

Abram Bryn Gates Primary School

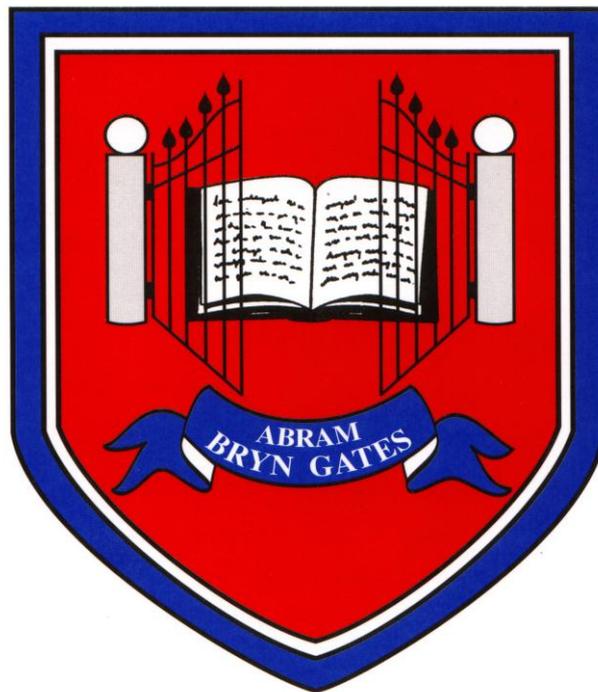
Winner of The National Curriculum Award 2002

Winner of The School Achievement Award 2003

Awarded Healthy Schools Accreditation 2006- re-accredited 2011

Wigan Quality Standard 2007-re-accredited 2010

Financial Management Standard in Schools 2009



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

1. GENERAL

HISTORY:

Abram Bryn Gates Primary School is a one-form entry Infant and Junior School, situated in the village of Bamfurlong between Platt Bridge and Ashton-in-Makerfield.

The school, along with the Church and Parish Hall is the centre of the community. The majority of the villagers went, at some stage, to "Bryn Gates School" and hold it with a good deal of affection.

The school was built just after the turn of the century, originally as two separate schools. The Junior school was opened in March 1909 and the Infant school in April, 1909. The two schools amalgamated in 1955.

A huge building/renovation programme began in January 1999 and, was completed by April 2000. This has included a new Infant department, a new hall, a new administration block incorporating a reception area, a renovated Junior department, removal of mobile classrooms, construction of separate Infant and Junior playgrounds and a new car park. Since the building / renovation programme further projects have been undertaken to provide the children of Abram Bryn Gates with the best possible learning environment inside and outside the classroom.

ETHOS:

At Abram Bryn Gates we emphasise the positive. We are a united staff - totally committed in our beliefs and aims of the school.

AIMS:

- 1. To be a "Successful School" where children feel safe, content and are able to achieve their goals.*
- 2. To provide a welcoming, happy, caring and safe environment where everyone can develop self-respect, a sense of individual worth and people are able to co-operate with and show consideration for others.*
- 3. To provide a wide ranging, varied and enriching curriculum within a stimulating environment promoting the development of imagination, curiosity and enabling children to become independent learners.*
- 4. To be a happy school.*

The school is committed to teaching the National Curriculum. However, it is a firm advocate of a broad and balanced curriculum and also the "hidden curriculum" promoting values of discipline, tolerance and responsibilities. Spiritual, moral, social, emotional and cultural development in a child is a major priority of the school. Abram Bryn Gates is totally committed to the ethos of Every Child Matters and Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning.

COMMUNITY:

At Abram Bryn Gates we are conscious of our community image. Liaison with local outreach services such as church, school, libraries, and police is excellent. Also, we work very closely with the school nurse and dental nurse, especially with regard to our Health Education policy. The school has developed partnerships with local environmental agencies and local businesses.

