

Information For Parents 2025 / 2026

Cyngor Gwynedd

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If you would like this information in any other language or format for example large print or Braille please contact the Education Department.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents

This booklet has been prepared to give parents details of admission arrangements to schools in Gwynedd, some facts about the schools and information about other matters of interest to parents. It will be of help to parents of children beginning school for the first time, parents of children moving into the area and to parents who are contemplating a change of school for their children. Each school also produces a school prospectus, copies of which are available from the schools.

The general aims of the Gwynedd educational system is the provision of education of the highest possible quality for all pupils, in accordance with their age, ability and interest/aptitude, so that they become rounded personalities, develop and use all their talents, and equip themselves to be responsible members of a bilingual community.

The Council is committed to providing first class education for the children of Gwynedd in partnership with schools, governors and parents. All schools value the support of parents and we hope you will take the opportunity to find out about your local school and continue your involvement in the school during your child's attendance.

Like many other authorities, Gwynedd currently has a strategy to reorganise the County's schools. At the time this booklet is printed (September 2024) the Council is at various stages of consulting on a number of proposals. Further information regarding these proposals is available on www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ysgolion.

We would like to wish you and your child every success for the future.

2. ADMISSION TO SCHOOL

When can my child start Nursery Education?

Part Time Pre School Early Education

The Authority offers 10 hours a week of Early Education free of charge to children in the term following their third birthday for the remainder of the Academic year. The places are offered by partners in the voluntary and independent sectors who are registered with the Early Years Unit. A list of the providers is available by contacting the Family Information Service on **01248 352436**.

The Childcare Offer for Wales

Eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds could receive up to 30 hours a week of Government funded early education and childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year. For more information contact the Gwynedd Childcare Unit on **01248 352436**.

Part Time School Nursery Class

The Authority offers children a part time (10 hours a week) nursery place in a school, in the September following their third birthday for a full academic year. Schools will normally have either a morning or an afternoon nursery session. In schools which have both morning and afternoon session there is no legal right for parents to choose which session their child attends. In the few areas where the Authority does not provide for the education of children in the September following their third birthday in a school, nursery provision is offered by funding places provided by the voluntary groups i.e. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and Pre-School Playgroups.

Your child is expected to be able to use the toilet before starting school, unless your child has a medical condition or additional learning needs.

For help with toileting, click this link:

<https://eric.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/thinking-about-age2-eng-webaccessible.pdf>

It should be noted that under Welsh Government rules a decision to admit a child to a nursery class does not guarantee or improve the chances of gaining a place in the reception class of that school. A separate application must be made.

When can my child start school?

Full Time Reception Class

The Authority offers children a full time place in a reception class in the September following their fourth birthday. Where a place is offered in the reception year parents have the option of deferring their child's entry until later in the same school year up to the term following their child's fifth birthday.

Admission may be granted to a school earlier than that offered under the admission policy in exceptional cases, which are referred for specific reasons in the context of the Children's Act 1989 by :-

- (i) The Social Services or
- (ii) The relevant Sector Medical Officer

It should be noted that under Welsh Government rules a decision to admit a child to a nursery class does not guarantee or improve the chances of gaining a place in the reception class of that school. A separate application must be made.

How do I apply for a School place?

The Education Department is the admissions authority of the community and voluntary controlled schools and is responsible for making decisions on admissions. Headteachers of these schools have no role in the admissions process and will not discuss the availability of places. All applications for admission must be submitted to the Authority in writing, using the forms provided (available at the schools or on www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/schooladmissions). All decisions will also be given in writing. The Authority is not able to discuss the availability of places over the telephone. All preferences are treated equally. You are encouraged to state more than one preference. You may use a separate sheet to state more than three. If a place is available at more than one school, only the highest of your preferences available will be offered to you. If the Authority is unable to offer you any of your preferences, any new preferences received will be treated as late applications. The authority may not be able to offer places to late applicants if those schools are already full.

As the Governing Body of voluntary aided schools are their own Admission Authority, admission to the two voluntary aided schools in Gwynedd is the responsibility of the Governors. Details of the full admissions policy of these schools is available from the headteachers of the schools.

Transferring from an Infant School to a Junior School

All parents whose children are due to leave an Infant school need to apply for a place at another school. There is no automatic link between Infant and Junior schools.

When should I apply?

