



Nant-y-Cwm Steiner School

Prospectus





A HOLISTIC EDUCATION THAT PREPARES CHILDREN FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

At Nant-y-Cwm Steiner school, we provide an inspiring education for ages 3 – 14 which encourages a love for learning and respects each child for their individuality.

Our Steiner-Waldorf curriculum is carefully designed to encourage our pupils to become well-rounded, critical thinkers. We prepare our pupils for lifelong academic success and intellectual fulfilment as well as preparing them for the next steps in their education

We offer a comprehensive education that cultivates creativity, responsibility and a sense of resourcefulness. These skills are critical to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

In today's digital world, where information is just a click away, it is our pupils' independent thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills that truly make them stand out from the crowd.

"The child should not be seen as a vessel to be filled, but a lamp to be lit."

- Plato



MAIN SCHOOL: 6-14 YEARS

The children begin their formal schooling at age 6, when they join Class 1 in the main school. It is the work of the class teacher – who will stay with the class for up to eight years – to hold the children as a family. Teachers are responsible for each individual's pastoral care as well as their academic progress. The group is held as a whole and this creates a sense of community throughout the school. The children feel recognised, respected and valued.

Our curriculum is designed to deepen understanding year after year, aligning with the evolving developmental needs of the children. As they progress through each class, they revisit subjects and themes in a way that builds upon previous learning, creating an ascending spiral of discovery. With each return to a topic, children have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, deepen their experience, and strengthen the shared memories between themselves and their teachers.

“*Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.*”

– Albert Einstein

DAILY RHYTHM

The day begins with the main lesson, which engages the children through their 'head, heart and hands.' The main lesson topic changes every few weeks and offers children a deep, experiential immersion in an area of knowledge or a particular discipline. Main lesson is punctuated with movement, singing and artwork, which brings structure and variety to their learning.

Building upon knowledge and skills from one main lesson to the next, children form a complete picture and gain an understanding and appreciation for the connections and links between areas of knowledge that discreet subject teaching does not facilitate.

The subjects chosen for study deepen in complexity with each age group – from the imaginative world of the 7 year old, to studying anatomy, astronomy and physics with the 14 year olds. They are taught by appealing to the creativity of the child, with drawings, practical activities and painting as well as written work.

The children spend the rest of their day in subject lessons; such as Welsh, French, Music, Arts, Geography, Handwork, Woodwork, Permaculture, Games and more.

*"Tell me and I forget,
teach me and I may
remember, involve me
and I learn."*

-Benjamin Franklin



LITERACY & NUMERACY

Maths and English lessons build upon the literacy and numeracy skills introduced during Main Lesson. Through experiential and practical learning activities, the children build a holistic connection with letters and numbers. In the early years phonetic understanding and numeric literacy are introduced through story telling, movement, rhythm and art, forming a strong foundation for more abstract concepts to be introduced later on.

As they progress, Maths is explored through patterns, real-life applications, and hands-on activities, while English is enriched through literature, drama, and creative writing, which develops both proficiency and a love for learning.

Small class sizes and an individualised approach ensure that every child builds confidence and mastery at their own pace, developing both practical competence and a lifelong enthusiasm for learning.

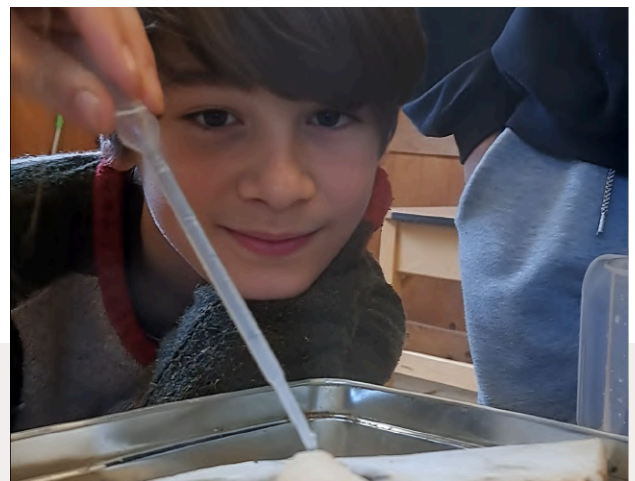


SCIENCES

At Nant-y-Cwm, science is not merely a subject to be studied but an experience to be lived. In the early years, children develop their connection to nature through storytelling, exploration, and sensory experiences, laying the foundation for a true understanding of scientific principles. As they grow, they are gently guided from experiential learning to more structured inquiry, allowing their innate curiosity to blossom into thoughtful observation and independent thinking.