In 2002 the school was awarded the prestigious National Curriculum Award for its excellent relationships with the community. It is the only Wigan Primary school to receive the award for many years. The school was awarded The School Achievement Award in 2003, the Healthy Schools Accreditation Award in 2006 / 7 which was re-accredited in 2011, the Wigan Quality Standard Award in 2007 (re-accredited 2010) and the Financial Management Standard in Schools 2009.

INSPECTION:

The school has undergone six full OFSTED inspections in 1996, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2013. All inspection reports are available from the school office.

PARENTS:

The relationship between school and parents is one of the schools major strengths. Abram Bryn Gates welcomes the support of its parents. There is in place a "structured" timetable of parental helpers, which is very valuable to the school.

Regular parent's evenings are held throughout the school year. Also, during the year parents are invited to specific meetings such as SATs, homework reading etc...Parents are encouraged to come in and discuss their concerns with school. However, all parents are encouraged to obey the correct procedure of contacting the Headteacher first.

Any complaints by parents should be initially addressed to the Headteacher. In the event of a problem remaining unresolved, the problem should be put fully in writing and sent to the Headteacher. The matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure suggested by the LEA and accepted by the school governing body.

Bryn Gates Association:

The school has a thriving fund raising/social organisation - The Bryn Gates Association. A committee is made up of parents, staff and friends of the school. Parents of children in school automatically become members of the association and are very welcome.

Child Protection:

Parents should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow child protection procedures.

UNIFORM:

Girls:

Red, pink or blue Gingham dress
Optional white/light blue polo shirt
Navy skirt or pinafore dress

White/light blue shirt (short/long sleeved)
Red tie
Navy pinafore dress/skirt
Dark trousers
Navy cardigan/jumper
Sensible shoes

FOR P.E:

White T shirt
Dark shorts
Pumps (not trainers)

Boys:

White/light blue polo shirt.
Dark shorts – Dark trousers.

White/light blue shirt (long/short sleeved)
Red tie.
Dark trousers
Navy v neck jumper
Sensible shoes

FOR P.E:

White T shirt
Dark shorts
Pumps (not trainers)

N.B. no white trainers

A uniform containing the school “logo” has now been added and has proved very popular. This does not replace the existing uniform but is a valuable addition. This includes:

Waterproof Jackets
Fleeces
Jumpers
Cardigans
Pinafores
PE Shirts
Polo Shirts

White/blue shirts
White/blue blouses
Gingham dresses
Ties
Book Carriers
PE Bags
Baseball Caps

SCHOOL SESSION TIMES:

Infants

Morning 8:55 am - 12:00 noon
Afternoon 1:10 pm - 3:25 pm

Juniors

8:55 am - 12:10pm
1:15 pm - 3:30 pm

The number of hours per week spent teaching in the Infant department is 23 hours 20 mins.

The number of hours spent teaching in the Junior Department is 24 hours 10 mins.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS:

At present the maximum admission number is 30 pupils.

The school adheres to the Local Authority’s admission policy.

Parents are encouraged to contact the Headteacher at any time to obtain more information and look around the school.

2. CURRICULUM

In 2012, Abram Bryn Gates introduced Assertive Mentoring. Details of this can be found on our school website (www.bryngates.wigan.sch.uk). It is central to the ethos of this school and the way it operates. Reading, writing and numeracy are taught within this framework which also incorporates attitude, attendance and behaviour.

The basics of literacy such as grammar, punctuation, spelling, reading and writing skills are promoted in a variety of ways. Class Libraries and departmental libraries provide children with a variety of interesting and challenging reading material. Throughout school a great emphasis is placed on language work and the development of subsequent skills.

Similarly in numeracy there is a mixture of class teaching, group work and individual development. The staff intend children to enjoy mathematics and provide experiences, encouragement and praise. Modern techniques are taught alongside traditional standards. Many resources are used throughout the framework.

