

# Maes Ebbw School

## Ysgol Maes Ebbw

All are challenged to grow and succeed



[www.maesebbw.org](http://www.maesebbw.org)

# Welcome to Maes Ebbw



“Maes Ebbw is a purpose built special school on the outskirts of Newport. The school currently has two sites. Our main site is in the Maesglas area of Newport and Maes Ebbw Bach, our provision for our 16-19 year old students, is in St John’s Road.

Our vision is that “All are challenged to grow and succeed.” Our aim is to provide high quality educational and therapeutic provision for all our pupils.

Maes Ebbw is child-centred, flexible and responsive to the complex needs of each pupil. Central to our philosophy is a strong belief that our pupils should have the help, commitment and expertise to give them every opportunity to develop independence, succeed and be happy.



Nicola Allan  
Headteacher

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Chair of Governors: Katie Diamond

## **Maes Ebbw's Vision & Mission**

At Maes Ebbw, "All are challenged to grow and succeed".

At Maes Ebbw we all strive to provide a stimulating learning environment which challenges everyone's abilities and expectations. We provide support for differing learning styles within a safe and secure environment.



## **Values and Ethos**

- To teach our pupils with passion and purpose through a broad, appropriate and stimulating curriculum aimed at developing independence.
- To plan and provide opportunities and experiences which are meaningful and purposeful for our students.
- To ensure our pupils are supported, listened to, respected and involved throughout their time at school.
- To be a school community that acknowledges diversity and celebrates its value.
- To ensure we recognise that individuals learn in different ways and that we make lessons inclusive so that all can achieve.
- To work in close partnership with parents and other professionals to achieve the best outcomes for our pupils.

## **General School Information**

All pupils who attend Maes Ebbw School have a statement of special educational needs. All pupils have been identified as having severe or profound learning difficulties as well as other specific needs i.e. Autism or complex physical and medical needs. The school works closely with parents / carers and other professionals in a holistic approach to educating & enabling all learners to achieve their potential.

## **School Organisation**

Maes Ebbw School is based on 2 sites. The main site at Maesglas is the larger of the 2 sites with pupils from nursery to tertiary age. Maes Ebbw Bach is a smaller two-class provision which caters for some of our eldest pupils (16-19 years) to develop their independence and living skills.

## **The School Day**

The school day begins at 9am and finishes at 3:15pm.

Primary & Tertiary lunch is 12-12:30pm.

Secondary lunch 12:30 – 1pm.

Older students at Maes Ebbw Bach prepare their own lunch each day.





### **Lunchtime arrangements**

School dinners are available each day to all pupils. If your child is entitled to free school meals this meal is provided at no cost to parents. If you are not sure whether your child is entitled to free school meals please ask the school office for advice. If your child is not entitled to free school meals you can either pay the standard charge for a school meal via 'Parent Pay' or send a packed lunch to school.

The school works closely with the catering team to ensure any special dietary requirements are adhered to. Staff encourage all our pupils to be as independent as possible through the development and promotion of self-help skills

### **Transport**

In most cases the LEA will provide free transport for all of our pupils to and from school. Please contact the SEN team at Newport Council for further advice.

### **Optional School Uniform**

Maes Ebbw operates a flexible uniform policy. Our aim is to ensure that pupils are comfortable and ready to learn. Many of our pupils enjoy the familiarity of a uniform as they identify the clothing with the school day. For other pupils their physical needs make a uniform impractical or uncomfortable. Either a school uniform can be purchased or pupils may wear other clothes where this is more appropriate.

Order forms for the logo uniform items are available from the school office. Maes Ebbw uses a local supplier to keep costs down. All items of clothing which a child wears should be clearly named. For PE and Swimming, children will need shorts, track suits, t-shirt, trainers, a towel and swimming costume.

### **Term Dates**

Term Dates are available at

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Schools-Education/Schools/Term-Dates.aspx>

### **Pupil Absence**

Whenever a child is away from school for sickness, appointments or family reasons, we require a short note or phone call outlining the reasons for the absence. When parents'/carers' holidays do not coincide with the school holiday dates, it is necessary to notify the school in writing beforehand.



### **Admissions**

Admission to Maes Ebbw Special School is on the recommendation of the Local Education Authority. Children can be admitted from the age of three years. Referrals must be made through the SEN Department at Newport Civic Centre.

### **Home - School Links and Communication**

Developing an open and effective communication link between school and parents / carers is vital to ensuring our pupils are enjoying their education. We use Seesaw as a communication tool to share photos, videos and messages about your child's day in school.

