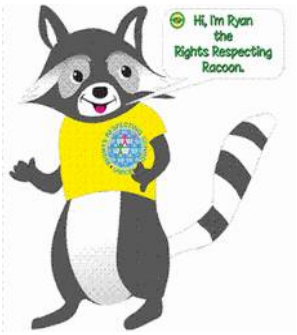
Penllergaer Primary School, Swansea



Peace Mala Accreditation Self-Evaluation

Gold Award Evidence January 2019

Peace Mala
Accredited School

A Peace Mala School is committed to placing the vision and message of Peace Mala at the heart-centre of its values system. Penllergaer Primary School does not chase awards or embark on one off projects that do not reflect the school ethos, vision and aims. We strongly believe it is imperative any awards sought link to our policies and everyday practices
Here is Penllergaer's journey in meeting the seven key areas for action:

Area 1

Becoming a Peace Mala School is part of the whole School Development Plan approved by staff and the Governing Body. This is shared with the whole school community. A chosen year group will need to study and explore Peace Mala by using the kits and educational materials during a particular term every year. This encourages Peace Mala continuity in the school curriculum. The school will also share good practice with other schools who are members of the global community of Peace Mala.

- Penllergaer Primary shares the spirit and message of Peace Mala. Our Peace Mala journey is a whole school one. Having been a Peace Mala school for over

10 years, the philosophy helps form our ethos and practices and policies that support Peace Mala work are firmly embedded.

- Our school motto is "***Our School is for Everyone***". We are an inclusive school that promotes tolerance and respect. Our school values policy which was devised in consultation with staff, pupils, governors and parents. We are accredited level 2 UNCRC and promote a value and right each month.

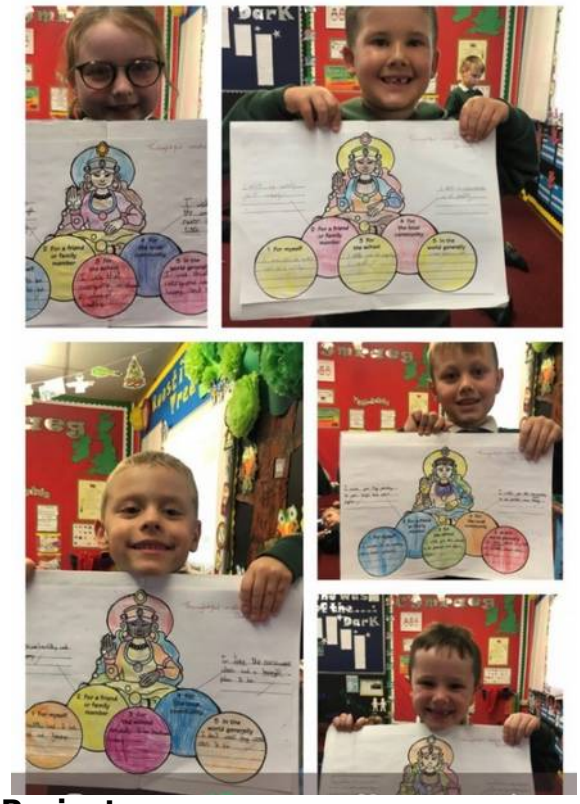
Our Values

Art work

International Peace day

- We celebrate the diversity of faiths, cultures and lifestyles.
- Peace Mala Gold recognition is part of our School Development plan for 2018-19 and it is integrated in to our RE and PSE curriculum.
- The Year 3 cohort each year, studies Peace Mala in-depth and all pupils get the chance to make a Peace Mala bracelet. Even our local vicar wears a Peace Mala.
- Visiting church leaders regularly present assemblies to pupils regarding a range of subjects such as 'Restavek no more', natural disasters, values, water aid, charities, diversity and global citizenship. As often as possible the Headteacher either presents visitors with a bracelet or a business card promoting Peace Mala.

