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Penpych Community Primary School Prospectus 2026-2027 ‘United in Work and Play’

Croeso I Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol PenPych

Blaenrhondda Road, Blaenrhondda, RCT, Cf42 5SD

Telephone: (01443) 771434

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to Penpych Community Primary School especially to the new children and families joining us this year.

We strive to make our school a happy, caring, and inclusive environment where every child feels safe, supported, and able to thrive. For many, this may be their first experience of school, and we are committed to making the transition from home to school as smooth and positive as possible for both children and their families.

Inside this prospectus, you'll find useful information about our school. However, if you would like to speak with me directly, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Our Family Engagement Officer, Mrs Kim Shepherd, is also available to support you with any questions or concerns you may have—whether your child is joining us for the first time or transferring from another school.

All of our staff are dedicated to building strong, positive partnerships with parents and carers. We hope your child enjoys every moment of their time at Penpych, and we encourage you to reach out to us with any concerns. We are here to listen, support, and work together to ensure the best possible experience for your child.

Yours sincerely,

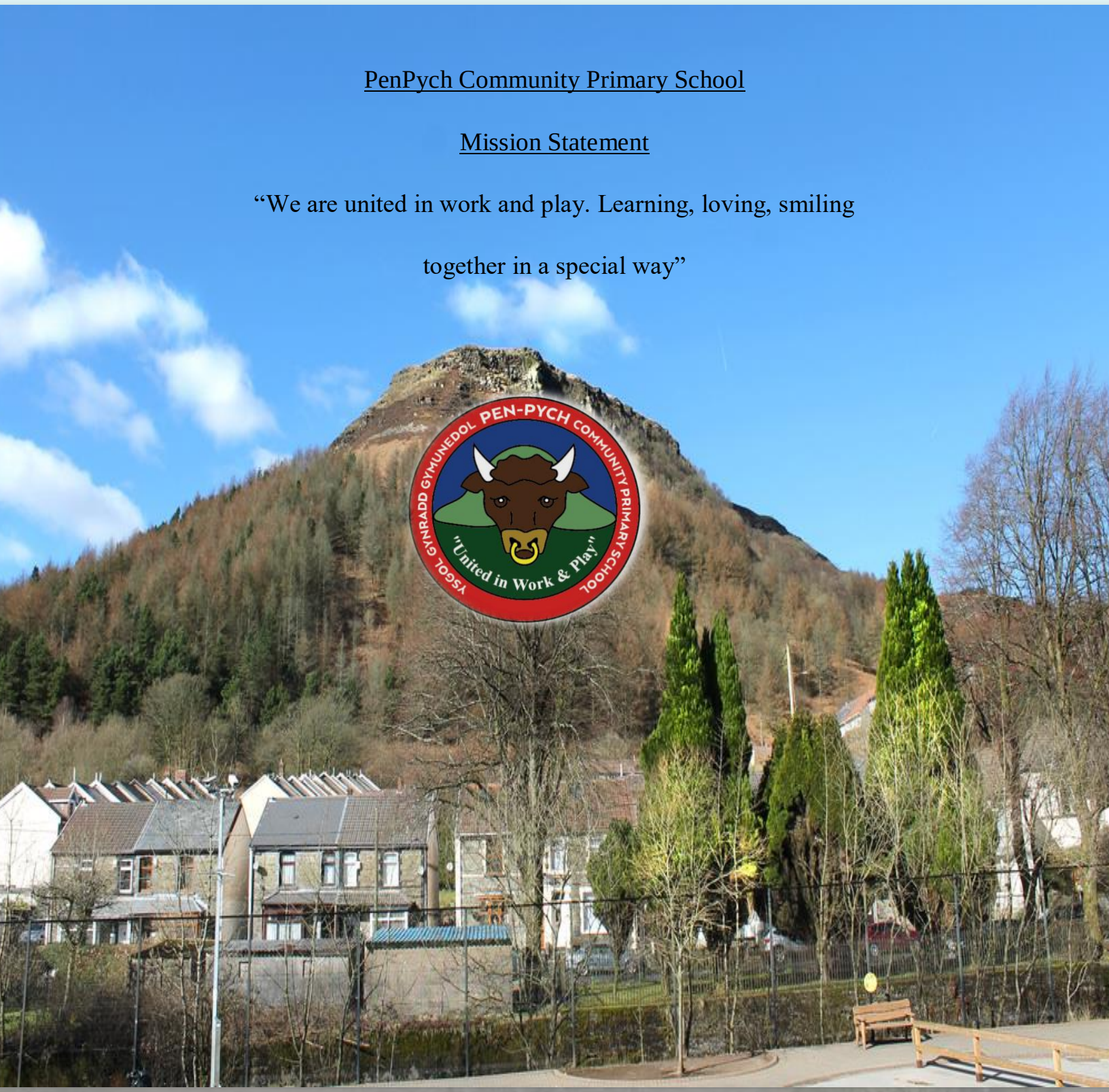
Mr Teifion Lewis

PenPych Community Primary School

Mission Statement

“We are united in work and play. Learning, loving, smiling

together in a special way”



“Rydym wedi uno trwy hwyl a gwaith. Trwy dysgu, canu a gwenu mewn ffordd arbennig”.

Staffing at our School

Head teacher	Mr. T. Lewis
Deputy Headteacher/ALNCo	Mr. O. Gwillim

	Teaching staff	Support staff
Dosbarth Santes Dwynwen	Miss. P. Taylor	Miss. D. Evans, Miss. L. Sammad
Dosbarth Dylan Thomas	Miss. C. Payne	Mrs. K. Sullivan, Mrs. I. Zuack
Dosbarth Guto Nyth Bran	Mr. O.Gwillim	Mrs. R. Mitchinson
Dosbarth Aueurin Bevan	Mr. N. Evans	Mrs. T. Bryant
Dosbarth Roald Dahl	Mr. L. Williams	Mrs. T. Bryant
Dosbarth Owain Glyndwr	Mr. E. Searle	Mrs. T. Bryant
Family Engagement Partner	Mrs. K. Shepherd	Mrs. K. Shepherd
PPA Cover/HLTA	Mrs. L. Preece	Mrs. L. Preece

Chair of Governors	Mr. M. Cude

Local Authority Gov	Mr. W. Jones and Mr. S. Emanuel
Headteacher Gov	Mr Teifion Lewis
Teacher Gov	Mr O. Gwillim, Mr L Williams & Mrs. K. Sullivan
Parent Gov	Mrs. J. Nelson, Mr. A. Anderson, Mrs. K. Smith, Mrs. T. Morris