The admissions time table for all schools in Gwynedd including the 2 voluntary aided schools is:

	Forms available	Closing date for return of completed applications	Parents informed
Nusery	September 2024	01/2/2025	16/04/2025
Reception	September 2024	01/2/2025	16/04/2025
Infant to Junior	September 2024	01/2/2025	16/04/2025
Secondary	September 2024	20/12/2024	01/03/2025

It is essential that parents apply by the closing dates as places will be offered to those who have applied on time before any late applications, even if the late applications are from the catchment area. However the Authority is able to consider late applications which arrive before offers are made as being on time in exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness). The Authority will consider late applications as soon as possible in batches.

How does the Authority allocate places?

The Authority operates a catchment area policy and pupils normally attend the school in whose catchment area they reside and where the Authority will have made provision with regard to accommodation, staffing and other resources including school transport. Each school has a defined catchment area and official maps showing the boundaries can be seen at the Education Office or in the individual schools.

The Authority will comply with parental preference until the school's admission number has been attained. The admission number reflects the school's ability to accommodate pupils based on the floor area of the school and is calculated using the Welsh Government's formula.

What if there are more applications than places?

Where community and voluntary controlled schools are oversubscribed the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications.

1. Priority will be given to looked after (In care) or previously looked after children.
2. The Authority will consider cases referred to the Authority by Social Services or the relevant Sector Medical Officer where a child's admission to a particular school is necessary for their medical or social well-being or where a child's statement of special educational needs/Authority Individual Development Plan (IDP) names a particular school.
3. Pupils who live within the defined catchment area of a school. If such applications exceed the admission number places will be prioritized using criteria 4-6 below.
4. Pupils who currently and who will still have a brother or sister attending the school when the pupil is due to start (with priority being given to children who live closest to the school).
5. Pupils who attend a maintained primary school within the catchment area of the secondary school (with priority being given to children who live closest to the school). This criteria is only relevant to applications to a secondary school.
6. The distance of the home address from that of the school.

If the child spends time split between both parents a child's home address for admissions purposes is the address where he/she spends the majority of the school week. Please ensure that any changes of address before and after the closing date are reported to the Education Department. Any place offered as the result of a fraudulent address may be withdrawn.

All distances will be measured by the shortest walking distance from the front door of the building your home is within to the nearest recognised entrance of the school and measured using the Authority's digital mapping systems. Pupils from outside the Local Authority are treated no less favourably than those from Gwynedd when applying the distance criteria. Brother or sister includes half-siblings, step siblings, adoptive and foster children living in the same household.

In any cases of twins or other multiple births where the Authority is only able to offer some of the places required the parents may take up the places on offer or keep them open until 31st of August in the hope that other places may become available from the waiting list.

The Authority may in exceptional circumstances admit children in excess of the admission number

if such acceptance will not adversely affect the school both in the short and longer term and will not have a detrimental effect on neighbouring schools. Legislation limits class sizes to 30 if the admission number has been reached in infant classes.

What happens if my child is refused a place?

Should an admission authority (including governing bodies of voluntary aided schools) not be able to offer a place to a child during the normal admissions round, their name will be kept on a waiting list until the 30th of September. For community and voluntary controlled schools if an application outside the normal admissions round is refused the child's name will be added to the waiting list until the end of that term. Parents should re-apply during the first week of the following term for the pupil's name to remain on the waiting list for another term.

Priority for places will be given according to the above criteria and not according to the date on which an application for a place was originally submitted. The Authority is unable to give any indication of the likelihood of being offered a place from a waiting list.

Parents may also appeal against the decision of an admissions authority not to admit the child to an independent panel within 14 days. Appeals will then be held within 30 school days (30 working days during summer holidays) of the closing date for appeals. There is no right of appeal in the case of a decision to refuse a part-time place in a nursery class.

Can I transfer my child during an academic year?

Parents wishing to transfer their child from one school to another should make an application using the forms available from the schools or the Education Department, but only after full discussion in the first instance with the two relevant headteachers.

Applications for transfer normally take between one and three weeks to be processed. Once permission is granted, the exact start date can then be discussed with the school.

Parents are strongly advised, however, to refrain from transferring pupils during the academic year in order to avoid interrupting their school courses.

I wish to apply for a school outside Gwynedd. What should I do?

Parents residing in the county who wish to send their children to a school maintained by another Authority should seek admission to the school of their choice by following the admission procedure laid down by that Authority.

What are the over subscription criteria of the Voluntary Aided Schools?

Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes and Ysgol Santes Helen.

