



Believe, Enrich, Succeed Together Credw, Cyfoethogi, Llwyddo gyda'n gilydd

Autumn 2026-2027
07.09.26

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME & OUR MISSION

A very warm '**Croeso**' and **welcome back** to all of our pupils, families, and friends as we begin an exciting new academic year! I am extremely proud of our vibrant St. Illtyd's school community, where staff, governors, and families work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for our learners. We are committed to providing a nurturing and inspiring education, fostering a love of learning to enhance lifelong benefits for every child. This year, we continue to live by our school-wide mission to be our **BEST** in everything we do:

Believe We believe in ourselves, in one another, and in our collective potential to grow.

Enrich We immerse ourselves in rich, engaging, and authentic learning experiences daily.

Succeed We strive to ensure that every single child and member of staff succeeds.

Together We work in active partnership—children, staff, parents, governors, and the community.

CELEBRATING OUR ESTYN INSPECTION (JUNE 2026)

In June 2026, Estyn inspected our school, and we are thrilled to share that they praised our school as extremely **friendly, inviting, and inclusive**, noting that **pupils' well-being is at the very heart of all our life and work**. Inspectors highlighted our respectful relationships, calm and supportive environment, and the excellent progress made over time by many of our pupils—including those with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and those from low-income households. High-quality professional learning was also commended for establishing highly consistent teaching approaches.

We are already actively addressing Estyn's two improvement recommendations: **R1: Improve the attendance of pupils from low-income households**, and **R2: Improve pupils' Welsh language skills**.

These are fully integrated into our new school-wide **Action Plan** as we continue to strive for excellence.

As a consequence of our Inspection, we have already formed our School Development Plan Priorities for 2026-2027.

School Development Plan 2026-27 Summary

**Cymraeg Pob Dydd & High-Level
challenge application**

**Attendance-First Interventions
for Equitable Outcomes**

**Securing Consistency in
Challenge & Robust Governance**

OUR STAFFING TEAM & POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR APPROACH



Our Leadership & Child Protection Senior Team

Headteacher & Designated CP Officer: Miss K Forrest



Deputy Headteacher & CP Team: Miss C Thomas



ALNCo: Mrs C Hughes, managing additional needs and tailored plans

Mr T Senior - DSP
Mr L Williams - DSP

- **Specialist Emotional Support:** Our trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) TAs provide essential social and emotional guidance.

- **CfW Development:** Staff are organised into collaborative AoLE (Area of Learning and Experience) Teams to plan rich thematic projects.

Note: Specific class teacher details are distributed directly to families via Seesaw.

Positive Behaviour & Our Promises

We maintain a calm, positive learning environment where every child feels safe and secure. We encourage self-discipline and expect high personal standards at all times. Our daily focus is built around our **Three School Promises (Ready, Respectful, Safe / RRS)**:

- **Early Years (N & R):** We focus on using 'kind hands, kind words, and kind hearts.'
- **Primary Phase (Y1-Y6):** Pupils learn to act as positive role models, showing mutual trust, respect, and taking responsibility for their actions. We maintain a strict **Zero Tolerance** approach to bullying of any kind to ensure everyone's safety.

Each class is in the process of forming their own **Class Charters** with Miss Forrest.



The most important list of promises in the world. It is called the **UNCRC**. It stands for the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. A 'convention' is a massive agreement. Almost every country in the world signed it to make sure kids have everything they need to grow up safely."



"Your rights belong to you automatically. They are unconditional, meaning they cannot be taken away as a punishment, and you don't have to earn them. Because you have these rights, you should also respect the rights of your friends to play, learn, and be heard safely too."

Our Class Charters

St Illtyd's Primary School

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS & CRITICAL REGISTRATION CODES

Regular, punctual attendance is essential for learning and well-being. Gaps in attendance interrupt the planned progression of learning, make it harder to build key skills, and significantly increase cognitive load and anxiety when catching up. **Good attendance is a key Welsh safeguarding priority.**

Absence Procedure: Call the school office on **01495 364830** on the first morning of absence to explain the reason and expected duration. In line with cluster policy, term-time holidays will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

Attendance Coding Rules for Non-Attendance:

- **Code N (No Reason Yet Provided):** Applied initially for unexplained absence at registration. We will telephone families on the first day under safeguarding responses.
- **Code O (Unauthorised Absence):** If no reasonable explanation is provided **within 5 school days**, the temporary N code is updated permanently to **Code O**, and parents are formally notified of this unauthorised mark. This will also be applied where a reasonable reason for non attendance is not provided.

