



Ysgol y Dderwen's 'Gofal' Scheme

A response to the cost of living crisis.

An increase in the cost of living has a worrying effect on pupils and parents, who "struggle to live day to day".

Ysgol y Dderwen's "Gofal" plan aims to help families recover from the impact of the pandemic while supporting their well-being and their children's education.

Our aim in implementing our "Gofal" plan is to develop our school to respond to the needs of the community and to build partnerships with families and other services.

Sometimes pupils come to school saying they haven't had breakfast or that mum doesn't have enough food in the cupboards or the fridge. Sometimes children come to school hungry or tired. This puts stress on them to concentrate and to learn.

As a school, we are concerned that the cost of living crisis is going to limit our children's development. The crisis will lead to a major change in our pupils' ability, behaviour and emotional well-being.

The Welsh Government has announced plans earlier this year to provide free lunches from September to reception class children and eventually all children in primary schools.

Education Minister Jeremy Miles said that "families are feeling under pressure as a result of the rising cost of living" He added: "The Food and Fun scheme makes the most of school facilities offering easy activities as well as healthy food, and can play a role in helping children from disadvantaged areas to recover from the impact of the pandemic supporting their well-being and education .

Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis:

How can we as a school help?

1

Communication and points of contact

On our School App there is a dedicated area for support. We will provide parents and guardians with the latest information on statutory and voluntary financial support, including promoting school clothing grants and links to application forms. We will also send you information so families can access the information.

2

National insurance numbers

If you need help accessing grants, please contact us so that your national insurance number can be automatically checked against your eligibility to receive grants/support. We can provide more support for parents who need help filling in application forms.

3

Teaching financial literacy and ICT access to all children.

As a school we are committed to helping pupils by ensuring that financial literacy is an integral part of our curriculum. We have also teamed up with local Banks to help children gain financial confidence by providing free learning materials. In addition, the school conducts an ICT audit annually to ensure that all children have access to Hwb from home.

4

Charity events

We appreciate any fundraising contribution. We will work with the PTA considerably when organising events, in order to avoid putting financial pressure on families. The PTA has transferred £7000 to the school's account already this year in order to help fund trips and valuable experiences for the children during the year.



5

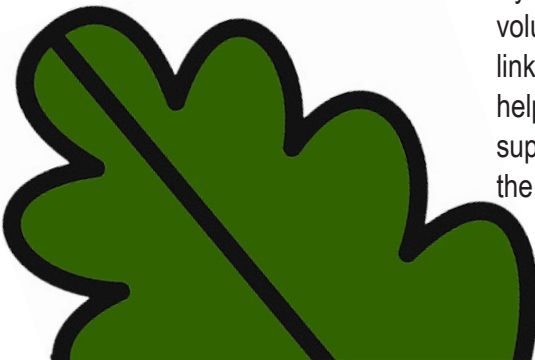
Residential Trips and Tours

Pupils have missed enough opportunities over the last two years. We will give enough notice and opportunity to spread the cost through repayment plans. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible. No child will be excluded from any learning experience or visit because of cost.

6

Clwb Gofal Mês y Dderwen

We will not be increasing any prices for the foreseeable future. We will offer free breakfast during the breakfast club and ensure that children are offered toast if they have missed breakfast before arriving at school.



7

“Almost new” school uniform

We are able to refer parents to Welsh Government grants to buy school uniforms and we can offer families “almost new” items. If you have any concerns about paying for school uniform, please contact us! From time to time, we will hold “Free Uniform” Days- this will allow families to call in and see what’s available and take what you need. Remember – if you have good quality items, you can bring them in to school for us to sort and distribute.

8

Family support workers

We have the support of family support workers (Team Around the Family) who can offer one-to-one help and advice to pupils and parents who are struggling with a range of issues, including financial issues and debts.

9

Support for Families

By integrating the work of statutory and voluntary sector services we can provide links to parents who are struggling to get help. The ‘Family Hubs programme’ is supported by the Government and is part of the “levelling-up” mission.