

The Early Years are the Crucial Years



**Our Nursery School and
details of the education,
care and nurturing we
offer your child**

Head's welcome

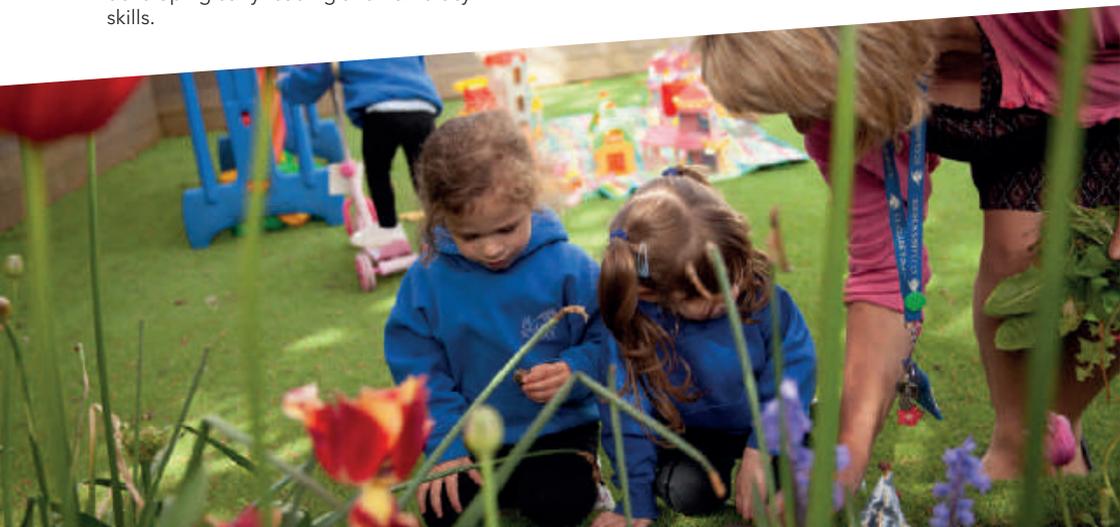
The early years of a child's education are ones of excitement, exploration and discovery. It is a time when they are introduced to a world beyond the secure and familiar confines of home life, when they begin to make friends, experience new play opportunities and interact with adults beyond those of their immediate family.

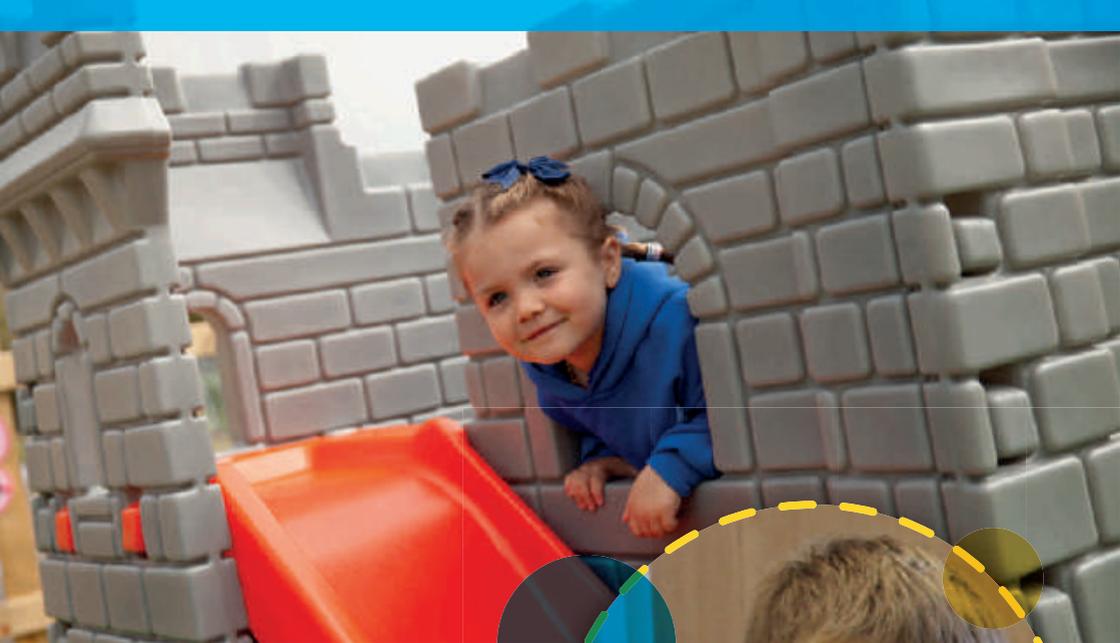
At St. Clare's School we are immensely proud of our Nursery. Our Nursery was graded as "Excellent" by Estyn (2014); the highest grade that can be given. We always knew the provision to be excellent and were delighted that Estyn agreed. The school is privileged to have such a fine team teaching and caring for the children. Not all nurseries have Nursery staff who are qualified teachers, and our pupils are very privileged to receive the care that they do.

