

Rhydypenau Primary School

'Aiming High'



School Prospectus ***2025 - 2026***



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Welcome from the Head



We are all very pleased to welcome you as new parents and pupils to Rhydypenau Primary School, a school where we have high expectations of children and where we do our very best to ensure they are happy.

We work hard to nurture the artists and musicians, scientists, technicians and sporting achievers of the future, by striving to achieve high standards in all areas of the curriculum. We also support our pupils in developing confidence and resilience, tolerance and perseverance, as they develop into happy and successful citizens of the future. Much of this work was documented within the latest report published by the Estyn inspection team in August 2025. Everyone associated with our school shares our pleasure and our pride in the way that inspectors recognised Rhydypenau as an excellent school, demonstrating highly effective practice.

Working in partnership with parents, we aim to offer wide-ranging opportunities to further children's academic, personal and social development. We seek, wherever possible, to involve you as parents in the life and work of the school and to keep you well informed about your child's progress.

I hope that as your child joins us at Rhydypenau, this will be the beginning of a long and happy relationship with our school.

Ms. Nicola Hammond
Headteacher.

Contact & Key Information

School Website: www.rhydypenau.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms. Nicola Hammond

Hammondn3@hwbcymru.net

School Office: rhydypenauprm@cardiff.gov.uk

Chair of Governors: Ms. Nonny Matthewson

If you need any additional information, or have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school office who will then contact the relevant member of staff.

If you would like to arrange a visit to the school, please contact the main office on 02920757253.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please phone 02920757253 and leave a message on the automated line.

If there are any medical concerns about your child during the school day you will receive a phone call from the School Office.

Details of the complaints policy for the school can be found on our school website:

<https://www.rhydypenau.co.uk/policies>

The language of Rhydypenau Primary School is English; however, the Welsh language is used in the following ways.

- Use of Welsh as a language of instruction in different phases, areas of learning and experiences and if appropriate the availability of alternative instruction in English.
- Details about the use of Welsh as a language of communication at the school outside of formal instruction.
- Arrangements at the school for facilitating continuity for pupils instructed through the medium of Welsh whilst registered at the school or when transferring from primary to secondary school.
- Details of any exception from the National Curriculum in Welsh as long as inclusion of this information does not identify an individual pupil affected.

School Vision

1. Learners and staff will feel secure, safe and happy in the physical and digital world where everybody is valued and respected.
2. They will develop self-confidence and high self-esteem in a nurturing community.
3. Learners will be ambitious and aspirational, have equitable opportunities and experiences that will inspire, excite and shape their futures to ensure they reach or exceed their potential and 'aim high'.
4. Learners will not be afraid to fail but see failure as an opportunity for learning and a route to success.
5. Learners will be resilient, will respond confidently to situations by thinking flexibly to problem solve and will overcome adversity to develop a strong sense of achievement.
6. Learners will respond confidently to situations with increasing independence and will develop a strong sense of accomplishment.
7. Learners will be respectful, ethically informed citizens, who build strong relationships, and develop a sense of mutual respect and acceptance of others from all walks of life.
8. Learners will celebrate cultural heritage and diversity and become compassionate members of society.
9. Learners will have the knowledge and confidence to exercise their own democratic and human rights, to protect their own and others' freedom and equality.
10. Learners will develop enquiring minds & become critical and creative thinkers.
11. Learners will be active, inspired and motivated to develop a lifelong approach to their health and wellbeing.
12. Our children will be enterprising, capable learners who are ready to learn and engage in authentic learning opportunities and experiences.
13. Our children will embody the four purposes: they will develop a love of lifelong learning and be confident, ready, excited and enthusiastic about the next stage of their journey.

School Values

Rhydypenau School Core Values

Respect

Respect is essential amongst people. It includes treating others with kindness, fairness, dignity, and honour despite differences or disagreements in beliefs or opinions. It also requires acknowledging personal boundaries and appreciating different views as it provides the foundation for harmonious relationships.

Example of Respect

An example of respect is being polite and courteous to people of different ages, religions, or nationalities. It involves avoiding discriminatory language or actions and acknowledging the inherent value and dignity of every individual.

Kindness

Kindness is a core value that emphasises the importance of being considerate and caring towards others. It involves acts of generosity, empathy, and compassion. Being kind doesn't just benefit the recipient; it also has significant positive effects on the person showing kindness. It can lower stress levels, increase happiness and well-being, and enhance social connections.

Example of Kindness

An example of kindness is when someone offers to lend a helping hand to their neighbour by mowing their lawn or bringing them groceries. It involves acts of compassion and consideration towards others.

Resilience

Resilience is a mindset and personal quality. Resilient people can recover quickly from setbacks and not let the setbacks steer them off course. Resilient people are more successful in life because they persist through difficulty in order to reach success. Resilience is one of the major keys to success. Examples of resilience skills include having a growth mindset, overcoming negative emotions and thoughts with positive self-talk, and viewing challenges as learning opportunities.