- Any Peace Mala work that we do is regularly fed back to the School Governors, through the Headteacher. They are informed of all the opportunities it has led to and all of the benefits it provides not just to the children, but also the staff and the wider community. In addition we have Peace days throughout the year to celebrate the different faiths and foster the, ever so important, message of peace and kindness.
- The children in key stage 2 have completed an Art project based around our school values and the messages of Peace Mala, such as kindness, respect, tolerance, love and peace. Our Peace Mala display in the entrance corridor is a fantastic talking point for visitors to our school and clear way of promoting our Peace Mala ethos.
- There are also other key pieces of artwork displayed around the school, for example, the Peace Mala logo is proudly displayed on the wall outside our main entrance and the Peace Mala dove flies in our Gardd Heddwch. Our pupils designed our Peace Garden which is always evolving. We also have a Peace tree from which children periodically hang ribbons, peace messages or prayers.
- Penllergaer Primary has been part of a Comenius project working in partnership with 4 other schools in Ireland, Turkey, Spain and Finland. The name of the project was “Celebrating Difference”. One of its` main themes was to encourage pupils and staff by supporting the internationalization whilst building upon the idea of 'shared identity' to combat racism, prejudice and xenophobia. The project enabled pupils from each school to work effectively together, developing knowledge and awareness of the cultural aspects that make us unique, recognising what we have that is the same and bringing us together under a shared European identity. This partnership allowed us to explore and celebrate differences in aspects of culture and tradition along with appreciating the beauty and diversity of our landscapes. Information about the project was shared and disseminated amongst our local communities. Pupils learned their fellow countries music, cuisine, art and traditions. All presentations were made by the pupils with the support of their school staff. The presentations have been seen at schools, displayed on walls or posted on each school’s website and also on the Comenius web site in pedanet.
- Teachers from our school have taught Peace Mala lessons to Finnish and Spanish children and explained the importance of Peace Mala in staff meetings whilst over there. The teachers were also able to witness our Peace Mala teachings when they came over to visit our school.



Celebrating Difference Comenius Project
Learning about Lakshmi

- A Peace Mala dove is displayed at the front of our hall and is regularly discussed in whole school assemblies i.e. with children from Nursery to Year 6.
- Parents are informed of Peace Mala during PTA events, newsletters, twitter feeds and school website.
- Peace Mala is promoted at every opportunity and there are many school awards, events and activities that support this e.g. charity work, National Quality Award for Healthy Schools, Swansea in Bloom, Eco Schools Award, International Schools Award and Rights Respecting School Level 2 Award. Peace Mala is regularly discussed in pupil voice meetings.
- Children and staff have supported Peace Mala with community and interfaith events such as the Gower World Peace Pilgrimage in July 2012, The Peace Mala Tree of Peace Ceremony in Coad Bwlardd, Carmarthenshire October 2012 and The Peace Mala Pilgrimage to the Forgotten Monastery of Saint David at Llangyfelach May 2013. Pupils have contributed art work for the saints booklet and performed at The Peace Mala Inter-faith Liturgy for World Peace at Llandaff Cathedral in 2017, the Peace Mala Youth Liturgy for World Peace at St Joseph's Catholic Cathedral, Swansea on the UN International Day of Peace 2017 and the Peace Mala Youth Liturgy for World Peace at St David's Church Neath on 21st September 2018.
- The school is a large primary with mixed age classes. As a result, we work on a two year cycle of curriculum topics. Peace Mala features mainly in Cycle 1 Year3/4, where lessons are actually taught and the children learn about the bracelet. However, the Peace Mala philosophy infiltrates all we do and we are extremely proud to be an accredited school. The Headteacher leads an annual Peace Mala assembly and our Peace Garden is termly/half termly updated

according to our Annual calendar e.g. Easter, Harvest, November Armistice, Chinese New Year, Eid etc. In addition, the Peace Mala message and news features periodically as and when appropriate eg Cycle 2 Yr5/6 topic is the Blitz and Peace Mala message and work is linked here and similarly as part of Cycle 1 Yr5/6 Our World where we look at Fairtrade in depth. Junior pupils study the major religions of the world as part of the schools RE and PSE curriculum planning or order to ensure continuity and promote Peace Mala as part of our embedded ethos.

- The school regularly shares its work with others e.g. schools in our All Wales Family group, cluster groups and other schools both within and outside the Local Authority, including internationally.
- The school supports Peace Mala events such as illustrations for the Celtic Saints of Gower book, Gower Peace Pilgrimage, World Peace Day and Symbolic Doves. The school also supports National events such as Anti-Bullying week, E-safety week, BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief.

Peace Mala Symbolic Doves of Peace

Area 2

By engaging with Peace Mala the school is committed to education for global citizenship through the promotion of understanding, respect, friendship, tolerance and

peace between all communities, cultures and enlightened, compassionate faiths. Peace Mala promotes and encourages community cohesion.

- The school curriculum focuses on global citizenship, world faiths, our environment and community cohesion, e.g. Fairtrade, Holocaust, Economically Developing Countries (Romanian Orphanage with Val Newton). Through our PSE lessons the children explore prejudice. The children learn about differences through looking at examples and discussing terms such as stereotyping, racism, prejudice, ethnicity and ethnic pride. All of these messages are reinforced by the Golden Rule of Peace Mala. The lesson that we teach the children is that it is very important to respect themselves, others and personal belongings which is emphasised through each classes Class Charter. An important lesson for the children is to understand that as children they have rights, but they also have responsibilities. In PSE, the children are taught all about the special rights that they have as children and they are encouraged to think of the responsibilities that adults have to them.
- Our Calendar of Rights and Values support the school curriculum.
- We hold our annual Christingle Service in St. David's Church, Penllergaer. Our children make their 'Christingles' as part of a lesson in school and lead the service for the community.
- Upon embarking on our journey to becoming a Peace Mala school we have focussed on the importance of sharing ideas and building relationships between schools locally and globally.
- School Assemblies focus on our school values. Community church leaders lead a weekly assembly on a rota basis and we have frequent visitors who share their lives and experiences with our pupils, e.g. Tibetan Monks.

