

6. Education

Pre-school

There is a flourishing Play Group in Shirenewton for children from 2 ½ years to primary school age, with an average attendance of around 24 children. It runs every weekday from 09:30 to 12:30 and Tuesday afternoons 13:00 to 15:15 in the Recreational Hall and makes use of both the Recreational grounds and play area.

Primary

The current Shirenewton Primary School was opened in 1985, amalgamating the old Mynyddbach, Earlswood, Devauden and Caerwent schools. It has a standard capacity of 210 pupils, with one class for each of the seven years from Reception through to Year 6. It is a very popular school with an excellent reputation and is currently full and usually over-subscribed. The head teacher from 1985 to 2001 was Mr



Peter Scammell, who had previously served at Mynyddbach school, from 2001 to 2006 was Ms Debbie Ward and is Mrs Jayne Edwards from April 2007.

It has a wide catchment area covering the communities surrounding these previous schools. A survey from 2003 showed that only 16% of children lived in Shirenewton & Mynyddbach, with 56% living in the rest of the defined catchment area and 28% coming from outside. Those from outside the two local villages are transported to school by several LEA-provided bus routes (56%) and by private cars (27%). Over the history of the school, this traffic has become a significant problem both on the narrow lanes outside and in the minimal parking facilities inside the school. A solution to this is not straightforward, but is a priority for the school Governors and the Community Council.