Community Gov	Mr L Foster, PCSO Foster, Mrs I Pearce & Mrs H Bowen

School Clerk	Mrs. J. Todd Jones
Site Manager	Mr. M. Evans

Kitchen Staff	Mrs. K. Lewis, Mrs. J. Roderick, Miss. R. Williams, Miss. L. Davies
Breakfast Club Supervisors	Mrs. K. Lewis, Mrs. J. Roderick, Miss. R. Williams, Miss. L. Davies, Miss. T. Potter

Our School Vision Statement

At Penpych Community Primary School, we are dedicated to inspiring our learners to become ambitious, creative, healthy, and confident individuals. We believe every member of our school community—children, staff, families, and partners—should have the opportunity to reach their full potential within an inclusive, diverse, and respectful environment. Our curriculum is rich, engaging, and learner-centred. It empowers pupils to take ownership of their learning and flourish through authentic experiences both within the classroom and in the wider community. We recognise that all stakeholders play a vital role in enriching the lives of our learners. Through strong collaboration and shared commitment, we strive to make Penpych Community Primary School a place the whole community can be proud of.

Our Core Values

Our curriculum is built upon the values that define our school and guide our mission to educate children with the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to lead fulfilling lives. We value each child's uniqueness and actively listen to their voices, promoting respect for diverse cultures and backgrounds. We nurture spiritual and moral development, alongside intellectual and physical growth. We celebrate the importance of every individual in our community, fostering inclusion, cooperation, and mutual understanding. We uphold the rights of every child, treating all with fairness and honesty, and ensuring equal opportunities for all. We are committed to meeting the needs of every learner, fulfilling all statutory requirements for inclusion. We care deeply about our environment, teaching pupils to protect and preserve the world for future generations.

Our Curriculum at Penpych

At Penpych Community Primary School, we are committed to delivering a curriculum that is inclusive, engaging, and accessible to all learners. Our approach is shaped by three key principles of curriculum design: Why, How, and What.

WHY?

We believe that children learn best when they are actively involved in shaping their learning journey. Our curriculum gives pupils a voice in planning, helping them develop responsibility, independence, and a sense of ownership over their education.