The children learn botany, physics, chemistry, meteorology, astronomy, biology, anatomy and electrics, and more.

We have specialist chemistry teachers who join the older classes in the more complex science lessons, leading them through experiments.



LANGUAGES

Welsh and French languages are taught in an immersive and experiential way. Welsh, as a key part of the local heritage, is introduced through songs, stories, poems, and everyday conversation, making it a natural part of school life.

French is taught in a similarly engaging way, using rhymes, drama, and interactive activities to develop a deep, intuitive understanding of the language.

In the early years, emphasis is placed on listening and speaking, with reading and writing introduced gradually as confidence grows.

This holistic approach allows children to absorb language naturally, building fluency and enthusiasm in a joyful and meaningful way.



*Educating the mind
without educating the
heart is no education
at all."*

- Aristotle

HANDWORK

We have a beautiful dedicated handwork room nestled in the back of our school, where our experienced and skilled handwork teacher, Ailsa guides the children through crafting different Steiner-Waldorf handwork projects. From the fingers to the brain, handwork develops important neural pathways.

In class 1 the children learn to knit and make soft animals, this continues further into dolls and socks. Through the years the children learn knitting, crochet, cross stitch, hand- and machine sewing, pattern making and many other useful skills.



WOODWORK

Through working with the timber from our woodlands, pupils learn to saw, carve, sand, and shape wood into functional and artistic pieces.

Projects are carefully designed to match the child's developmental stage, starting with simple whittling in the younger years and progressing to more intricate constructions as they grow.

Guided by Ben, an experienced carpenter and woodworker, the children take part in the complete process of woodworking, from raw material to finished product. They work with the timber from our community woodland, and take part in every stage of craftsmanship- right up to the finishing details of the completed spoon, stool or coat hook.

The children gain a sense of accomplishment by making objects that can be used at home, as well as creating pieces to be used within the school.



PERMACULTURE

With Nim Robins from Cynefin Farm
& 'Permaculture Children'

Permaculture is about learning from the natural world and then using that wisdom to redesign things in our lives, such as our gardens, food, communities, and projects.

In the younger years the children learn to connect more deeply with the natural world around them, by learning to identify trees and plants, recognising birdsong, and getting used to all the creatures that live in the garden. They plant seeds and tend to the plants.

As the children get older they learn about bio-diversity, microbes, the soil-food web, and how to make compost teas. They learn to spot diseases and pests in plants, and what to do about them.

The older children learn the 'permaculture principles', and how to use the permaculture design process, which is design thinking that can be applied to any project in life.

Within our school grounds we have a vegetable garden, greenhouse, compost heap, 'worm hotel', and orchard. We are currently constructing a pond and a poly tunnel.



"The study of nature is not about gathering facts; it is a way of perceiving and understanding the world through the senses."

- Rudolf Steiner

THE ARTS

At Nant-y-Cwm, the arts awaken curiosity, creativity, and a deep connection to the world. More than just learning techniques, children experience the joy of expressing themselves—whether through the sweep of a paintbrush, the rhythm of movement, or the harmony of music.

The children don't just play instruments; they develop an intuitive sense of melody and flow. They don't just act in plays; they step into stories, building confidence and empathy.



Through eurythmy, they explore language and music in motion, experiencing rhythm and form with their whole being.

Every artistic experience is an opportunity for self-discovery, shaping children into imaginative thinkers who see beauty, possibility, and meaning in everything they do.



MUSIC

Music flows through the day at Nant-y-Cwm, a gentle thread that nurtures both the heart and the hands. In the early years, children are introduced to the pentatonic flute, an instrument whose soft, flowing tones reflect the dreamy world of childhood. Learning to play is not about rigid technique, but about breath, rhythm, and a quiet listening—to the music, to one another, and to the spaces in between the notes.

As the children grow, so too does their musical journey. Their fingers become more nimble, their breath steadier, and the melodies more intricate.