Further information surrounding the school vision and values can be found on our website:

<https://www.rhydypenau.co.uk/page/?title=Vision+and+Values&pid=19>

School Curriculum

- We have made excellent progress in developing our new curriculum. Planning has been developed and is now embedded in our school. The four purposes underpin our curriculum and pupil voice and the cross curricular responsibilities are embedded. All areas of learning experiences have been developed and most are embedded. Teachers and HLTA's use descriptions of learning and cross curricular responsibility statements to plan lessons in all areas of learning.
- We have designed a new school-based curriculum that is bespoke to our community, with a focus last next academic year on decolonising our curriculum. This academic year we will focus on Cynefin.
- Children throughout the school experience a wide range of well-balanced and authentic learning opportunities.
- Areas of learning are taught across the curriculum, both discreetly and through a range of interesting 'contexts for learning'. When planning new contexts, teachers work carefully alongside children to capture their creative and imaginative ideas, which shape their learning and engage pupil interests.
- Alongside areas of learning and experience, children use and apply their thinking, literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills across the curriculum.
- A wide range of technology, including iPads, laptops and Chrome books (using hwb technology) is used creatively throughout the school to enhance teaching and learning.
- Children with additional needs are equally well catered for and we have made excellent progress with ALN reform. We have increased our range of specific interventions to support the development of skills in literacy, numeracy and emotional wellbeing, and as such pupils consistently achieve well against prior attainment and personal targets and make good progress relative to their ability.
- A small number of pupils have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) to support their needs. Equally, some children benefit from specific strategies to challenge them to achieve at a higher level.

Further information surrounding the Curriculum at Rhydypenau Primary can be found on our website using the links below:

Overviews for each year group: <https://www.rhydypenau.co.uk/curriculum-overviews-1>

RSE: <https://www.rhydypenau.co.uk/page/?title=RSE&pid=52>

Curriculum Design @ Rhydypenau: <https://www.rhydypenau.co.uk/gallery/?pid=46&gcatid=3>

Map & Security Information



1. Rhydypenau Road
2. Fidas Avenue
3. Office Entrance
4. Nursery Entrance
5. Reception and Year 1 yard
6. Year 2 and Year 6 yard
7. Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 yard
8. Foundation Hall
9. Key Stage 2 Hall

School Building Opening Times: 05.50am – 07.45am (Staff Only)

School Building Closing times: 18:00pm (Staff Only)

Morning Gates Open: 08.45am. Morning Gates Close: 09.10am (Pupils)

Afternoon Gates Open: 15.15pm. Afternoon Gates Close: 16.40pm (Pupils)

School Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Starts: 01/09/2025

Half-term: 27/10/2025–31/10/2025

Ends: 19/12/2025

Spring Term 2026

Starts: 05/01/2026

Half-term: 16/02/2026–20/02/2026

Ends: 27/03/2026

Summer Term 2026

Starts: 13/04/2026

Half-term: 25/05/2026–29/05/2026

Ends: 20/07/2026

Inset Dates

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Bank Holidays

Monday 4th May 2026

School Admissions

If you would like your child to attend our school or have any queries relating to admission, please see details below to contact details for the admissions teams.

Nursery Admissions: NurseryAdmissions@cardiff.gov.uk

Primary Admissions: PrimaryAdmissions@cardiff.gov.uk

Secondary Admissions: SecondaryAdmissions@cardiff.gov.uk

Connect 2 Cardiff: 02920872087 option 6

Cardiff Council Admissions Policy:

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/eng/resident/schools-and-learning/schools/applying-for-a-school-place/school-admissions-policy/Pages/default.aspx>

Attendance

At Rhydypenau, we recognise the importance of excellent attendance. We have high expectations of children, and we do our best to ensure that they are happy and want to come to school. We strive for each and every pupil to achieve their full potential. Excellent attendance and punctuality are crucial to achieving this. All pupils should aim to achieve attendance of at least 96%. This is the target set by the Welsh Government and anything that falls below this is deemed as unsatisfactory. In 'Aiming High', **the overall level of attendance that we aim to achieve is 100%**. Ideally, there should be no unauthorised absence.

Rhydypenau Attendance		
2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
95%	96%	96%

Miss School-Miss Out!

100%-98%	Excellent Attendance
97.9%-96%	Expected Attendance
95.9%-90%	Risk of Under Achievement
89.9%-85%	Serious Risk of Under Achievement
Below 85%	Extreme Risk of Under Achievement

The Welsh Government considers attendance below 90% to be persistent absence.

We ask that you keep the school informed about your child's absence and a decision will be made as to whether the absence is 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'. The school should be informed of any infectious or contagious illnesses. Children with sickness/diarrhoea should not return to school for 48 hours following the last incident, to reduce the spread of infection.

The School Administrator will telephone you at home on the first morning of absence if a message has not been received by telephone or email.

If you need to request absence for your child during term time, we ask that you fill in an 'Absence Request Form'. We kindly ask that medical and dental appointments (when possible) are made out of school hours. Families are requested not to take holidays in term time as these will be recorded as unauthorised absences.