HOW?

We offer a blend of discrete teaching and inquiry-based learning, encouraging pupils to ask questions, explore real-life connections, and engage in meaningful experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

WHAT?

Our curriculum is rooted in the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, ensuring that every child becomes:
An Ambitious, Capable Learner
An Enterprising, Creative Contributor
An Ethical, Informed Citizen
A Healthy, Confident Individual

We ensure that learners experience a balanced and progressive curriculum across all six Areas of Learning and Experience. Our planning is guided by the 'What Matters' statements, which support skill development, knowledge acquisition, and personal growth.

Assessment and Support

We take pride in the high standards achieved across the curriculum, reflected in the quality of our pupils' work, their positive attitudes, and their progress. These outcomes are made possible through strong partnerships between home and school.

Assessment at Penpych is an ongoing process. It helps us:

Identify and support individual learning needs

Monitor progress over time

Reflect on group trends to refine teaching practice

Our Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) works closely with staff to identify any barriers to learning. Where needed, we hold pupil-centred meetings to develop tailored support plans, such as Individual Development Plans (IDPs), ensuring every child receives the support they need to thrive.

An Introduction to Our School

Penpych Community Primary School caters for children aged 3 to 11 years, with approximately 153 pupils currently enrolled. We are proud to welcome both new and returning families into our warm and inclusive school community.

The school is maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Authority, under the leadership of the Director of Education, Mrs Gaynor Davies. Our Governing Body includes representatives from the local council, parents, staff, and co-opted community members. They are responsible for key decisions about the school's direction and development.

Mr Teifion Lewis has served as Headteacher since September 2022, leading a dedicated team committed to providing high-quality education and pastoral care.

School Session Times

Morning session

Lower School 8.55 am to 12 pm

Upper School 8.55 am to 12.30 pm

Afternoon session

Lower School 1.00pm to 3.05pm (Nursery 1pm – 3pm)

Upper School 1.30 pm to 3.15 pm

We are pleased to continue offering full-time nursery provision. For safeguarding reasons, we kindly ask that children are not dropped off or collected by anyone under the age of 16.

Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is essential for your child's learning and development. Children should attend school daily, unless they are unwell or attending a medical appointment (a medical note may be required).

If your child is absent:

Please notify the school by 9:00 am on the first day of absence.

Continue to inform the school each day if the absence persists.

If we do not receive notification, the school will contact you via text or phone call.

We work closely with the Attendance and Wellbeing Officer (AWO) to monitor attendance. If a child's attendance becomes a concern, parents will be contacted and may be referred to the AWO for further support.

Term Times

You will be notified for any scheduled INSET days.

School term times 2026 to 2027

TERM	FROM	TO
Autumn 2026	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 October 2026	Friday 30 October 2026
Autumn 2026	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Christmas Holidays	Monday 21 December 2026	Friday 1 January 2027
Spring 2027	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 5 February 2027
Half Term	Monday 8 February 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Spring 2027	Monday 15 February 2027	Friday 19 March 2027
Easter Holidays	Monday 22 March 2027	Friday 2 April 2027
Summer 2027	Monday 5 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 May 2027	Friday 4 June 2027
Summer 2027	Monday 7 June 2027	Tuesday 20 July 2027

Our School Structure

Progression step 1	Nursery Reception	Dosbarth Santes Dwynwen Dosbarth Dewi Sant
Progression step 2	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3	Dosbarth Owain Glyndwr Dosbarth Owain Glyndwr Dosbarth Guto Nyth Bran
Progression step 3	Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	Dosbarth Guto Nyth Bran Dosbarth Roald Dahl Dosbarth Anneurin Bevan

Progression step 1

At Penpych Community Primary School, we recognise that the Foundation Phase is a vital stage in a child's learning journey. It lays the groundwork for future development and helps children build the confidence, curiosity, and skills they need to thrive.

We place a strong emphasis on developing a sense of Cynefin—a feeling of belonging to our school, our families, and our wider community. This sense of connection is nurtured from the very beginning and continues to grow throughout each child's time with us.

Partnerships with parents and carers are especially important during this stage. We encourage open communication and collaboration between home and school to support every child's wellbeing and progress.

In Progression Step 1, children focus on:

Language development

Personal and social skills

Physical and emotional wellbeing

All nursery pupils at Penpych have access to the curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery settings, while Reception pupils follow the Curriculum for Wales, which supports holistic development through play-based and experiential learning.