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children who are baptised Catholic.
2. Baptised Catholic children whose home address is within the parish boundaries named for the school. A map showing the parish boundaries is available at the school and/or on the school website.
3. Other looked after and previously looked after children.
4. Catholic children whose home address is outside of the parishes served by the school for whom this is their nearest Catholic school.

5. Children who will have an older sibling attending the school.
6. Children, who are baptised or members of other Christian Churches.
7. Children of other faith traditions.
8. Pupils who have no particular faith background.

3. WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS?

Every school has a provision map that addresses the steps a school is expected to take to prevent the development of ALN, and then clearly maps out the steps and strategies available by the school to meet the needs of pupils with ALN. It is important that children with additional learning needs are identified and assessed early in their school career.

Each school has additional money in its budget to help meet the needs of most pupils who have special educational needs/additional learning needs, and each school has an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) who can provide advice and support to school staff and children. Specialist teachers and education psychologists work with schools to assist in meeting the additional learning needs of children who are at a stage in the school's graduated response known as School Individual Development Plan (IDP). Between them, the teachers and psychologists have knowledge and experience of educational psychology, specific and general learning difficulties, speech, language and communication difficulties, and the management of behaviour. Specialist teachers and support staff with qualifications in the areas of visual, hearing and multi-sensory impairment are also available to work in schools.

For the very small minority of pupils with severe and complex educational needs, a statement of special educational needs/Authority Individual Development Plan (IDP) may be prepared. A statement of special educational needs/Authority IDP sets out your child's needs and the additional learning provision (ALP) they should have. Some children with a statement of special educational needs/Authority IDP may be taught in one of the Authority's special schools.

When children with SEN/ALN move into a
pre-school setting • primary school • secondary school • further education/work • special education
setting
or between or out of those settings

where appropriate the transition process must be planned to ensure a smooth process that is important to all children and their educational and social outcomes. This is done using a person-centered approach, allowing the child, the child's parent to discuss the transition process. Some meetings discussing transition planning will benefit from involving other partners who can help the child understand how the transition process will work in practice and what additional support is available to him. A transition process is usually combined with a review of an IDP. This may lead to a revision of the ALP specified in the IDP or a description of a place at a particular school or other institution. To meet the requirements of the ALN Act, the Authority favours mainstream with the child educated at their local school, alongside their peers; for the very few children whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school, the Authority will place a child. If an IDP is in place, other support that is not ALP to help the smooth transition should be recorded in the IDP.

If you are concerned that your child may have additional learning needs, talk to the class teacher or the school's ALNCo. Parents of pre-school children may wish to talk to the leader/manager of their pre-school setting, or Health Visitor. The Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service's website provides information for parents www.adyach.cymru. You can also contact the Authority's

additional learning needs Officers who can provide information to parents of school age children and pre-schoolers. They may be contacted on 01286 679007.

What advice and support is available for families and young people?

The Education Welfare Service offers advice and support to families and young people in relation to a wide range of factors that impair on the young person's ability to take full advantage of the educational provision presented. As co-operation between the school, family and child is essential when attempting to solve the child's difficulties, the Service aims to foster respect and common understanding and to ensure that everyone works together towards a common goal.

The main responsibilities of the Service are noted below:

Pupil attendance & Punctuality • Child protection • Exclusions • Additional Learning Needs • Child employment • Home tuition • Matters relating to poverty or social deprivation

For further information or advice you can contact the Education Quality Improvement Officer (01286) 679007.

Schools are also expected to give particular attention and provide appropriately for pupils with a wide range of additional needs, not within the definition of ALN. These groups include more able and talented pupils, children who are looked after, young carers, minority ethnic children with English or Welsh as an additional language, children in need and children with medical conditions.

4. WHAT IS GWYNEDD'S POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF THE WELSH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES?

Aim of the Language Policy

Cyngor Gwynedd operates a bilingual policy throughout all Gwynedd schools.

The aim is to ensure balanced age-related bilingualism in all the county's pupils to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society of which they are part.

Nursery Education

To ensure that all children are given a firm grounding in Welsh so that they reach the goal of full bilingualism in due course.

Primary Education

Foundation Stage

To build on the foundations laid in Welsh by nursery education, to consolidate and develop the mother tongue of Welsh learners and, in the case of children from Welsh-speaking homes, to extend their grasp of English.

Key Stage 2

To consolidate and develop each child's Welsh and English, in order to ensure that the children can speak, read and write fluently and confidently in both languages when they transfer to the secondary school.