If attendance is repeatedly low, families may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

School Session Times

Nursery

Morning - 8:55am - 11:25am

Afternoon - 12:50pm - 3:20pm

Foundation Phase

Reception to Year 2 - 8:55am - 3:30pm

Reception Lunchtime 11.40am - 12:50pm

Year 1 Lunchtime 11:50am - 12:55pm

Year 2 Lunchtime 12:00pm - 1:00pm

KS2

Years 3 to 6 - 8:55am - 3:35pm

Lunchtime 12:00pm - 1:00pm

School Uniform

All uniform can be purchased from YC Sports ([YC Sports - Rhydypenau](#)) and from the second-hand uniform stalls at the Christmas and Summer Fayres.

Nursery uniform isn't compulsory, but the children are encouraged to wear the red sweatshirts:



The uniform for children in Foundation Phase & Key Stage 2 are as follows:

Teal Polo Shirt, Navy Sweatshirt, Cardigan or Fleece, Navy Shorts, Trousers, Skirt or Pinafore Dress, Sky Blue Summer Dress and Black Shoes.



PE Kits are as follows:

White T-Shirt and Black Shorts / joggers / leggings.



For Health & Safety reasons we discourage the wearing of any form of jewellery in School. We ask parents to adhere to this by not allowing your child to come to school wearing jewellery. We do however understand that parents may wish their child/ren to have their ears pierced.

In these cases, could we please ask that:

- 1) All earrings must be a simple stud earring type.
- 2) School will not take any responsibility for lost earrings.
- 3) For all sporting events, including swimming, jewellery should not be worn.

If you would like us to consider an exception to the above requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

School Meals & Snack

School Meals:

All children from Reception to year 6 are provided with free school meals.

All meals are selected on Parent Pay <https://www.parentpay.com/> and must be chosen before 8am on the day.

Packed lunches:

Children are able to bring packed lunches in, and again we request that these are healthy.

Snacks:

All children are offered a daily fruit snack, which can be purchased weekly, half-termly, termly or annually by Parent Pay (see separate instructions).

Children can bring in their own fruit snack too.

Packed lunches:

Children are able to bring packed lunches in, and again we request that these are healthy.

Water bottles:

We encourage children to drink water throughout the day, so ask that they bring in a labelled, refillable water bottle.

Birthdays:

As we are a healthy eating school, we would respectfully ask you not to bring sweets or cake in for your child's birthday.

Apps & Useful Information

ParentPay

In addition to being used for school dinners, ParentPay is used for paying for a variety of things such as school trips, snacks and after school activities.

You will be notified when there other items available for purchase, and instruction guides can be found here: [Knowledge Base](#)

You'll receive your ParentPay log-in details from the main office.

SeeSaw

- When you get your details.
- This is where you and the teacher can message each other directly between 8.30am and 5.00pm. Additionally, the teacher will post pictures / information / updates about the whole class.
- You need to join a new class at the start of each school year

Hwb

- Pupil emails
- Google Classroom for Year 2 - Year 6 - Access to homework and spellings
- Writing, numeracy, drawing and animation programs
- Online games

Reading Eggs

An online reading program that helps children learn to read. It contains hundreds of reading lessons, phonics games and books.

Emails from the school:

Communications will only be sent via email when they are for a selection of year groups, or for the entire school.

Extra-curricular Activities

From Reception, children will be offered a range of after-school activities. Examples are:

Football, Choir, Chess club.

Music Lessons

Rhydypenau offers a range of music lessons provided by Cardiff Council. Please see www.Cardiff.gov.uk/musicservice for more information.

School communities

- Rhydypenau Senedd
- Pupil voice
- School newspaper

Children are encouraged to get involved in a range of school communities including Eco Council, Criw Cymraeg, Equaliators, Rights Respecting and School Nutrition Action Group.

House System

The school has four houses for inter-school competition (eg: Eisteddfod & sports day). Children are encouraged to wear house colours at these events.

These are:

Raglan (Green)

Conwy (Yellow)

Harlech (Red)

Penfro (Blue)

Your child will be allocated to one of these houses and will remain in that house throughout their time at Rhydypenau. Any younger siblings will be allocated to the same house as their older siblings.

Additional Information

Wrap-around & Breakfast/After-School Clubs:

Stepping Stones provide wrap around care for children in nursery. They are an independent childcare provider based in Llanishen.

Stepping Stones also provide breakfast and after-school club for children from Reception upwards. This is based on the Rhydypenau site.

Please go to <https://steppingstoneschildcare.rocks/> for more information.

School Association (PTA):

The Committee

Chair – Jay Pesticcio

Vice Chair – Jonathan Carrington

Secretary – Bea McCarty

Treasurer – Leighton Humphreys

Their objective is to support the education of the pupils in the school by supplying and assisting in the provision of facilities not given by the local education authority. They aim to develop more extended relationships between then staff, parents and other involved with the school

Contact Information email:

Rhydypenaufriends@gmail.com