Progression step 2 and 3

As children move through Progression Steps 2 and 3, our curriculum continues to build on the strong foundations laid in the early years. Learning becomes more structured, but remains engaging, purposeful, and pupil-centred.

At Penpych, all subjects are taught through topic-based learning, with literacy, numeracy, and digital competence skills developed both discreetly and within meaningful contexts. We place a strong emphasis on ICT skills, enabling pupils to use technology confidently and effectively to support their learning across the curriculum.

Discrete Teaching

Discrete teaching refers to the focused instruction of specific skills or subjects. At Penpych, this includes:

English and Welsh language development

Mathematics

Religious Education

Physical Education

Digital Competence

Additional languages and other curriculum areas, as appropriate

These sessions allow pupils to build core skills that they can apply across all areas of learning.

Parental Involvement

At Penpych Community Primary School, we value the vital role that parents and carers play in their child's education. We actively encourage strong partnerships between home and school to support learning and wellbeing.

Parents are invited to support their children with home activities such as reading practice and class tasks.

Homework -is uploaded to our 'Class Dojo' platform, making it accessible and easy to follow.

If you have any concerns, you are welcome to speak with your child's class teacher, Mrs Kim Shepherd (Family Engagement Officer) or Mr Teifion Lewis (Headteacher). We kindly ask that you make an appointment in advance.

Through Mrs Shepherd's work, families have taken part in initiatives such as Project Parents and an Emergency First Aid Course, delivered by the Community First Team. We are always looking for new ways to involve and support our families. We also host a Rainbow Tots at the school every Thursday afternoon. We invite preschool children to attend a free afternoon session to engage with other young children and an opportunity for parents to chat and make friends.

We also invite parents, carers, and extended family members to join our Penpych Parent Teachers Association (PTA) to help raise funds for school projects. New members are always welcome.

When a child joins our school, parents are asked to sign a Home/School Agreement, reinforcing our shared commitment to their education and wellbeing.

Security

At Penpych Community Primary School, we feel it is vital to create a secure and safe environment for all children and adults in the school. All visitors are requested to sign in at reception and agree to the school's safeguarding policy.

All children are well supervised during playtimes and lunchtimes and staff ensure

that security gates are closed. Children are asked to report any strangers to the

nearest member of staff, who will report any incident to the Headteacher.

For additional security to school premises, the school has an alarm system and a

CCTV system which is monitored during school hours in the event of an emergency

and at all other times.

Health and Safety

We are committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all pupils and staff. From the earliest years, children are taught to:

Walk calmly through the school

Avoid touching electrical sockets

Play safely and respectfully in the playground

To help prevent accidents:

Only stud earrings are permitted

Platform shoes and body piercings are discouraged

Jewellery must be removed for PE lessons

We also welcome visits from the local fire service and police, who help educate pupils about safety at home and in the community.

For drop-off and pick-up, we ask parents and carers to park responsibly and avoid parking on school grounds or near the entrance, as this may compromise pupil safety

Pastoral Care

The safety, happiness, and welfare of every child is our highest priority. During the school day, class teachers are responsible for the care of their pupils, while the Headteacher holds overall responsibility for pastoral matters. Concerns are always handled sensitively and passed to the appropriate member of staff to ensure timely and supportive action.

Curriculum for Wales

At Penpych Community Primary School, our curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. Rooted in the principles of the Curriculum for Wales, we provide rich and meaningful learning experiences that develop the whole child—academically, socially, emotionally, and ethically. Our approach encourages children to explore, question, and make connections across areas of learning, helping them to become confident, capable learners who are ready to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We place a strong emphasis on pupil voice, well-being, and real-life learning, ensuring that every child feels seen, heard, and valued. Through a broad and balanced curriculum, we nurture essential skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and resilience. Our teaching is underpinned by the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, which aim to develop ambitious, capable learners; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens; and healthy, confident individuals. You can learn more about the Curriculum for Wales here.

Equal Opportunities

Penpych Community Primary School is committed to equality of opportunity for all pupils, regardless of gender, race, religion, disability, or social background.

We believe every child is of equal and celebrate the unique talents and abilities of each individual. Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive and engaging for all learners, and we actively work to ensure that all subjects are equally appealing and accessible to all.