- Pupils have a good understanding of their rights and responsibilities through lessons, school activities, presentations and displays.
- The school has written policies and practices which support equality and diversity.
- Extensive charity support, at both local and national level, is clearly evident – Ty Hafan (cancer centre), Restavek No More, Injured in Action, NSPCC, Splash, Friends of Penllergare Valley Woods, Llys Nini, Operation Christmas Child, Jeans for Genes, Harvest donations, Romanian Orphanage, Mary's Meals and Children in Need. The children display good empathetic skills towards those less fortunate.

- The school has shared its Peace Mala work and ethos with other schools, e.g. Cadle, Fenton and Christchurch Primaries.

Val Newton collects our dried food from Harvest day for Save the Children for her Romanian Orphanage

Christmas Jumper

Area 3

By using Peace Mala in the classroom, the school supports human rights and helps prevent bullying and all forms of prejudice.

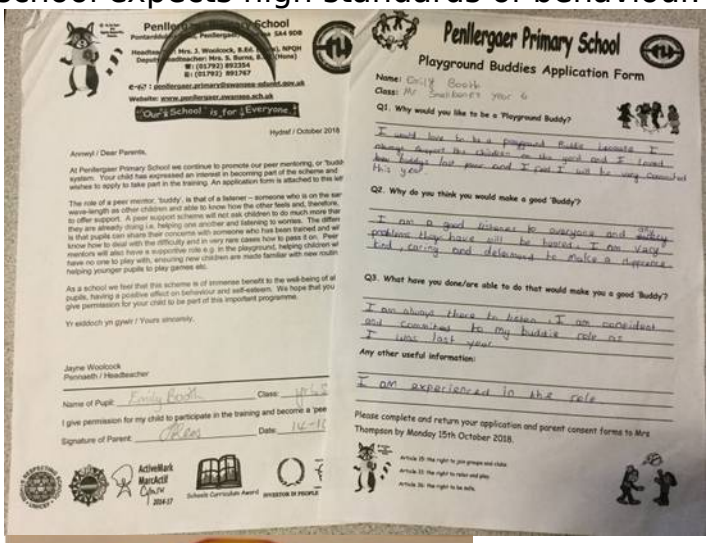
- Penllergaer is a community of around 400 children and 45 adults. We ask the children to be mindful of the prejudice that surrounds certain faiths and culture in the world and we need to work to stop this. As the Peace Mala warns 'the voices of intolerance are all around us. The voice of tolerance needs to be louder.'
- Our school motto is 'Our School is for Everyone'. We are a large primary school serving the old village of Penllergaer and the new housing estate at Tir Coed, Parc Penllergaer and Parc Penderi. The school has a diverse catchment. We have mixed aged classes throughout, two part time nursery classes, a nursery wraparound and pre and after school child care facilities. We have two classes for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. We pride ourselves on our inclusivity.
- We work with the community to raise awareness of disability and accessibility.

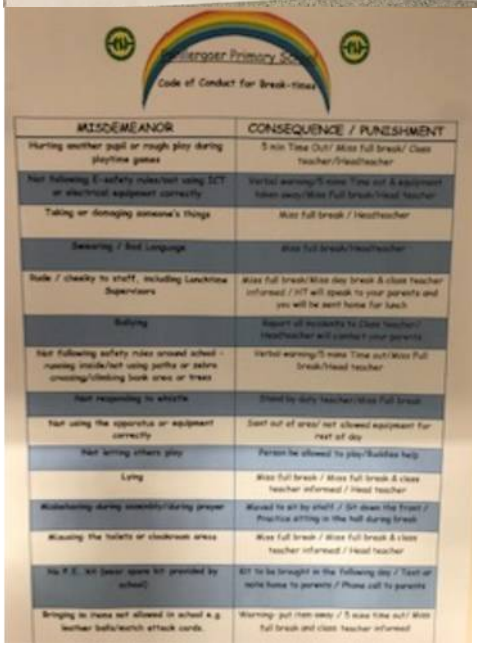
- During one of our regular school council meetings, one child suggested that each classroom creates a box to celebrate kind acts. As a result our school council used the ideas and went around the village on a ‘Be more kind’ day’ distributing items in parks like a ball for dogs to play with, leaving a random football for children to play with and leaving little yellow bows on cars or plant pots in gardens. We discussed this idea further and decided that it would be a fantastic way of celebrating and encouraging kindness and peace.