We believe that our youngest pupils thrive on the quality learning experiences that are planned and implemented by our team of highly dedicated staff. From Nursery onwards we introduce structured learning and challenge our pupils in English and Mathematics through theme related activities, with a strong focus on developing early reading and numeracy skills.

Pupils at St. Clare's benefit from a continuity of education as they can progress from Nursery, through Prep to the Senior School and Sixth Form. The Nursery children also benefit from the facilities and resources available at an Independent school such as the dining hall, large open grass spaces and main halls. Getting to know the entire school and its pupils and staff during the early years helps to ensure a smooth transition to Reception.

I always take prospective parents on a tour of the school and take pride in introducing the Nursery staff and pupils. If you would like me to show you what makes our Nursery the best in the area, please arrange a tour of the school by contacting our Admissions Team on (01656) 789966.



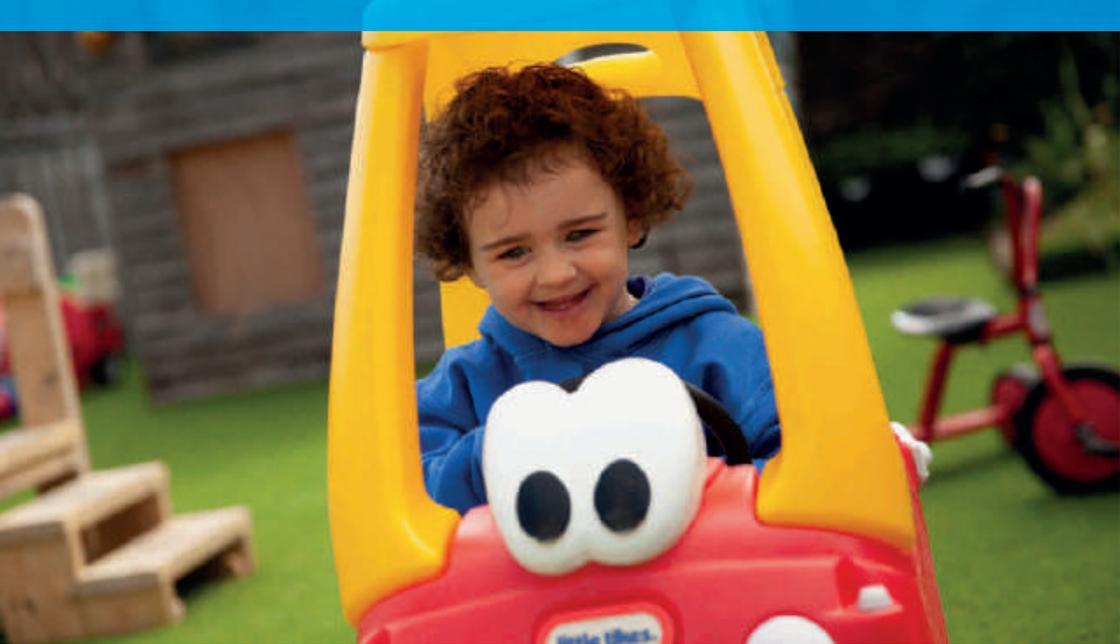


Making the Right Choice

As your child takes their first steps along the exciting journey of learning and development, our highly skilled and motivated staff will nurture them through their crucial early years.