Breakfast Club and After-School Provision

We are proud to offer a free Breakfast Club for all pupils, running from 8:00 am until the start of the school day at 8:50 am. Children are provided with a healthy breakfast and can take part in engaging activities led by qualified staff.

Penpych also hosts a Flying Start provision on-site. For more information, please contact the setting leader, Emma Evans, on 07852922001.

School Behaviour

At Penpych, we believe in promoting positive behaviour through respect, responsibility, and kindness. Our approach is based on fair but firm principles, with a strong emphasis on a restorative approach and rewarding good behaviour.

We expect pupils to:

Show honesty, courtesy, and consideration for others

Move quietly and sensibly around the school

Avoid bringing glass containers, metal cans, sweets, or chewing gum

Bring fruit only for snacks

Refrain from bringing sharp objects such as penknives, compasses, or scissors

We use the ‘Class Dojo’ and ‘Good to be Green’ reward systems, which are celebrated in our Praise Assemblies.

If a child displays unacceptable behaviour:

Parents will be informed

Support may be sought from external agencies (e.g. Educational Psychologist or Behaviour Support Teacher)

A Behaviour Plan may be introduced if necessary

In cases of persistent behaviour concerns, the decision to exclude lies with the Headteacher and Governing Body, following procedures set by the Local Education Authority.

A copy of the school’s Behaviour Policy is available from the Headteacher upon request.

Assessment

Comprehensive assessment procedures. Including assessment for learning, which occurs every day in each lesson. In addition to this, staff periodically undertake summative assessments. All assessment is used informatively to move learning on. Parents are provided with regular information about children’s progress.

Complaints Procedure

The Governing Body has approved the document setting out the arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taff in respect of the above. The complaints procedure is summarised as follows:-

1. Inform class teacher
2. Inform Headteacher
3. Inform Governing Body

We have a full complaints policy on the website or you can request a paper copy and this document will give you details and contact numbers you may need.

School Uniform

We believe that wearing school uniform promotes a sense of pride and belonging. We ask for your support in maintaining high standards of dress.

Girls

Winter: Navy skirt/pinafore/trousers, Jade polo shirt, Navy jumper/cardigan, Black shoes

Summer: Blue check/striped dress, Navy cardigan/jumper, Black shoes

Boys

Winter: Grey trousers, Jade polo shirt, Navy jumper, Black shoes

Summer: Grey shorts, Jade polo shirt, Navy jumper, Black shoes

PE Kit

Plain white T-shirt

Black sports shorts

Trainers

Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name.

We also ask that pupils:

Avoid extreme hairstyles (e.g. coloured, carved, “Mohegan” or “cult” styles)

Do not wear charity elastic bands for health and safety reasons.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

At Penpych Community Primary School, we are committed to supporting every child’s individual learning journey. Our Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo), Mr Owain Gwillim, works closely with class teachers and the Headteacher to identify pupils who may require additional support—whether for educational, social, emotional, or behavioural needs.

Support may include:

Extension work for more able learners

Individual Development Plans (IDPs) tailored to each child’s needs

Regular monitoring and review of progress

Collaboration with external agencies such as Educational Psychologists, Health Visitors, and the LEA Access & Inclusion Department and Learning Support Team.

Annual reviews are held with parents/carers and relevant professionals to ensure that pupils on the ALN register receive the most appropriate support.

We also offer emotional support through our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), Mrs Preece, & Mrs Shepherd who work with children on:

Social skills

Emotional regulation

Bereavement and therapeutic stories

Anger management and self-esteem

Friendship and solution-focused strategies

ELSAs receive specialist training and supervision from educational psychologists to ensure high-quality emotional support.

Collective Worship

In accordance with the guidance, the school offers daily acts of collective worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their child. Please see the head teacher.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

At Penpych Community Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority.

Mr Teifion Lewis (Headteacher) holds overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. In his absence, Mr Owain Gwillim (Deputy Headteacher) acts as the designated safeguarding lead. Mrs Kim Shepherd (Family Engagement Officer) is also Level 3 trained and forms part of our safeguarding team. Our Child Protection Governor, PCSO Natasha Foster, ensures that our policies align with the All-Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008).

If we receive information suggesting a child may be at risk of abuse, we are legally required to refer concerns to Social Services or the police, following Cwm Taf Safeguarding Procedures. We do not have discretion in this matter.

While we aim to work closely with families to resolve concerns, there may be occasions where we must contact external agencies before speaking with parents.