- Penllergaer Primary is a Rights Respecting School and believes in the importance of children understanding their rights from a very early age. Throughout the year, we have participated in many whole-school events to promote an understanding of children’ rights. These have included whole-school assemblies, peer learning workshops held by children in Year 5and 6 and a variety of activities based around wants and needs.
- The Y5/6 pupils participate in a bi- annual (due to our 2yr curriculum cycle) series of 6 workshops presented by NSPCC which promotes ChildLine.

- Prior to leaving to take up a new post, the local vicar, Alan Bayes, on an annual basis presented information to Y5 pupils to mark Holocaust Memorial day. Vicar Bayes also visited the school on a fortnightly basis to read Bible Stories to Infant pupils. The new vicar aims to introduce 'Open the Book' activities.
- On Remembrance Day, all children keep a minute's silence. The school "sells" poppies on behalf of the British Legion every Autumn Term.
- The school continues its links with our Police-School Liaison Officer, PC Parry. She visits and educates the children as part of the South Wales Police School Liaison Programme. The lesson "Sticks and Stones" for Years 3 and 4 has an anti-bullying theme. The lesson "Diversity" for Year 6 has an anti-racism theme. Lessons also include keeping safe on the internet and anti-cyber bullying.
- Penllergaer is a fully inclusive school. Buildings are accessible and wheel chair friendly. All concert and event invites contain the paragraph 'Please contact the school if you have any specific requirements and wherever possible will endeavour to meet your needs.' British Sign Language display boards encourage pupils to learn signing and staff in our special teaching facility units, use Makaton communication aids.
- Well-planned residential activities help promote a safe, healthy lifestyle.
- Nearly all pupils have a very good understanding of how to keep safe. 100% of pupils know an adult in school they could go to if they were worried about something. 98% of pupils state that they feel safe in school. Initiatives which have had a powerful impact upon pupils' understanding of how to keep safe include Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools, Road Safety Squad, the School Council, PSE, outside agency visitors' talks and our high-profile safety promotion days/weeks.
- Much work has been done on levels to promote positive behaviour through our values system, Positive Play and Code of Conduct at break times which was devised by our School Council in consultation with pupils. The Code is revised annually by pupils and indicates that behaviour is a choice. Sanctions are fair and clear which allows for the consistent approach to managing challenging behaviour and sends a clear message on expected behaviour. Comprehensive behaviour strategies encourage positive behaviour/attitudes by nearly all pupils, who feel safe and respected in school. Most participate positively in learning and feel free from physical and verbal abuse in school. Lunch time supervisors select a Citizen of the Week Award for each class. Restorative Practices (Circle Time, P4C, check-ins/checkouts and Fish bowl) are used to solve disputes, challenge prejudice and equality and help pupils share their feelings.
- During our latest Peace Mala day, the children in Year 1 were involved in creating a 'friendship salad'. The ideology is that children see that it takes all kinds of fruit (people) to make a perfect fruit salad (classroom/world). They then discussed what would happen if a rotten banana was introduced to the fruit salad. This was a great way of discussing the topic of bullying with younger children and they all grasped the concept very well.
- Penllergaer buddies are Y5/6 pupils who apply for the job and undertake a day's training programme. Staff have reported less incidents on the yard. We have an anti- bullying policy, promote anti-bullying week and anti-bullying is taught in each year group through the use of the SEAL scheme of work.

- Incidences of bullying are rare; when reported, they are effectively dealt with and always in partnership with parents/carers. There are procedures for pupils to anonymously report bullying. Pupils report low levels of incidents. The school works closely with its partner secondary school to deal with community issues connected with bullying outside the school premises. Good behaviour is a strong feature of the school, and frequently receives unsolicited positive comments. Classroom observation records frequently comment upon the high standard of good behaviour exhibited by children. 97% of parents state the school expects high standards of behaviour.





Buddy application form

Code of Conduct at break times

- The Head teacher leads an annual assembly to promote Fairtrade and the Y3/4 classes participate in a series of lessons around the theme 'Fairtrade chocolate'.
- The school participates in events such as 'show Racism the Red Card' and 'Restavek no more'. Indeed, Jean Robert Cadet has visited our school and

participated in a question and answer session with our pupils on abolishing child slavery in Haiti.

Area 4

Peace Mala encourages the school to raise awareness of issues of global interdependence and encourages active compassion by learners that will lead to positive changes locally and globally.

- Pupil participation is very important and is focussed through our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools project, which along with the development of our Connecting Classrooms and Comenius projects promote ESDGC. Our work on the environment has allowed us to consider and compare the 'throwaway cultures' of UK, India and Ghana through the 3 'Rs' –Reuse; Reduce; Recycle. The percentage of recycled waste is increasing, in some countries and there are still many problems associated with efficient waste recycling. It is essential to raise awareness of young people and students of major waste producers, the role of the community. From this we have concentrated on recycling and the ways in which it is achieved.
- Penllergaer holds an annual 'Green day' to promote reusing, reducing and recycling in the school and amongst the community. Our Eco Warriors have since produced posters and a pamphlet that has been distributed in the local community to tell other people about local recycling initiatives, what we are doing in the school, and to encourage them to recycle more. These messages need to be repeated and regularly revisited, as groups of children and the community changes. Therefore, this work will be ongoing and part of the school's curriculum, e.g. fair-trade and activities are built into the Yr3/4 curriculum.