By September 2014, a new curriculum will be in place which will offer a variety of experiences and skills aimed at preparing children for all aspects of their educational journey. The school is committed to ensuring that this is as rich, varied, interesting and challenging as possible.

Prior to the new curriculum History will be taught in a series of study units which look at various aspects of local, British, European and World history. Geographical study will place great emphasis on an increasing knowledge and understanding of places in local, national, and global contexts, the development of skills in the use of maps, a study of the physical aspects of the world around us and an understanding of people and their settlements. Pupils will be taught to search out information from a variety of sources and to examine it fully. A growing understanding of the world we live in should be the results of this area of study.

Science:

Science is approached both as a separate subject area and can also be linked to project work covering a range of other subjects. Children are encouraged to learn in a practical way about their own surroundings and the science which is all around them. They first learn to observe and then to question what they see from their own experience of scientific ideas.

ICT

At Abram Bryn Gates we are fully committed to ICT both as an individual subject and also a cross curricular vehicle. Expertise and teaching is constantly developed alongside the development of hardware and software available. The school has a computer suite available for small group and whole class teaching. Each classroom base has an interactive whiteboard and projector. In addition to the computer suite, the whole school has a wireless internet connection which has developed our capabilities further in being able to use a substantial bank of netbooks within KS2 and the more recent use of tablet devices in Reception for tracking the development of the children. This has resulted in ICT skills being embedded across the curriculum. We require all children to abide by the Internet code of conduct and for parental permission to be given.

Modern Foreign Languages

In partnership with local High schools French is taught in Key Stage 2 at various times throughout the year.

Music:

For 2013/2014, the school has committed to the Wider Opportunities music curriculum support programme with the Wigan Music Service providing children and staff with a high level of expertise and the enjoyment and performing of music. The learning of a musical instrument is accessible in KS2.

Arts:

The Arts, which include visual arts, music, dance, drama and creative writing, have a high profile in our school.

Physical Education / Games/ Dance:

As part of the schools commitment to Healthy Schools Accreditation, PE/Games/Dance has a high priority. Specialist coaches in their areas are employed by the school alongside school staff in ensuring high quality delivery of the above. During the year every child will access a variety of high quality activities, developing their physical skills and enjoying the benefits of physical activity. Each day begins with 'wake up and shake up' and playground developments have been carefully implemented and supervisors well trained to ensure that there are ample opportunities for physical activity for all children throughout the day. At present the school has two fully qualified sports coaches on its staff as well as the specialist coaches employed.

Citizenship / Health Education / Sex Education / SEAL:

The School has a very comprehensive Citizenship / Health Education Programme. This is used throughout the school and deals with the topic of sex education in the top Junior class, following the policy agreed and adopted by the governing body. The school is committed to Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning; dealing with relationships, tolerance, inclusion etc...

Early Years

Early Years is a strength of the school as reported in every Ofsted report. It is well managed, keeping up to date with the ever changing demands in teaching and learning.

Religious Knowledge:

The school follows the Wigan LEA Agreed Syllabus guidelines in Religious Education. Alongside the curriculum in the classroom there is an assembly on most afternoons. This is usually taken by the Headteacher. Assemblies are thematic and are teaching assemblies re-emphasising concepts taught throughout the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from assemblies and lessons in Religious Education.

Pupils with Special Needs:

It is part of the school's admission policy to give as much support as possible to children with special needs. The school has a Special Needs Co-ordinator and SEN assistant co-ordinator who liaise closely with class teachers, the Headteacher and outside agencies to provide the very best education for our children. The school also liaises very closely with parents. The school has a reputation in the authority for being so inclusive.

Extra Curricular Activities:

It is the school policy to involve as many children as possible in a variety of sporting and extra curricular activities such as music and visits (educational and social). As well as P.E. Music, Movement, Swimming and the separate games lessons, the school is involved in sports such as football, rugby, swimming, cricket, cross country, basketball, netball, rounders, volleyball and athletics, judo and fencing. As well as coaching the school takes part in a variety of competitions and tournaments. The school has partnerships with several outside providers in order to enhance the curriculum and extra curriculum further.