Medical and Accidents

Please ensure that we are informed about any medical condition relating to your child that is likely to affect your child's education or general wellbeing in school. School especially needs to be informed if your child would require any emergency medication e.g. epi-pen.

Also please ensure that if your child requires an asthma pump, the school is informed of this and brings their pump into school clearly labelled with their name and class. Asthma pumps are kept to hand in the class for children in Nursery and Reception and centrally stored for pupils in the rest of the school

At various stages through the school years, children will have their eyesight and hearing tested and a routine dental check is usually carried out. Any concerns raised during these routine checks will result in the offer of an appointment to the relative health department.

If your child becomes ill or has an accident at school it may become necessary to contact you. Please ensure that emergency contact numbers are up to date. Children who have minor accidents at school, usually when falling over at playtime or lunchtime, are tended to by one of the school's qualified first aiders. These accidents are recorded in the accident book and parents are informed of any significant incident either by means of a note or telephone.

Children will need to bring a note to school to be excused from P.E. lessons and are expected to be well enough to play outside at playtimes and lunchtime.

No Smoking Policy

Penpych operates a strict no smoking policy. Smoking is not allowed anywhere on school grounds, including while waiting outside. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a healthy environment.

Head Lice

Head lice are a common issue in schools. As the school nurse no longer conducts inspections, we ask parents to check their child's hair regularly and treat as needed. Notifications will be sent if cases are reported in your child's class.

School Meals

Cooked school dinners are provided in our canteen and are made fresh daily. Our school has been awarded our Phase 6 award of the Healthy School Scheme and we are working toward the highest award, an award very few schools have attained.

Milk

Milk is provided for Progression step 1 and 2 daily. In extreme cases where children have a dislike or allergy to milk, etc., a child may bring a small plastic bottled drink, which must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Pupil Voice – 'Penpych Parliament'

Our School Council is made up of elected representatives from Years 1 to 6. Under the guidance of Mr Evans, pupils meet regularly to: Discuss school improvements, represent pupil voice and present ideas to the Governing Body. Penpych Parliment plays a vital role in shaping our school community and promoting leadership among pupils. Penpych Parliament is also part of the The Eco schools which explores recycling and sustainability, Energy conservation and environmental awareness. Pupils regularly visit Bryn Pica Recycling Plant and continue to lead initiatives that encourage the whole school to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Disability Access

At Penpych Community Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for disabled pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and to participate fully in school life.

Everyone is welcome in our school, and there is good wheelchair access to all areas of the school universal toilet facilities are available. We will endeavour to cater for the needs of disabled parents/carers at all times. At Penpych Community Primary School we aim to ensure that the learning needs of disabled pupils are fully met within the classroom and outside.
(Our Accessibility Plan is available from the headteacher and on our website

Religion, Values and Ethics

RVE sits in the area of learning of Humanities. The RVE taught within our school meets the legal requirements of the R-C-T Agreed Syllabus and the Curriculum for Wales. RVE teaches about a range of faiths, as well as non-religious and philosophical convictions. Our RVE is objective, critical and pluralistic. RVE develops from pupils' own perceptions and experiences. The right to withdraw from this subject is no longer applicable.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At our school there is a full programme of extra-curricular activities and pupils are encouraged to participate in this important part of school life.

Swimming instruction takes place for all pupils from Year 3. Our sports teams regularly take part in matches against other local schools and further afield and have gained much success. Our pupils have also represented the school at the local, regional and national levels.

Relationship and sexual Education

The School Governors have agreed that the school will follow the Cwm Taf Healthy Schools scheme of work to support and deliver this area of the curriculum. We have recently also supplemented this with the Jigsaw scheme of work. Year 5 and 6 also have a visit from the Cwm Taf school nursing team in the Summer term on the theme of puberty. This policy will be reviewed regularly in accordance with Welsh Government advice and Guidance. Copies of our Policy can be obtained from our website.

Climbing High Together Towards Success

At Penpych Community Primary School, we are proud to offer a nurturing, inclusive, and inspiring environment where every child is encouraged to thrive. Our dedicated staff, engaging curriculum, and strong community partnerships ensure that pupils are supported not only academically, but socially and emotionally too.

We believe that education is a shared journey, and we value the vital role that families play in shaping each child's experience. Together, we aim to foster confident, curious, and compassionate learners who are well-prepared for the future.

Thank you for considering Penpych Community Primary School. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our school family—where we climb high together towards success.

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