Our pupils learning about recycling

- The school collects over 100 shoeboxes for Operation Xmas Child – Samaritan's Purse each year. We have also supported the Rotary Club's 'Back packs and stationery' African children appeal.

Back Packs for African children
Textile/clothes recycling

- The school has strong links with a Romanian orphanage and village and regularly supports by collecting rice, pasta and cereals and funds for buildings.
- For the past six years Penllergaer Primary school participates in Red Nose Day and Children in Need. Whole school assemblies led by senior managers

explain these causes and pupils participate in fun activities to raise money for the charities.

- In addition the school has supported the charity “Restavek No More” by celebrating “wear blue to school day” which highlights every child’s right to an education. Jean Cadet a former Restavek child slave from Haiti actually visited the school and was interviewed by the pupils. Each year group produced work on Children’s Rights which was displayed in the Waterfront Museum, Swansea.

- The children have learnt all about people and organisations that have made a difference to the world. This involved learning about numerous charities, their founders and numerous people who have helped to make the world a better place through raising money, charities, technology, science etc. We have many links with the different places of worship and faith leaders in the community and beyond.

- During one of our Peace Mala days, year 5 and 6 children were given the task of researching and creating a presentation about people who have dedicated their lives to encouraging peace. The children gained such a lot from the experience, it was wonderful to hear them explaining the commitment of such inspirational people, for example; Ghandi, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther king, and Nelson Mandela. We have learned about the *'inukshuk'* and made sculptures in our Gardd Heddwch. The traditional meaning of the inuksuk is "Someone was here" or "You are on the right path."

Our Gardd Heddwch during World Peace Day
Inukshuk

Area 5

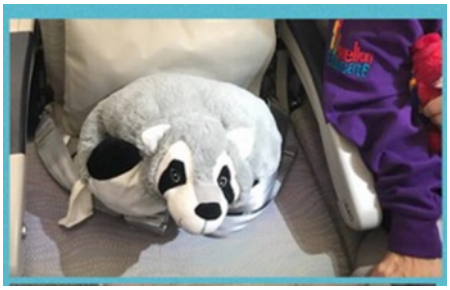
Peace Mala encourages the celebration of cultural, racial and religious diversity through art, music, drama and dance.

- The school grasps every opportunity to host students and teachers from International schools e.g. Spain, Finland, Turkey, Bangladesh and China. Our international visitors are treated to traditional Welsh folk dancing, listened to and learned Welsh songs and tasted Welsh food. In addition the school has been involved in two British Council Grants, Comenius and Connecting Classrooms.
- Pupils at various ages study some of the major world religions and compare faiths and cultures. Infant pupils visit the local church whilst older pupils study mosques and synagogues. A range of religious and cultural festivals are celebrated via our school assembly programme and curriculum planning.

- Our former school governor and local vicar, Alan Bayes, is a member of Interfaith UK and before leaving for a new position, he led a half termly assembly on a range of topics including sharing his interfaith work.
- We are delighted that we are able to take part in a number of joint projects with schools in particular, Mellon Educate. We held a very successful African day in September 2018. Our aim is to teach the children about the different schools in Africa and compare and contrast to our own. The children are given ownership over their learning as we ask them which aspects of African culture they are keen to know more about. Their interests range from the education that children are given, to the traditions and cultures of the children when they are at home. Our African day sparked interest into research about Black History Month in October 2018 and children had a flavour for different cultures and how this has helped to sculpt the multiculturalism we celebrate in Penllergaer and in Wales. We found out that Swansea in particular is a city of peace and we are proud to support good causes involving the local and wider community.

We made a human African flag, learned some African dancing and played some African music.

- Rachael Webb, headteacher of Hafod Primary, a Peace Mala school and Sarah Hook, UNCRC, took our mascot ‘Ryan the rcaoon’ to Cape Town as part of the Mellon Educate project.



Ryan the Racoon on the building site, with his passport and seat belt on during the plane ride to South Africa

- As a school, we feel that it is important to raise awareness throughout the year and celebrate the many festivals. Our foundation phase pupils learned about Diwali and learnt Diwali signifies dispelling darkness (ignorance) with light (knowledge).
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Celebrating the Hindu festival of light 'Diwali'

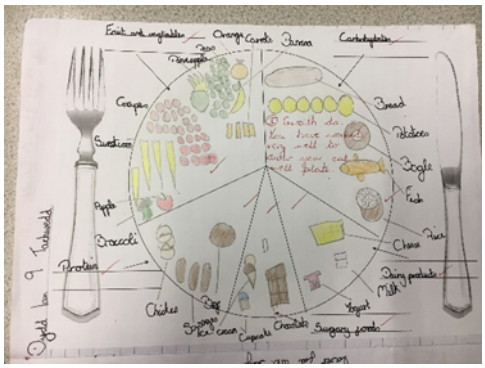
Area 6

With Peace Mala the school actively promotes environmental sustainability, healthy eating, and respect for all animals and wildlife.