All parents will be asked to complete admission forms prior to their child starting school. This is to ensure the school has all the necessary information to contact parents in an emergency. It is essential to let us know if any contact details change so we can ensure our records are up to date.

### **Multi-Agency Working**

Many of our pupils have several agencies working together to support them. Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Teachers for pupils with Vision and Hearing Impairment are regular visitors to Maes Ebbw.

## Safeguarding

At Maes Ebbw School we promote the protection and welfare of all our children and consider this to be a priority.

- We have designated Child Protection Officers (the Headteacher, and in her absence the Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher), who offer advice and guidance to all staff on safeguarding matters.
- Katie Diamond (the Chair of Governors) is the governor with responsibility for child protection. School staff follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures if they believe children are in danger, have been harmed or are in danger of being harmed by someone. If we believe a child to be in danger or to have been harmed in any way it is our duty to report the matter to the Newport Safeguarding team or the police immediately.
- The safety of our pupils is the most important factor. If we have concerns regarding a child we would discuss and work with parents/carers to resolve the matter. It is possible under certain circumstances that we may have to refer the matter to the Newport Safeguarding team before we consult with parents/carers.





## Curriculum

Our curriculum has been developed to fully incorporate the four purposes as set out in the New Curriculum for Wales 2022. This will enable us to create learners who are:

- 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.

Our curriculum is organised into six areas of learning and experience; expressive arts; health and wellbeing; humanities; languages, literacy and communication; maths and numeracy; and science and technology.

Maes Ebbw offers a broad balanced, adapted and differentiated curriculum for all learners.

Schemes of work are theme based. They are developed by teams of teachers across the school to promote and share best practice in teaching and learning.





Maes Ebbw offers focussed opportunities to support a range of differing needs. To support pupils' physical skills and sensory integration pupils may be offered Rebound Therapy, MOVE (Movement Opportunities Via Education), Sherbourne Movement and Touch Trust provision are incorporated into the curriculum.

The school has achieved the Vision Mark, pupils with visual impairment receive highly specialised support e.g. positive looking sessions which are incorporated into their curriculum. Members of staff undertake specialist THRIVE and ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training in order to support pupils' emotional and social development.

### **Primary Phase**

Children learn through first-hand experiences and most importantly through play. We encourage the children to practice and consolidate their learning through experiences, play and problem solving. We use a person centred approach to identify the individual learning plan for each child in partnership with the parents, teachers and therapists. Our goal is to develop firm foundations for communication, choice-making, physical skills and independence.





## **Secondary Phase**

This phase provides a well-planned, broad curriculum which builds on the knowledge of each child from their primary years.

The curriculum is planned using a thematic approach. Increasingly communication, confidence and independence are developed through real world experiences in the community.

## **Tertiary Phase**

As pupils become ready to move onto adulthood we transition most of our students to the Maes Ebbw Bach site. Like a small sixth form college, our students further develop their independence skills spending much of their time in the local community in readiness for becoming young adults.

## **14 to 19 Learning Pathways**

At Key Stage 4 & 5 pupils follow a variety of ASDAN accredited courses in addition to the core subjects. These include

- New Horizons.
- Transition Challenge.
- Personal & Social Development.
- Personal Progress.
- Short Courses covering sports & fitness.

The school is also a registered Duke of Edinburgh centre and promotes the bronze and silver award schemes.

We also have good links with a range of alternative providers to ensure that pupils have access to an appropriate package of support.



## Enhanced Curriculum Provision and Sport

Whilst all pupils follow the National Curriculum we also recognise the diverse needs of our learners. The school has dedicated resources and specialised skills to ensure a holistic approach for all our learners.

If needed, pupils have access to –

- Touch Trust – the school is an accredited centre for Touch Trust Therapy and provides weekly sessions.
- Strategies specific to pupils with autism – staff have skills and knowledge of interventions including TEACCH and PECS.
- Proactive positive behaviour strategies – all staff are trained in Team Teach & develop proactive strategies to support and enable our pupils to manage their own behaviour.
- A hydrotherapy pool, situated at Maes Ebbw main site. Many pupils access the pools with therapists and class staff to develop gross motor skills and water confidence. Pupils also access Newport International Sports Village.
- The school has several multi-sensory areas across all our sites. These are used to develop pupils' interaction skills and promote independence skills.
- Rebound therapy. Staff have been trained to use trampolines to provide opportunities for enhanced movement patterns, therapeutic positioning, exercise and recreation for a wide range of users with additional needs.



