Church school. The School staff annually elect a Head Boy and Head Girl.



## Educational and Residential Visits

School visits are arranged to support and enhance work undertaken in the classroom. Some of these visits are within walking distance of school, others are further afield. Voluntary parental contributions are normally requested to cover the cost of school visits. If you have difficulty finding the money for a visit, please speak to the Headteacher. Teachers will never deny a child participation of a visit on the grounds that a contribution has not been forthcoming. All pupils must, however, return forms of consent from parents or guardians before participating in a visit. In no circumstance will a child be allowed to attend a visit if the parental permission slip has not been returned.

Each year members of staff take Y5 pupils to the Urdd Camp in Llangrannog. Here pupils experience a wide range of activities whilst using the Welsh language in a meaningful context.

Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to go on an overnight trip to London and attend a residential outdoors pursuit centre at Storey Arms in Brecon. During the week they experience a range of activities including walking, rock climbing, canoeing, swimming, cooking, cleaning and team building.



↓ *Year 6 with Tower Bridge behind them on their trip to London.*

### Additional Learning Needs

Special Educational Needs embraces pupils exhibiting a range of needs from severe learning and behaviour difficulties to more able and gifted needs. All work is carefully prepared and differentiated to ensure that each pupil progresses at a rate which is appropriate. Not all children develop at the same rate and some will progress faster than others. Learning difficulties may be general or specific, but our teaching staff work closely with the child to support the learning process. The interest of able children to learn may be stimulated by extension work or accelerated work in the curriculum.

Our aim is to provide help and support for all these children as quickly and comprehensively as possible from specialist support teachers in school and from outside support agencies. Occasionally it may be necessary to refer a child for additional help, or to provide a statement of provision for a special needs pupil. In all these, and other cases we involve parents at each stage of the process.

### Children with disabilities

Some children in our school have disabilities. We are committed to meeting the needs of these children, as we are to meeting the needs of all groups of children within our school. The school fully meets the requirements of the amended Disability Discrimination Act that came into effect in September 2002. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that these children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared with non-disabled children.

The school is committed to providing an environment that allows disabled children full access to all areas of learning. All our classroom entrances are wide enough for wheelchair access, and the designated points of entry for our school also allow wheelchair access. Our Access Plan identifies how we intend to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of all that our school has to offer.

Teachers modify teaching and learning expectations as appropriate for children with disabilities. For example, they may give additional time to complete certain activities, or they may modify teaching materials. In their planning, teachers ensure that they give children with disabilities the opportunity to develop skills in practical aspects of the curriculum.

### More Able and Talented



#### Our definition

At St Brides Major Primary School we have adopted the following definitions:



#### More Able

Children who demonstrate outstanding ability and/or potential in an academic subject (in some classes this could mean two or three children, in other classes there may be no children who fit this definition).



#### Talented

Children who demonstrate outstanding ability and/or potential in an area of the arts, physical education, emotional intelligence or other non-academic area of school life.



#### Objectives

To provide extension and enrichment opportunities for gifted and talented children.

To provide role models and mentors for gifted and talented children.

To provide an environment that welcomes talent and ability and encourages children to be proud of it and share it with others.

To encourage children to make the most of their gifts and talents.

To recognise that our talents can rest in a number of disciplines and cross-curricular ways.

To encourage children to take on new challenges and take responsibility for their own learning.

To encourage all children to recognise the importance of having a balance of abilities in society and how we can all benefit from this.

↓ *A wide variety of cooked dinners are available.*



**The Governing Body make strategic decisions about how the school is run. They meet at least once a term as a full body and several times in statutory committees. The current Chair of the Governing Body is Mrs Ann Jenkins. A full list of school governors can be found in the supplementary pages at the back of this prospectus.**

#### Governors are appointed to help:

- Decide what is taught
- Set standards of achievement
- Interview and appoint staff
- Monitor the school budget

School governors have legal responsibilities, powers and duties, however, they can only act as a body, not individually.

#### School governors are:

- Representatives of the Church in Wales
- Parents
- Teacher
- Non teaching staff
- Local Authority representative
- Minor Authority representative

Parent governors bring the views of parents to the Governing Body, but they are not 'mouthpieces' of the parents. They do not vote for all parents in general. They have equal status in the work of the Governing Body and have voting rights.

Parent governors can make sure that all communication with parents is understood and is informative. They will ensure that all parents have access to the Annual report to Parents. Parent governors should be aware of ways of encouraging parent interest and should become actively involved in drawing parents into school.

If you would like to become a governor ask the Headteacher or contact the Clerk to Governors.

#### Complaints Information

Most complaints can be resolved quickly and easily in discussion with the Headteacher or Chair of Governors. All complaints should start at this level. A copy of the Complaints Policy can be found on the school website or in the school office.

#### In conclusion

We hope that you think St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School is right for your child. The next step is to make an appointment to visit the school and to meet the Headteacher who will be happy to answer any questions you may have and arrange for you to meet the children and teachers on a tour of the school.

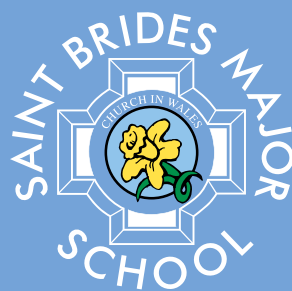
To apply for a place at St Brides Major you should first register your child's name with the School Administrator.

Full application forms will then be sent to you during the Autumn Term prior to the academic year in which your child would be due to start. Parents will be informed in the Spring Term about whether their applications have been successful.

Pupils who have been accepted will then be invited to join our programme of familiarisation activities called 'Welcome to school'.

Please see enclosed sheets for additional information.





*Love Learning for Life  
Caru Dysgu am Oes*

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## **St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School**

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