- At Penllergaer, the children and teachers are encouraged to work on the promotion and understanding of the concept of peace both locally and nationally. The school has Platinum Award Eco School status. Our environmental work particularly helps as most environmental problems transcend national boundaries and therefore require solutions that are mutually reinforced at global, regional, national and community levels. Every class has a paper recycling bin and the school also has facilities for recycling plastics and food as part of Swansea Recycling scheme. Fruit waste and Garden waste is composted in our compost bin area. The school also has facilities for recycling batteries and printer ink cartridges. The school takes part in the Bags2School scheme every year, which recycles clothes and fabrics.

Caring for our Giant Snails – Ant and Dec

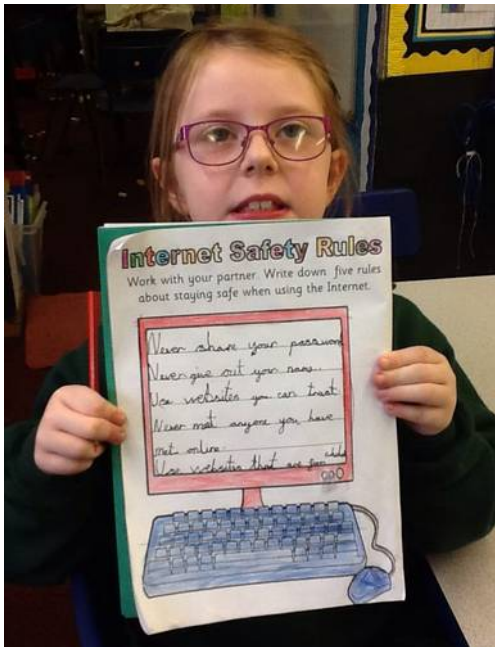
- Healthy eating and environmental sustainability plays a large part in our school life. This is recognised in our National Quality Award (NQA) 'Healthy School' status. The children have lessons on Healthy Eating during PSE and through various science topics across the school. They learn all about food groups, the benefits of each group and how to produce a healthy plate of food. All lunchtime meals are freshly prepared by our dedicated school cooks who take a real pride in ensuring that the children are offered a selection of healthy options. The school's planned PSE programme enhanced by external visitors (e.g. P.C. Hines/PCSO Rosser, NSPCC, Design to Smile team, Health Visitor, etc) ensures that children gain a broad range of experiences designed to promote a healthy, safe lifestyle. Parents frequently comment that school-based learning has had an impact at home in promoting family health.



The Eat Well Plate

Warburton's visit – Healthy sandwiches

- Staying safe online is an issue that is becoming increasingly more important in our society and it is something that we take very seriously in Penllergaer. Every half term, all classes work on a particular Internet safety issue. Topics include staying safe online, cyber bullying, passwords, copy right, protecting personal information and sensible screen time. We also participate as a whole school in Internet Safety Day. This includes a whole school assembly, followed by activities tailored to each year group on a common theme.



Learning to keep safe when using the internet

- Nearly all pupils' attitudes to keeping healthy and safe are very good. In the most recent questionnaires (July 2018), 91% of pupils state that the school teaches them how to be healthy. 96% of pupils enjoy sport at school. 97% of parents believe the school provides good quality opportunities for physical activity. 96% of parents feel that there are a range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Levels of attendance at extra-curricular activities are high. Police School Liaison Programme includes lessons on keeping safe – stranger danger, internet safety, drug and alcohol awareness, which the school continues to deliver.

Learning about water safety **Friend or Foe – Police lesson with PC Parry**

- Success in sporting activities is very high. Access to sporting facilities is very good – swimming, hydrotherapy, rebound therapy, athletics stadium, sports barn, playing fields, adventure trim trail and forest area. The school has a well-planned PE scheme of work, promoting two hours of physical activity a week for KS2 pupils.
- Our participation and commitment to the LA PESS project has resulted in a great improvement of standards in Gymnastics and Adventurous Activities throughout the whole school. Health and Wellbeing of our pupils has been deeply enriched through the provisions set out in this project and as a result has led to sector leader practice through the development and implementation of our climbing wall and the opportunities for children to experience Bouldering activities in our broad PE Curriculum. All of this progress has been identified by Sport Wales and has resulted in the achievement of Active Marc Cymru Status. Almost all children indicate that they would be happy to talk with an adult at school if they had any concerns.
- The introduction of the daily mile initiative has had a very positive effect on pupils' health and well-being. There is an expectation that all children exercise for 15 minutes every day by running, jogging or walking in a social, non-competitive environment. As a result of this initiative, pupils are fully aware of the need to exercise regularly to increase fitness levels and the responsibility of managing their own lifestyles to stay healthy. The daily mile has also supported pupils in developing greater resilience and determination when faced with challenges.

