



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS &amp; CARERS

# The Baxter Project

Animal-Assisted Early Intervention · Award-Winning · Est. 2019

Your child's school is working with **The Baxter Project** — an award-winning, trauma-informed early intervention supporting children's emotional wellbeing. As part of this work, a wellbeing dog may be present on site during the school day, and your child may be invited to take part in individual sessions. This information pack tells you everything you need to know.

## What Is The Baxter Project?

The Baxter Project is delivered by **Therapeutic Activities Group CIC**, a Welsh community interest company founded in 2019. We work in schools and community settings across Wales, supporting children and young people who may be experiencing anxiety, emotional dysregulation, school avoidance, trauma, or complex needs.

Our approach is grounded in trauma-informed practice, attachment theory, and the Trauma Recovery Model. We are not a therapy service — we are an **early intervention** that creates the relational conditions in which young people feel safe enough to engage, communicate, and begin to make positive change.

<b>Over 30,000</b>	Sessions delivered since launch in 2019
<b>903</b>	Children supported in 2024/25
<b>Over 100</b>	Schools & organisations across Wales
<b>4.85/5</b>	Average pupil session rating
<b>98.9%</b>	Of pupils enjoyed their sessions
<b>2</b>	National award wins

■ ■ Source: The Baxter Project internal data and ODISSYS platform, academic year 2024/25 unless otherwise stated. All figures relate to Wales only. Sessions delivered since launch = cumulative total since September 2019.

## National Award Wins

The Baxter Project has won two national awards recognising our impact and social value:

- ★ **Welsh Social Enterprise of the Year**
- ★ **Prove It: Social Impact Award (Social Business Wales)**

## The Role of the Wellbeing Dog



Our dogs are **not therapy dogs**. They are carefully selected, behaviour-assessed companion animals who work alongside our trained practitioners. Their presence helps create a calm, low-pressure environment in which children feel less judged and more able to talk.

Every dog used in sessions is:

- Behaviour-assessed and temperament-checked before any school involvement
- Fully vaccinated, flea and worm treated, and regularly health-checked by a vet
- Covered by specialist public liability insurance for their working role
- Always supervised by a trained, DBS-checked Baxter Project practitioner
- Never left unattended, does not roam freely, and is managed away from busy areas
- Withdrawn immediately from any session if showing any signs of stress or discomfort

*Hand hygiene is encouraged after any interaction with the dog.*



---

## Allergies, Fears & Individual Needs

We understand that some children may have allergies, fears, or phobias relating to dogs. These are **always fully respected**. No child is ever required to engage with the dog, and engagement is entirely optional at all times.

Where a child or family member has a relevant need, we will put sensible measures in place, including:

- Maintaining physical distance using controlled, planned routes
- Adjusting movement times to avoid areas where the child will be
- Ensuring no direct contact with the dog at any point
- Keeping the dog out of sight in shared areas if required

**Please inform your child's school if they have: a dog allergy · a fear or phobia of dogs · any other relevant medical need or concern. This allows us to plan from the very start.**

---

## What Happens in a Session?

Sessions are delivered 1:1 by a trained Baxter Project practitioner, usually weekly or fortnightly. A typical session lasts approximately 45–60 minutes and takes place during the school day. Sessions involve walking and talking, dog care activities, and relational conversation. There are no worksheets, no formal assessments, and no pressure.

Occasionally, with school agreement and appropriate risk assessment, short community walks may take place off school grounds. These are always 1:1 with a DBS-checked practitioner, and parent/guardian consent is required before this occurs.

---

## Safeguarding & Data Protection

The Baxter Project operates to the highest safeguarding standards. All practitioners hold current enhanced DBS clearance and complete mandatory safeguarding training annually. Our safeguarding policy is available on request.

Session notes and wellbeing data are recorded securely in **ODISSYS**, our purpose-built data platform, in compliance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Data is never shared with third parties without consent, except where required by law or safeguarding duty.



## Consent & Your Rights

Before your child begins working with us, we require a signed consent form from a parent or guardian. You may complete our digital form at [thebaxterproject.com/consent](https://thebaxterproject.com/consent) or request a paper copy from the school office.

Your child's participation is entirely voluntary. You or your child may withdraw consent at any time by informing the school. No data will be retained unnecessarily after withdrawal.

Website	<a href="https://www.thebaxterproject.com">www.thebaxterproject.com</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:hello@thebaxterproject.com">hello@thebaxterproject.com</a>
Consent form	<a href="https://thebaxterproject.com/consent">thebaxterproject.com/consent</a>
Registered as	Therapeutic Activities Group CIC · Co. No. 11812101

### Source Notes

- **Session figures (30,000+):** Cumulative count of all 1:1 Baxter Project sessions recorded in ODISSYS from September 2019 to June 2025.
- **2024/25 data (903 children, 4.85/5 rating, 98.9% enjoyment):** Drawn from ODISSYS pupil feedback records, academic year 2024/25. Enjoyment data based on 903 individual responses.
- **Over 100 schools & organisations:** Total number of distinct partner schools and third-sector organisations engaged since launch. Active partnerships in 2024/25 = 55.
- **National award wins:** Welsh Social Enterprise of the Year (Social Business Wales Awards) and Prove It: Social Impact Award (Social Business Wales Awards). Additional national shortlists held but not classified as wins.
- **Dave O'Driscoll:** Managing Director, Therapeutic Activities Group CIC. Designated Safeguarding Lead.

***“Positive engagement, positive relationships, positive change.”***