## **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

Our aim is to ensure that pupils have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop happy, healthy relationships and to keep themselves safe. We focus on developing pupils' understanding the importance of stable and loving personal relationships, respect, love, care and the building of successful relationships with friendship groups and the wider community.

The school's policy for Relationship and Sexuality Education is available for parents.

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is a compulsory subject within the National Curriculum and is taught within the school scheme of work.

It is compulsory for pupils to take part in a daily act of collective worship with a short reflection time. Parents may make a special request for their child to be excluded from such activities.

## **Welsh and Cwricwlwm Cymreig**

All pupils will experience and learn incidental Welsh through a range of daily activities. We celebrate our Welsh culture and heritage through a range of artistic, musical and thematic days.

## **Careers Education and Work Experience**

Maes Ebbw offers opportunities for pupils that develop their understanding of careers and work. Pupils take part in Business Enterprise activities which include visits from local employers and a chance to experience the world of work.



## **Home School Agreement**

Our Home School Agreement, sets out how we will work together to promote your child's learning and development.

### ***The School Will:***

- Value and care for each child as a unique individual.
- Aim to provide the best possible education for every child, meeting his or her individual special needs.
- Give parents information about the child's progress.
- Inform parents about school activities and what their children will be taught by means of Seesaw, newsletters, and a messaging service to which we subscribe.
- Share information about the school's Behaviour Policy and explain the policy on the use of Restrictive Physical Interventions
- Provide home learning activities as appropriate.
- The school ensure regular communication between teachers and parents using either Seesaw or a home/school diary.

### ***The Family Will:***

- See that their child attends school regularly and inform the school when their child is absent. Any parents experiencing difficulties with transport should first report the matter to SEN Transport but inform school so that we are aware.
- Attend Annual Reviews and Open Evenings to discuss their child's progress.
- Share with the school (in confidence if necessary) major events at home that may affect their child's emotions.
- Share with the school, the involvement of any professional help to ensure we work together for the child's benefit.
- Ensure that any equipment or materials loaned to the child to support learning at home is returned to the school when requested
- Use Seesaw or the home-school diary to regularly to inform the school of what the child has been doing at home and of any changes to routine, such as appointments or a different member of the family coming to pick a child up at the end of the day.

### ***Together We Will:***

- Enable every child to develop to his or her full potential.
- Help our children develop a sense of responsibility and respect for all other people.
- Encourage children to believe in themselves, raise their self-esteem and take pride in their environment.
- Share any concerns or problems affecting their child.
- Discuss and deal with complaints.
- Ensure close liaison between home and school on all medical issues relating to the child.

### **School Security: Health and Safety**

In order to ensure that all pupils are safe in school, the following procedures are in place:

- The reception door is fobbed and operated by staff to allow people in and out of the building.
- Classroom doors are either fobbed, or have high level handles to ensure that pupils are safe inside their classroom and only access other areas when with an adult.
- All staff have an identity badge
- All visitors sign in and out at the reception desk
- Appropriate DBS checks are made on all staff employed or working at the school including supply staff and student placements.
- Fire drills take place termly and fire equipment is serviced regularly.
- Designated Safeguarding Officers are responsible for the welfare and safety of all pupils
- All accidents and incidents are reported and dealt with accordingly

### **Complaints Procedure**

We hope that you will never have cause to complain. However, the school has a policy for dealing with complaints on the school website. These procedures ensure that anyone with an interest in the schools can raise a concern which will be addressed in an appropriate, fair and timely way.





## **Charging and remissions policy**

Education is provided without compulsory charges to parents. The school finances most activities with funds received from the Local Authority. There are, however, some valuable educational activities which the school cannot provide without seeking some financial support from parents. The Governors have agreed a policy statement on Charging and Remissions, which is available from the school.

## **Parental Support Group**

Whilst the school endeavours to support parents and carers directly we appreciate the importance of parents coming together to support each other. Maes Ebbw Parent group is a group who meet every Wednesday morning at the school. It is a group consisting of parents where a variety of activities and topics are discussed.

## **Friends of Maes Ebbw (PSFA)**

This is the Parents/Staff/Friends Association. All parents and friends of Maes Ebbw are actively encouraged to join and support this group. The aims are to foster involvement with the school through a range of activities, social, educational, fund raising and as a support group for families. There is a committee of parents and staff who co-ordinate the work of the friends.

**Find out more, visit our website:**

**[www.maesebbw.com](http://www.maesebbw.com)**