Daily Mile

PMLD pupils attend Bikeability sessions

- The school is regularly used by the LA catering department as publicity to promote school dinners. The school promotes compostable lunchboxes and have designed leaflets for parents to give them healthy lunchbox ideas. Lunchtime supervisory assistants give stickers or merit awards for pupils with a healthy lunchbox or a 'note home' if a pupil is noted as having an unhealthy lunchbox on a regular basis. The LA school meals service works closely with school to promote healthy lunch boxes. For International Food Week the pupils were served a range of traditional dishes from different countries of the world. In addition, they learned about the Charity 'Marys Meals' and brought in loose

change for the charity (one meal costs 6p) In total we collected £66.00 which bought 1,100 meals for homeless people across the world. The positive impact upon pupils' attitudes to keeping healthy can be attributed to the school's participation in the Healthy Schools programme, the work of the School Council and Eco-Committee, the curriculum including PSE and our range of extra-curricular activities. Lunchtime choices by children are generally healthy and well-balanced.

- We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful grounds. The outdoor learning environment has been enhanced considerably to provide opportunities for physical activity. 100% of parents believe the development of the school grounds in recent years enhances learning. Our Eco club, parents and some classes helped clear and weed the garden. Penclawdd Cockle factory have donated bags of shells for some flower beds. The pupils' research led them to believe the shells ward off cats and also add a different sensory texture to the garden. Llys Nini Recreational Woods have donated some wild flowers and shrubs and our Eco Warriors have researched and been advised on which plants are suitable for different cultural areas, shady and light spots and which attract particular insects. They have used various scrap materials e.g. washing machine belt, discarded children's plastic hoola hoop etc. to create sculptures for our school grounds. The school has an excellent track record in the Swansea in Bloom competition and have won several gold awards. Provision for education for sustainable development and global citizenship is good as a consequence of our comprehensive ESDGC policy and curriculum map. Sustainability is promoted successfully through our involvement in the Eco-Schools, Healthy Schools, waste minimisation and recycling projects and our successful gardening club and has impacted on pupils' learning at both school and community level. Our school gardening club visited a local Garden Centre where they learned about the different plants that attract insects. They then plated these in our wild flower area. The vegetables grown in our allotment are sold or used by our cook. We grow strawberry plants and a raspberry bush, and have herb gardens and vegetable patches. We have our own bespoke eco greenhouse, made of over 1000 plastic bottles. The children are involved in sowing, growing, harvesting and eating/selling the produce.
- Indeed, our school is a Premier League school in the Swansea in Bloom as a result of winning the competition for several consecutive years.

Our gardening club caring for our grounds **Our eco green house**

- We also have quiet areas which are used often when reading the children stories or simply, for reflection.
- After a great deal of research and gathering of ideas and opinions and with the help of pupils, staff and volunteers we have developed an area at the front of our Top Building to accommodate our very own Peace Garden - Gardd Heddwch. Our 'Gardd Heddwch' consists of a reflection bench and artefacts and symbols representing the major religions of the world. All pupils submitted their ideas of what should be included in our peace garden. Junior pupils were given a plan of the area, and each class was asked to research one of the major religions to present to the whole school during Assembly.
- The local horticultural society worked with our Eco Club to research fruit trees which resulted in the planting of an orchard in our school grounds. We had our first fruit harvest in the Summer of 2017

- We are part of the local authority's grounds maintenance department community saplings project. This means we plant and nurture tree saplings in our school ground until they become established. Every three years these are planted in various places within the authority, and we get a fresh lot of saplings to nurture.

- Our Yr 5/6 classes visit Penllergare Valley Woods every two years to learn about habitats. Our very own forest in our school grounds is also used regularly. Yr 3/4 research endangered species as part of their ‘There’s no place like home’ topic.

- Opportunities to develop an understanding of global citizenship have been extended through P4C, Restavek No more, Romanian Orphanages support, Rights Respecting School and our links with India, China and 4 European countries as part of the Connecting Classrooms projects and Comenius Project. Multicultural and global citizenship are well planned in a range of subjects and areas of learning and promoted through enrichment days.
- A Llys Nini RSPCA representative leads a bi-annual assembly and Y5/6 pupils do follow up visits to the RSPCA centre to see the work done there. She gives talks to pupils in class also as part of our two year thematic cycle. Pupils across the school show respect for all animals and wildlife. Our Eco Club make insect boxes for around the school. Our newly developed wild flower garden was designed to attract mini-beasts (rotting wood) and butterflies. Rabbits and squirrels are frequent visitors of our school grounds.