How Families Partner with St. Iltyd's to Build Great Attendance Habits

The Attendance & Progress Link

- Every school day matters: There are 190 school days in a year. To help your child achieve their full potential, aim for at least 95% attendance.
- The 90% Warning: 90% attendance sounds good, but it actually means missing 19 days of school—that is a massive 114 lessons lost in one year!
- Friendships and connection: Regular attendance ensures children maintain close, happy friendships and feel confident in their classrooms.
- Supporting Independence: Having strong morning routines gives children a calm, independent, and positive start to their school day.

How You Can Support at Home

- Establish bedtime and morning routines: Consistent routines help avoid the morning rush and build great independence.
- Report illnesses promptly: Contact the school office on the first morning of any absence (via phone, school app, or email).
- Avoid term-time holidays: Taking holidays during the term directly impacts your child's learning. Headteachers have very limited discretion to authorise these.
- Celebrate progress: Talk to your child about our 'Most Improved Class' assembly award. Celebrate their effort to attend school every day!

DAILY TIMINGS, SAFE COLLECTION & UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

School Timings & Arrival

- **Nursery:** AM 9:00am - 11:30am | PM 12:45pm - 3:15pm.
- **Lower Phase (Y-R to Y2):** Line up at 8:50am (start 9am), ends 3:10pm. Use classroom ramp.
- **Upper Phase (Y3 to Y6):** Soft entry 8:50am - 9:00am, ends 3:20pm. Use the side entrance.

Safe Collection Rules

- Lower Phase and Y3-Y5 pupils **must** be collected by an adult or responsible person over 16 at the school gates. Y6 may walk home with parent consent.

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL SITE GUIDELINES

Uniform Expectations

- **Winter:** Grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore, yellow polo, blue jumper/cardigan, black shoes or all-black trainers.
- **Summer:** Grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore, yellow polo, pale blue/yellow gingham dress, black/white sandals (closed-toe).
- **PE Kit:** Navy shorts/joggers, yellow T-shirt, daps or trainers. No Lycra/cycle shorts.
- **Jewellery:** Only a watch and one pair of small studs (removed/taped for PE).

Note: Pre-used uniforms are gladly provided to support our families.

- **Drinks & Snacks:** Plain water in sports-top bottles only. YN-Y2 healthy snacks (£1.50/wk or healthy alternative). Y3-Y6 fruit only.
- **Nut & Sweet Free:** We are strictly nut-free. Sweets, chocolate, glass bottles, and cans are not allowed.

OUR SHARED PATH FORWARD

- **Site Safety:** Strictly no dogs, no smoking, and no vaping on the school site.
- **Valuables:** Avoid bringing valuables. Mobile phones must be handed to the office for safekeeping.

INSET DAYS (STAFF DEVELOPMENT - NO PUPILS TO ATTEND)

Following Estyn's praise for our staff's professional learning, we have scheduled **6 INSET Days** for teacher training. **School is**

closed to pupils on these dates:

Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday, 1st September 2026• Wednesday, 2nd September 2026	Lessons officially resume for pupils on Thursday, 3rd September 2026.
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, 4th January 2027• Friday, 30th April 2027	Staff training aligns with cluster-wide school improvement priorities.
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, 19th July 2027• Tuesday, 20th July 2027	Last days of the academic year before the summer break. Staff will undertake safeguarding and essential statutory training throughout the year for these days.

Updated 20.10.26

Term	INSET Date (School Closed to Pupils)	Focus / Notes
Spring Term 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, 4th January 2027Changed to Friday 5th February 2027• Friday, 30th April 2027Changed to Monday 5th April 2027	Safer Handling training and Emergency Pediatric First Aid Training
Summer Term 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, 19th July 2027• Tuesday, 20th July 2027	End-of-year review, statutory safeguarding & curriculum transition planning. Twilights so school is not open.

-----]At St. Illtyd's, we firmly believe that a school truly thrives when it sits at the heart of its community. Family and community voice is central to everything we do and is the cornerstone of our school improvements. We are deeply committed to listening to your views, celebrating your feedback, and working in close partnership to ensure every child is valued, heard, and empowered to reach their full potential. In future newsletters, we will be sharing ways in which you can connect with school and take part in PACT sessions and workshops to support our school develop further. Thank you for your support, and let's make this year our BEST yet!

Kindest Regards,



Miss Forrest
Headteacher