Secondary Education

To ensure that all pupils in secondary schools study Welsh and English as subjects until the end of

Year 11, and that all pupils who have the necessary ability to do so receive appropriate assessments and sit external examinations in both subjects at the end of Key Stage 4.

Special provision will be made for latecomers who move to Gwynedd and for children with severe Additional Learning Needs.

All the county's schools will reflect and reinforce the language policy in their administration, their social life and their pastoral arrangements as well as in their curricular provision.

Gwynedd's Welsh Language Immersion Education System.

There are 6 language immersion units in Gwynedd strategically located across the county. Three units offer provision for latecomers in years 2 to 4, and three primary/secondary units cater for learners in years 5 to 9. A 10-week course is held each term for latecomers to acquire the Welsh language. During the course the learners will return to their main stream school every Friday to keep in touch with their friends and the school in general.

Gwynedd's Welsh Language Immersion Education System		
	Primary Provision (Pupils in year 2-4)	Primary/Secondary Provision (Pupils in years 5-9)
Arfon	Maesincla Language Centre Caernarfon, LL55 1DF	Tryfan Language Centre Bangor, LL57 2TU
Dwyfor	Llangybi Language Centre Llangybi, LL53 6DQ	Eifionydd Language Centre Porthmadog, LL49 9H5
Meirionnydd	Bro Idris Language Centre Dolgellau, LL40 2YQ	Tywyn Language Centre Tywyn, LL36 9EU

5. SCHOOLS TRANSPORT POLICY

Who is eligible for free school transport?

Cyngor Gwynedd provide free transport to learners who live in the County and who have registered in a school maintained by the Council under the following circumstances:

(i) Single Site Schools:

- **Learners receiving primary education** - for learners who live 2 miles or more from the school in their catchment area, or the nearest school (not including nursery class pupils).
- **Learners receiving secondary education** - for learners under 16 years old who live 3 miles or more from the school in their catchment area, or the nearest school.
- **Learners with additional learning needs or disabilities under 16 years old** in accordance with the recommendations of the Additional Learning Needs Moderation Panel.

(ii) Multi-site schools:

- **Learners receiving primary education** - for learners who live 2 miles or more from the nearest school site in their catchment area, or the nearest school site (not including nursery class pupils). **[Every school site (in a multi-site school) will have a specific catchment area.]**

- **Learners receiving secondary education** - for learners under 16 years old who live 3 miles or more from the nearest school site in their catchment area, or the nearest school site. **[Every school site (in a multi-site school) will have a specific catchment area.]**
- **Learners with additional learning needs or disabilities under 16 years old** in accordance with the recommendations of the Additional Learning Needs Moderation Panel.

All learners in the county who are **over 16 years old** and who have registered on a post-16 course are expected to download a specific travel pass. The pass is available free of charge and is available on the Cyngor Gwynedd website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Learners who receive primary or secondary education (except for some learners - see above) are expected to walk up to 2 miles to meet any modes of transport provided by Cyngor Gwynedd.

In order to receive free transport, the parents of learners who receive primary and secondary education are expected to complete a free transport application form and return it to **Transportation and Street Care Service, Regulatory Department, Cyngor Gwynedd, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH** (It is possible to contact by phoning Galw Gwynedd on 01766 771000).

Receiving free transport is subject to the learners' compliance with the code of conduct for school transport. It is the parents/guardian's responsibility to ensure compliance with the code of conduct. Failure to comply can result in losing the right to free transport from home to school. Should the right to free transport be lost, it is the parents/guardians' responsibility to shoulder the cost of transport from the home to the school.

Learners who attend a school (or a school site) other than the school (or school site) in the catchment area or nearest school (or nearest school site) are required to make their own travel arrangements and pay the cost for that transport.

Receiving free transport is subject to the learners' compliance with the code of conduct for school transport. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure compliance with the code of conduct. Failure to comply can result in losing the right to free transport from the home to school. Should the right to free transport be lost, it is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to arrange and shoulder the cost of transport from the home to school.

Learners who attend a school (or a school site) other than the school (or school site) in the catchment area or nearest school (or nearest school site) are required to make their own travel arrangements and pay the cost for that transport.

Empty Seats Scheme

Learners who receive their education in Gwynedd and are not entitled to free transport can take advantage of any empty seats in the Council's transport vehicles. The empty seats scheme is not available on public service bus contracts.