Through flute-playing, they develop dexterity, patience, and a deep sense of beauty—qualities that reach far beyond music into every aspect of learning. Music is never separate from life here; it is woven into morning songs, seasonal festivals, and moments of quiet joy. It is not something they 'learn,' but something they live and breathe. By the time they leave us, all children can read music.



AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESSURE OF EXAMS

Instead of traditional cycles of formal assessment and the pressure that accompanies them, we focus on narrative assessments, teacher observations, and qualitative feedback, which provide a comprehensive understanding of each student's academic and personal development. This approach encourages a more nuanced and multifaceted evaluation, taking into account a child's emotional and social growth alongside their academic achievements.

We aim to promote a deeper understanding of each child's unique strengths and challenges, creating a supportive and nurturing learning environment.



After Nant y Cwm I attended Whitland School and studied 11 GCSE's. I gained A s in all. I have curiosity and a love of learning- I'm interested in expanding my own knowledge. This came from my time at Nant-y-Cwm.*

Nant-y-Cwm is really good at creating spaces. Each classroom is a cosy, homely haven of calmness, and a haven where I wanted to learn. A space that was designed to help me feel safe and it helped me focus on my learning and development.

NyC has given me confidence in my own values, and myself as a person, which allows me to put myself forward and express myself.

- Ellion Gipson, former student of Nant-y-Cwm



Ellion showcasing his leaving project: An electric bike

WHAT IS A STEINER-WALDORF EDUCATION?

Steiner-Waldorf education draws on the educational ideas of early 20th Century philosopher, Rudolf Steiner.

Steiner developed a model of education that aims to enable each child to become their true self, equipped to lead a life of their choosing and to contribute positively to society as a force for good in the world.

It centers on nurturing a child's intellectual, artistic, and practical capacities, tailored to their developmental stages. The philosophy values the individuality of each child, encouraging a love for learning, ethical responsibility, and a sense of community.

It is respected worldwide for its ability to produce very able young people, who have a strong sense of self and diverse capacities that enable them to become socially and economically responsible citizens.

WHY IS IT GOOD CHOICE?

In today's digital era all information is readily available at the touch of a button, and educational approaches that focus on memorisation and rote learning no longer serve our children. A Steiner education develops knowledgeable children who are creative problem solvers, who are curious, think critically and are conscientious. These qualities underpin a successful life, and make our students stand out from the crowd.

As well as the academic advantages, students at Nant-y-Cwm enjoy the benefits of a heart-centered, holistic school. They feel respected, encouraged, and worthy, which lays the foundation for healthy self-esteem, confidence, and emotional intelligence: a spring board for the rest of their life.



HOW WE DELIVER THIS AT NANT-Y-CWM

Holistic Curriculum: The curriculum is designed to address the whole child—the head, heart and hands.

Developmental Approach: The curriculum is tailored to the developmental stages of each child. Subjects are introduced at times when the child is deemed developmentally ready.

Continuity of care: Each class typically has a teacher who stays with the same group of pupils throughout their journey, allowing the teacher to understand the individual needs and development of each child.

Interdisciplinary Learning: Lessons are taught with connections drawn between different subject areas. This approach aims to provide a more interconnected and meaningful understanding of the world.

Creative Expression: Artistic activities are integrated into the academic curriculum to engage the imagination and creativity of students.

LOCATION

Our beautiful school is set on the banks of the Cleddau River, surrounded by temperate rainforest and ancient Welsh land. Nestled in the heart of Pembrokeshire, Nant-y-Cwm enjoys a tranquil, rural setting that encourages a deep connection with nature. The ever-changing landscape provides a rich and inspiring environment for outdoor learning, exploration, and play throughout the seasons.

We have multiple buildings across our 6-acre school grounds, including the 150-year-old main school, two purpose-built kindergartens, a main hall, a woodworking room, and an outdoor classroom.

INSIDE THE SCHOOL

The traditional Welsh stone school house has been renovated to incorporate the architecture that makes Steiner-Waldorf schools distinctive across the world.

Our 'Main School' classrooms are bathed in golden light and filled with natural materials – wooden desks, plants, nature corners and gentle colours.

The edges are rounded and irregular creating the ideal space for creativity – it's the perfect place for a child to learn, and feel comfortable whilst doing so.



"A school building should not only provide shelter; it should be a living, breathing space that nurtures the child's development."

- Rudolf Steiner