

Parents' and Carers' Guide to Starting School

Starting at a new school is an exciting and important milestone for every child and young person. As a brand-new 3–19 special school, all pupils joining Ysgol Cambrian will be beginning their journey with us for the first time, and we are committed to ensuring every learner feels safe, supported and ready to thrive.

We believe every pupil is unique, valued and capable. By working closely with families, we ensure each child settles at their own pace and is given the best possible start

★ Our Curriculum

Ysgol Cambrian follows the Curriculum for Wales, which places pupils at the centre of their learning. Our curriculum is carefully adapted for learners with a wide range of additional learning needs and developmental stages. The curriculum helps learners develop the four purposes, becoming:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Ethical, informed citizens
- Healthy, confident individuals

Learning is organised through the six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) and delivered through meaningful, multisensory, differentiated and experiential approaches. Activities are personalised to support communication, independence, emotional wellbeing and real-life skills.

★ Multi-Disciplinary Support

Many of our pupils benefit from the expertise of a range of professionals. At Ysgol Cambrian, we work closely with:

- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Hearing and Vision Impairment teams
- Nursing and medical specialists

This team-around-the-child approach helps us understand each pupil holistically and ensures their physical, emotional, communication and sensory needs are fully supported.

★ Events and Family Involvement

We value partnership with parents and carers. Throughout the year, families are invited to take part in:

- Coffee mornings
- Workshops and support groups
- Seasonal celebrations
- Performances
- Family play, learning or wellbeing sessions

Extended family members are welcome where appropriate. Building strong relationships with families is a key part of our ethos.

★ Wellbeing Support

Our Wellbeing Officer is available to all families and can offer advice, emotional support, signposting and guidance throughout the year. Termly parent support groups are also organised to help families share experiences and ideas

★ Transition into School (For All New Pupils)

As all pupils are new to Ysgol Cambrian, we have a carefully planned transition process to help children and young people settle confidently.

Each family will have a named Transition Lead who will be your main point of contact.

Transition may include:

- School visits
- Photos/books of staff, classrooms and routines
- Social stories
- Additional familiarisation sessions
- A welcome event for families

Some learners settle quickly; others may need additional time. We will always follow what is right for your child.

★ Communication with Home

Strong communication is central to our partnership with families. We use:

- **Home–school diaries** or digital updates
- **Phone calls** where needed
- **Text alerts** for reminders and urgent messages

Families are always welcome to contact us to share information that will help us support their child.

★ Admissions & Pupil Information

During admission, we complete an Admissions Pack to gather important information about:

- Communication
- Feeding and eating
- Medical needs
- Moving and handling
- Sensory preferences
- Toileting and personal care
- Interests and motivators

This helps us plan a personalised and supportive start for every new pupil.

★ Uniform

Pupils are encouraged to wear the Ysgol Cambrian uniform. Full details will be provided during the admissions process.

★ Assessment and Planning

During the first weeks, staff complete a baseline profile to understand your child's strengths, interests and next steps.

Every pupil will have:

- **Individual targets**
- A personalised **Individual Development Plan (IDP)** with **Termly reviews** with parents/carers
- An **Annual Person-Centred Review**

Our Ethos

Ysgol Cambrian is working towards being a Rights Respecting School and a Healthy School.

Rights Respecting School

We follow the UNCRC and ensure pupils learn about their rights and the rights of others.

Key articles include:

- Article 12: Every child has the right to be heard
- Article 28: Every child has the right to an education
- Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities
- Article 42: Children have the right to know their rights

Healthy School

We promote physical, emotional and social wellbeing for pupils, families and staff

School contact:

Executive Head Teacher Aron Bradley

Head of School Nicola Clark

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**“Growing Confidence, Celebrating
Differences, Becoming Our Best”**