We take great pride in our school's success in preparing children to the highest academic, social and moral standards. From a child's very first day at our school we lay the foundation for a love of learning that will remain with them throughout the course of their school life, providing a bedrock for future success in public examinations.

The school is open between 8am and 5:30pm allowing us to fit around your working day



The Early Years

Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase is a framework that consists of 7 areas of learning and encompasses the holistic developmental needs of children, where children learn through first-hand experiential activities and consolidate their learning through play.

The Welsh Assembly's Framework for Children's Learning provides guidance for the Nursery curriculum to support each child in their stage of development. Our Nursery staff ensure that each child's work and achievements are respected and valued so that all children can develop to their full.



In the Nursery at St. Clare's we go beyond the Foundation Phase curriculum and introduce more structured and formal teaching to prepare the children for the more traditional methods of teaching and learning throughout the school.

Teaching & Learning

Learning Environment

The Nursery is housed in a self-contained, purpose-built unit, and offers outstanding levels of care and individual attention through a theme-based Learning Programme which includes a variety of academic, music, dance and art activities. A large, secure outdoor play area provides an environment to help children develop physical skills, whilst we extend and enhance their cognitive and social skills. Our beautiful grounds provide the perfect environment for each child to thrive.

Our approach to teaching and learning at St. Clare's will give your child an established start to their education at this crucial stage. We begin to lay a firm foundation to each child's development and future learning with a wide curriculum encompassing not only early literacy and numeracy skills but specialist subjects such as Spanish, Music, Art, PE and Ballet. Children have access to mini iPads, and the interactive whiteboard is used frequently as a learning tool. Healthy eating is encouraged, as milk is provided at break time whilst children stop for a fruit snack. At lunchtime, a homemade healthy meal is offered to all Nursery pupils free of charge.

“**Excellent Nursery.** The staff are amazing and my little boy loves it there. They were incredibly nurturing towards him when he made the difficult transition between being at home and actually attending school. He comes home excited and enjoys telling us about his day. You are kept well informed and given pointers on areas in which you could work on eg he needs a little more practise on learning the colour blue etc. I would recommend the nursery to anyone.”



Nursery Excellence

The most recent Estyn Inspection Report graded the Nursery at St. Clare's as "**Excellent**" in June 2014.



This is the highest grading that Estyn awards, and reflects the high standard of teaching in the Nursery, and the professional care that is given to all boys and girls.

Here are some key points from the Inspection Report

Teaching is excellent.

Nearly all children make good, and most very good, progress during their time in the Nursery.

All children behave very well.

Teachers and staff share high expectations of themselves and of the children.

The Nursery provides parents with very good information about their child's progress through the year.

The management team has established an innovative and practical system of tracking individual and group progress that enables them to identify and address areas for development.

Why choose St. Clare's School?



Above all, **small class sizes**, **experienced staff**, **continual assessment** and a high degree of **interaction with parents**, combine to ensure that each child receives individual attention in a **safe, enjoyable, caring and creative environment**. The nursery at St Clare's offers wrap around care between 8am and 5:30pm at an affordable and competitive price.



To book your visit to the Nursery to meet the Headteacher and our dedicated team of staff, please telephone (01656) 789966.



Come and see what makes us so special!

COGNITA

- ✓ Small class sizes
- ✓ Full-time Qualified Teacher in the Nursery
- ✓ Healthy hot lunch provided free for all Nursery children
- ✓ Spanish taught weekly
- ✓ Bridgend Early Years Fund Grant available
- ✓ Wrap around care 8am until 5:30pm
- ✓ Morning sessions available
- ✓ Informal visits available all year round



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CLARE'S
SCHOOL