Visits are a vital part of the curriculum. Throughout the year the school takes part in several educational visits, including a residential visit, (usually Year 5 and Year 6). It is the school's policy at present to finance educational visits / visitors within its own budget to avoid discrimination and pressure on parents.

There are a series of after school clubs and dinnertime clubs at various times in the school year which offer extra-curricular activities.

School Council

The school has a very active school council with regular meetings between the Headteacher, the co-ordinator for PSHE and elected members from classes.

3. STAFF

Teaching Staff

Mr. S.C. Sheekey	Headteacher
Mrs.L.Green	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs. P. Smalley	Management
Miss. C. Boffey	Teacher
Mrs. J. Coppell	“
Mrs. E.J. Burrows	“
Mrs. S. Sexton	“
Miss. E. Hurst	“
Mrs. L. Small	“

Classroom Assistants

Mrs. L. MacNamara	Mr. S. Sheekey
Ms S Roberts	Mrs S.Winstanley
Miss. L. Smallwood	Mrs. S. Marsh
Mrs. S. Atherton	Mrs. C. Holt
Mr. S. Leyland	Mrs. E. Horsley
Mrs. K. Fara	Miss H. Sheehan
Mrs. J Woosey	

Other Staff:

Mrs. J. Barclay	School Business Manager
Mrs. C. Hurst	School Administrative Officer
Mrs. H. Patterson	School Administrative Officer
Mrs. Mason	Cook Supervisor
Miss. K. Tipping	Assistant Cook
Miss. C Clark	Site Manager
Miss. J. Boon	Cleaner

Welfare Assistants:

Mrs. A. Pennington	Mrs. C. Barr
Miss. B. Ormshaw	Miss. R. Hazeldine
Miss. L. Wilcock	Mrs. D. Wiggins
Mrs. M. Hughes	Mrs. J. Woosey
Mrs. C. Smith	
Miss A. Roscoe	

4. GOVERNORS

Chairman of Governors - Mr. J. Clegg.
Deputy Chairman of Governors - Mr. N. Woosey.

Mr. S .C. Sheekey.
Mr .S. Sheekey
Mrs. K. Fara
Mrs. S. Cunliffe
Mrs. J Barclay

Mrs. J. Woosey
Mrs. J Buckler
Mrs. J Dunn
Mrs. F Toner
Mr. B. Lawrence

Clerk to the Governors Mr. M. Mason

5. PROCEDURES

ABSENCES:

Children:

Children who arrive at school by morning break should get a mark. Consistent lateness will be reported to the Head.

Regular absentees will be noted and reported to the Head.

If a child has not arrived at school by 9:30am without parental confirmation, the School Administrative Officer will ring the child's home to find out why.

The school, in conjunction with the Local Authority, monitors rigorously absenteeism and punctuality.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL:

Access to school is at the Ashton end of the school building. Children and parents should not arrive at school before 8:45am. At 8:45am the Headteacher or another member of staff will open the gate and remain at the gate as children enter school. At 8.55am the school gates will close. Any further access will be through the main entrance at the Platt Bridge side of the school. All visitors must report to the office. Parents of Reception children are encouraged to go into class with their children. School has a Breakfast Club (see later)

ASSEMBLIES:

The Assembly pattern is as follows:-

Monday	-	1:15pm.
Tuesday	-	1:15pm.
Wednesday	-	1:15pm.
Friday	-	1:15pm.

An Infant and Junior hymn practice is held once a week

The Assemblies are generally taken by the Headteacher or in his absence by the Deputy Headteacher. The school sets great store by these assemblies. As well as collective worship, they are "teaching" assemblies used by the Head to reinforce the positive values taught in school. They last approximately twenty minutes and incorporate the celebration of success and the recognition of any achievement. Good Work Table - Participation in teams, etc.