LLys Nini Animal Rescue and Shelter speaking about the Shelter **Sally from Llys Nini**

- Each ‘bay’ was given some stick insect eggs to hatch and rear. Some classes have fish to care for and each Spring the reception classes incubate eggs and watch them hatch into little chicks, then visit the National Wetlands Centre at Penclacwydd every year as part of their project.

Our chicks hatched

- Our Eco Club works with RSPB. They sent data to RSPB during bird watching week in January2018 and have designed posters for our woodland trial to help walkers identify different birds.

Bird Watching

Birds of Prey visit

- Year 6 children undertake an annual residential week at Borfa/Danycoed to learn about teamwork, habitats of birds and insects, the food chain, ecosystems, endangered species, migration, conservation and sustainability. In our recent Year 6 trip to Borfa, the children learnt about the fragile beach eco system at Port Eynon, and in particular the impact that humans have had upon it. They also developed their team work skills in the various activities, supporting each other in overcoming their difficulties and fears. This strengthened the year group as a whole and was especially beneficial during the following Comprehensive transition week, when the class attended their new Comprehensive School. They supported each other well, making the process a positive experience for all.

Team work, problem solving, decision making, safety and collaboration

Area 7

With Peace Mala the school encourages Peace Education by forming a School Peace Council and engaging in peace activities.

- There are many pupil voice groups in Penllergaer (e.g. School Council, Eco Warriors, Road Safety Squad, various Clubs and Ambassadors). Following much debate amongst staff, SMT decided not to have a separate School Peace Council but instead give the remit to our School Ambassadors (Children's Commissioner Group). Members of our School Council proudly represented the school on a workshop day with the Children's Commissioner for Wales. It was a day to celebrate the rights and

responsibilities of children and to inspire them as Super Ambassadors. The team shared their ideas and responsibilities with the rest of the School Council and we are began looking at how we can help support all children, not just in Wales but in the rest of the UK and the world. Since the workshop day our School Council has inspired pupils across the school to act as responsible global citizens.

Super Ambassadors workshop with Children's Commissioner at National Botanic Gardens of Wales.

- The Zen Den, calm spaces and light rooms allow children with specific learning needs to have some quieter, individual time or to participate in small group work with other children of similar abilities or learning needs. These rooms are particularly positive for the children with social and emotional needs as they provide a safe haven for play therapy. The Peace Mala values are referred to and constantly used as a way of teaching the children the importance of valuing and respecting themselves, others and the school environment.
- All staff are trained in Restorative Practices and this approach is used consistently across the school.
- Our school council has developed a 'Code of Conduct' with sanctions for unacceptable behaviour. This is reviewed annually and is used consistently across the school.

- At the beginning of each year, Year 5 and 6 pupils apply to become Playground Buddies. The children view this role as a real honour and wear their Buddy caps around school with great pride. Their key role is to spread the message of peace to others through offering help and support to other children if they should need it. Many Buddies have resolved minor conflicts during break time and lunch time through simply reiterating the golden message of 'treating others as you would wish to be treated'. They also use the three restorative practice questions successfully. One Buddy explained to the teacher how he used these questions at home when his parents were quarrelling.

Buddy Training

Receiving their 'pass' certificates

- Children and staff have supported Peace Mala such as the Gower Peace Pilgrimage and a Peace service at Llangyfelach, Peace Mala Inter-faith Liturgy for World Peace 2017 at Llandaff Cathedral, Peace Mala Youth Liturgy for World Peace 2017 at St Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea and in 2018 at St. David's Church, Neath.

Meeting Ruth for the pilgrimage **Peace Mala**
International Peace Liturgy

- Each March/October/December, the whole school goes on a pilgrimage to St David's Church, our local church, to celebrate Easter/Harvest/Christingle.
- In November, the whole school observes a minute's silence during our Remembrance Day assembly.
- Our support groups take part in the Valentine Peace Project every February 14th. Pupils present flowers and a peace message on a scroll to each class and members of staff. They write friendship acrostics on hearts and hang their poems on the Peace Mala tree.
- Our school has its very own prayer that encompasses all beliefs and values.
- The school has effective partnerships with Exchange and Barnardo's and offers counselling to children in need. We have two light rooms that are used for physiotherapy, play therapy and counselling and sensory activities. In addition one classroom is allocated as a Nurture room at break times for pupils to have some quieter individual time or participate in small group activities.

The Lord Mayor of Swansea plants a tree in our school grounds to signify hope for world peace

Jayne Woolcock

Headteacher and Peace Mala co-ordinator
Penllergaer Primary School,
Swansea.

http://www.edunet.link/penllergaer/

PENLLERGAER PRIMARY SCHOOL
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