Taking advantage of the scheme is subject to:

- The availability of empty seats
- The vehicle not having to divert from its usual route
- No additional costs to Cyngor Gwynedd
- Paying the current fee for empty seats

There is no guarantee that empty seats will be available for the duration of an academic year, if the entitlement ends, every effort will be made to give at least one week's notice. If this happens, the learner will have to arrange their own transport to get to school and your payment will be rounded to the nearest half term. Failure to comply with the Travel Behaviour Code may terminate entitlement to an empty seat.

When awarding new empty seats or ending the use of empty seats priority will be given to

- Pupils with an Individual Development Plan (Authority)
- Pupils who live furthest from the school or school site

How to apply?

Apply on-line by clicking on the following link www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/seddigwag.

When will the application be processed?

If the application is for September, the application will be assessed by the end of September. You will need to make your own travel arrangements until your application has been assessed. Applications received during the academic year (excluding September) will be considered as soon as possible. You will receive a response by email.

What if I don't want to continue with the scheme?

Please let the transport unit know immediately via cludiant@gwynedd.llyw.cymru or by letter if you do not wish to continue with the scheme. If you have received a bus pass you will need to return the pass to the Authority. We advise returning any passes by post by means of special delivery and needing a signature to ensure it arrives. The empty seats fee will expire on the date the pass is received by us. If the pass is not received the fee will continue. If you pay by direct debit, do not cancel it, this will be done by the Authority.

A letter/pass can be sent to the address below:

Integrated Transport Unit
Cyngor Gwynedd
Council Offices
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

What is the fee?

The fee will fall into 2 categories:

- **Catchment Fee** - a learner receiving primary education and living less than 2 miles from the catchment area school (or school site), or a secondary education learner living less than 3 miles from the school (or school site).
- **Out-of-catchment fee** - a learner who attends a school (or school site) other than the catchment-area school (or school site).

The fee is reviewed annually and the information will be available on the website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/teithioirysgol

How to pay?

You will be sent an invoice for payment, or you can arrange to pay by direct debit.

What help is available if walking routes are dangerous?

When learners receiving primary education live less than 2 miles from the catchment area school (or school site), or learners receiving secondary education live less than 3 miles from the catchment area school (or school site), and, therefore, are not entitled to free transport, but travel to school along a road that is considered by the Council to be especially dangerous, free transport is offered. A dangerous road is defined whereby the nature of the road (which includes public footpaths) means that it is not reasonable to expect learners (considering their age and with an escort as needed) to be able to walk in a comparatively safe manner. In assessing the comparable safety of a road, the Council will undertake an assessment of the risks a learner could face along the determined road (including, for example, rivers, ditches, traffic speed along the nearby road, history of accidents, overhanging trees or branches that could impair the ability of pedestrians or drivers to see, etc.). The assessment would be held at the time of day and days of the week that learners would be expected to use the road.

The shortest route available is the route which is not deemed by the Council to be especially dangerous, after assessing the other routes available for the journey.

Is there help available to learners who change address during an examination course?

The Council will contribute towards the travel costs of a learner who has moved into a new catchment area during an external examination year, or previous year, e.g. GCSE course, and who wishes to complete the course in the same school (or school site) that serves their former home, by means of one of the following methods:-

- Offering free transport when it is possible to arrange transport without an additional cost to the Council.
- Offering to pay an amount up to a maximum of the equivalent to 20 miles of daily travel according to the current local government national public transport allowance scale.

Any payment will be made at the end of every term for every day the learner has been noted as being present on the school's register.

6. ASSISTANCE FOR PUPILS

What arrangements are made for school meals?

The Education Department is anxious to maintain the School Meals Service and aims to provide a mid-day meal for pupils that are attractive, nutritional and reasonably priced. In the secondary schools it is delivered with the co-operation of the Governing Bodies who are responsible for the catering service. The lunch hour is also a social occasion and has its educational significance. The menus in use by the School Meals Service comply with the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013, set by the Welsh Government.

A two-course meal is available in primary schools and special schools. In secondary schools there is a choice of meals e.g. a two-course meal, or snack, first course or dessert only.

Provision is made at school for pupils who choose to bring their own food. They are provided with beakers, plates and drinking water.

A third of a pint of milk is provided daily, free of charge:

- (i) To pupils under the age of 5
- (ii) To pupils between 5 and 7 (Welsh Government Initiative)
- (iii) To pupils in Special Schools
- (iv) To any pupil of primary age who requires milk on medical grounds when a certificate has been submitted by the School's Medical Officer.

Some Primary Schools sell a third of a pint of milk to Key Stage 2 pupils at a reduced price.