Once a term there is a "Well Done" assembly where children are nominated from each class for displaying positive attitudes over and above the "norm".

BREAKFAST CLUB:

The school operates a Breakfast Club between 8:00am and 8:45am. Hot and cold drinks and toast are available for children and parents. Entry is at the Platt Bridge end of school and doors are open between 8:00am and 8:30am. Children from every class, sometimes with parents and siblings, come together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

DINNER MONEY:

This is collected each Monday morning. Please ensure that money is brought into school in a clearly marked envelope or container.

Any changeover from school dinners to sandwiches or vice-versa requires **two weeks** notice being given.

DISCIPLINE:

There is a negative and a positive side to discipline and good teachers are strong in both respects. Negative in that they must actively discourage wrong doings; but positive in that they must show that each child is of great and equal concern to them and that they are anxious to praise and reward effort.

At Abram Bryn Gates we do not solely rely on punishment as a means of establishing order, as this is merely temporary. Only the POSITIVE encouragement of good behaviour is likely to induce children to acquire desirable attitudes. Rewards given can include house points. These should be given sparingly so that they are meaningful; they include praise; being distinguished for setting a good example; being given monitors "jobs" to do, etc. A merit award system is also in place. This can also be used to reward positive behaviour. The good work table and compliment box recognises positive attitude, effort and achievement not only in school but out of school also. It is an excellent vehicle for promoting the "positivity" of the school.

Approximately once a term the school hosts a well done assembly in order to acknowledge children who have performed / tried / achieved over and above the norm. This can be curriculum or non curriculum.

A yellow, red and green card system (as part of the Assertive Mentoring Programme) operates in the whole school which promotes good behaviour and discourages inappropriate behaviour and parents are involved in the process.

In the rare instances when more severe punishment is necessary, the Head will be informed of the circumstances so that he can deal with the situation himself

The school has excellent links with parents and we value the co-operation between school and home regarding all issues of school life but especially discipline. It is vital that the child sees home/school working together

Parental opinion concerning a school is of vital importance it affects most profoundly the way in which the children regard school. It is far easier and more efficient to educate a child who feels that his parents like and support the teachers. Without this support education is a constant struggle. Home/ School links are a strength of the school- recognised in every Ofsted report. Bullying is not tolerated in any shape or form and is dealt with very thoroughly. A bullying policy is in school and is adhered to very specifically.

HOUSE SYSTEM:

This system is specifically designed to help children identify more closely with the school and feel part of a team and thereby aid work and behaviour.

LATENESS:

Punctuality is important and is to be encouraged at all times. Any child who is late should come in through the main entrance and report to the office immediately before going to class.

The Headteacher liaises with the Local Authority on a regular basis. Registers are monitored and excessive lateness or absence will be followed up.

MEDICAL:

The Headteacher, Administration Officers and staff must be made aware of any particular medical condition relating to a child. The school has a procedure in place for the administration of prescribed medicine only.

MONEY:

Children should be periodically reminded that the only money that they should bring to school, apart from dinner money and breakfast club money, is for break. Any other "essential" money, such as bus fares, should be collected at registration and returned at home time. If this rule is adhered to, no one should have any money to "lose" during the day.

At this moment in time, fruit is available, at no cost, to all infant children and Y3

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

The school has its own School improvement Plan containing short term and long term aims of all areas of the school - curriculum and non-curriculum. This is an ongoing working document. It belongs to all of us and is the framework and guidelines along which the school functions. Copies of the School Improvement Plan are available in school.

SCHOOL RULES:

The school rules are for the protection of children and the safe and smooth running of the school. They are frequently brought to the attention of the children by both Headteacher and Teachers.

The staff believe in discipline that is firm but fair.

Children must learn to obey rules in order to prepare them to respect the rules and laws of society in adulthood. Once again, parental help is of the utmost value.

The school rules simply amount to common sense and safety.