What help is available with the cost of school meals and uniforms?

Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)

Universal Free School Meals will be rolled out to all Primary learners over the next three years. For information please see our website.

Entitled to Free School Meals (eFSM)

Free school meals are available to all children whose parents or guardians receive one of the following benefits:-

1. Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
2. Income Support
3. Pension Credit (Guarantee)
4. Help under Immigration and Asylum Seekers Act 1999
5. Child Tax Credit (with annual taxable income not exceeding £16,190)
6. Employment and Support Allowance (income based)
7. Universal Credit (Provided your household has an annualised net earned income of no more than £7,400)

Families in receipt of Working Tax Credit are not eligible although annual taxable income is less than £16,190.

If you receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction from Cyngor Gwynedd, you will not have to complete an application form for free school meals, we will assess your right automatically. If you do not receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction from Cyngor Gwynedd, and are of the opinion that your family is entitled to free school meals, application forms are available from your child's school or by contacting the Benefits Office (telephone number 01286 682689).

School Uniform Grant

The Authority operates a scheme on behalf of Welsh Government which provides a grant of £125 (reception, years 1 - 11 pupils) or £200 (year 7 pupils) towards the cost of purchasing clothing, footwear and equipment for children who receive free school meals (but not those who are transitionally protected) or are looked after.

The application process is the same as for free school meals described above.

7. OTHER INFORMATION

Charging for Educational Activities

A copy of the Education Department policy is available at the headquarters of the Education Department and information on Governing Bodies policies is available from the individual schools.

Public Examinations and Tests

It is the responsibility of Governors in accordance with the advice of Headteachers and in consultation with parents, to arrange to enter pupils for external examinations. The school's Handbooks contain a list of the examination courses offered and information concerning results. The Governors will have a policy concerning charging for re-sitting examinations. Further details are available from Headteachers.

What can I do if I have a complaint?

If you have any concern about your child's education first try to resolve the matter on an informal basis through discussion with staff at your child's school.

If you feel that your complaint has not been resolved, you can approach the Headteacher with your complaint, which you may be asked to put in writing.

If the problem is still unresolved you may refer your complaint to the governing body's complaints committee. Your child's school will be able to give you full details of the general complaints procedure.

If your complaint is about a member of staff of the Authority you may have recourse to the Council's Complaints Procedure.

How can I pay for services in Primary Schools?

Various payments

Payments can be made on-line for various services, e.g. lunch, school trips, musical instrument lessons, swimming etc. Guidelines on how to pay can be found by following www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/payyourschool

Pre-school care club / Free breakfast club

Only some of the county's primary schools have a breakfast club. Contact your school for more information.

Information for Parents 2025 - 2026

A fee is payable for the pre-school child care element before the free breakfast club. You must book a space by following **www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/myaccount**

8. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - 2025-2026

TERM:

Autumn 2025	1 September 2025 - 19 December 2025
Spring 2026	5 January 2026 - 27 March 2026
Summer 2026	13 April 2026 - 20 July 2026

Pupils will return to school on Monday, 2 September, 2025.

HOLIDAYS:

27 October - 31 November 2025	(Half Term)
22 December 2025 - 2 January 2026	(Christmas Holidays)
16 - 20 February 2026	(Half Term)
30 March 2026 - 10 April 2026	(Easter Holidays)
4 May 2026	(May Day)
25 - 29 May 2026	(Half Term)
21 July - 28 August 2026	(Summer Holidays)

Schools will re-open for teachers on Tuesday, 1 September, 2026 and for pupils on Tuesday, 2 September (awaiting confirmation).

There will be 5 In Service Training days (INSET) during the 2025/26 academic year.

Gwynedd Schools

At the time of publication there are 78 primary schools, 12 secondary schools, 2 middle school and 2 special schools in Gwynedd and they are listed below.

Each has been arranged according to secondary school catchment area. The Education Department is of the opinion that continuity in education from the primary to the secondary stage is all important and that parents should be aware of this relationship and therefore each secondary school has been listed with its feeder primary schools.

All schools are co-educational day schools. All secondary schools are 11 - 18 community schools apart from the Merioneth/Dwyfor area where the secondary schools are 11 - 16 community with the post 16 provision at Coleg Meirion/Dwyfor tertiary college (apart from Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn).

The majority of primary schools are also community schools but a small number of schools are linked to the Church in Wales or the Catholic Church some of which are voluntary controlled schools, and a smaller number being Voluntary Aided schools.

The list indicates the status of each school.