



Pencaerau Primary school

School Prospectus

2026-27

"Learning for Life"

Headteacher's Welcome



Hello and welcome to Pencaerau Primary School,

Our school prides itself at being at the centre of a strong and caring community—where every child and every family is supported and valued.

We're proud of who we are, and we work hard to make sure our school is a place where everyone feels safe, encouraged, and ready to thrive.

Our motto, "Learning for Life," goes beyond the classroom. It's about equipping our entire school community pupils, families, and staff with the skills and confidence to grow, succeed, and enjoy life. Together, we strive to create a place where everyone feels proud of who they are and inspired to achieve their full potential.

I am proud to be the Headteacher of Pencaerau Primary School and many visitors to the school comment on the happy, friendly and warm atmosphere that exists.

Mrs H. Brady

Vision and Values

At Pencaerau Primary, we are a school at the heart of the community, where everyone is valued and supported in both their learning and wellbeing. We aim to provide a safe and nurturing environment that feels like a home of opportunity and experience, encouraging aspiration and achievement for all.

Our values guide everything we do:

- Empathy – caring for and understanding others
- Respect – valuing ourselves, each other, and our community
- Resilience – never giving up and learning from challenges
- Reflection – taking time to think, grow, and improve



Together, these values help us prepare our children not just for school, but for life.

Vision and Values

PENCAERAU PRIMARY

WHERE OUR MOTTO IS:

Learning for life

OUR VISION

A school at the heart of its community, where everybody and their wellbeing is valued and supported.

A home of opportunity and experience, which encourages aspiration and achievement for all



OUR AIMS



Together we will encourage the development of children and young people are:

- Ambitious capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to leave fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

OUR VALUES

EMPATHY

RESPECT

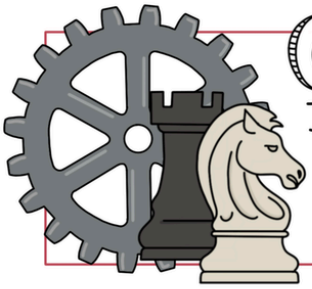
RESILIENCE

REFLECTION



These values are at the very heart of...

OUR STRATEGY



In order to maintain our vision and achieve our aims, we have decided on four strategic priorities:

WELLBEING, EQUITY & INCLUSION

LEADERSHIP

LEARNING & TEACHING

CURRICULUM

Our Governors

Our Governing Body is made up of dedicated volunteers from across the school community, including parents, staff, local authority representatives, and co-opted members.

Together, they ensure that the school provides the highest standards of education and care.

Chair of Governors:

Caroline Gleeson

Vice Chair:

Tania Davies

Head Teacher:

Hayley Brady

Local Authority Governors:

Emma McLoughlin, Tania Davies and Nana Baah

Community Governors:

Julie James and Catherine Walsh

Parent Governors:

Lindsey Riella, Lindsey Budd and Leeann Heron

Staff Governors:

Sam Lane and Gina Powell

Clerk to the Governing Body:

Andrew Powell



Our school day



Start of the school day

At 08:45am all entrance doors are open. Children will always be greeted by a member of staff at their designated door and a member of staff will be waiting in the classroom.

Door will close promptly at 09:05am.

All children arriving later than 09:05am must report to the school's main entrance

Nursery

Nursery (am) will start at 09:00am and finish at 11:30pm. Please use the Nursery entrance.

Nursery (pm) will start at 12:30pm and finish at 3pm. Please use the Nursery entrance.

Lunch timings

(Years Reception and Year 1 : 11:45am - 12:30pm

Progression Step 2 (Year 2 - Year 3): 12pm - 12:45pm

Progression Step 3 (Year 4 - Year 6): 12:15pm - 1pm



End of the school day

The School Day finishes at 3pm

Safety and security

School Security

At Pencaerau Primary, the safety of our children is paramount. The school is fully surrounded by fencing and gates, which are locked from the start of the school day until hometime, ensuring a secure environment for learning and play.

Cardiff School Streets

To keep children safe on their journey to and from school, the Cardiff School Streets system is in operation. During weekdays, no vehicles are allowed on our road between 8:30–9:15 am and 2:45–3:45 pm, creating a safer, calmer street outside school hours.

No Smoking

At Pencaerau Primary, smoking and vaping are prohibited on school grounds.

No Dogs

With the exception of Maeve our school dog who we know is fully vaccinated and appropriately trained; dogs are not allowed, helping us maintain a safe and healthy environment for all children.



School Uniform

At Pencaerau, we believe our school uniform helps create a strong sense of community and belonging. Wearing the same uniform helps all children feel included and equal, removing barriers and promoting pride in being part of our school.

Our uniform is simple, comfortable, and practical, allowing every pupil to take part fully in school life. We encourage children to wear it with pride and to come to school feeling confident, ready, and part of the Pencaerau family.

Our uniform consists of:

- Black or red polo shirt
- Red school jumper or cardigan
- Black trousers, shorts, skirt, or pinafore
- Black shoes









Attendance



Celebrating Excellent Attendance

At our school, we place great importance on excellent attendance and punctuality, as these are key to every child's success.

To celebrate this, we run a weekly reward scheme where the class with the highest attendance is recognised during our Monday Praise Assembly.







Why Every Day Matters

Good attendance is the foundation for children to achieve their very best. Every school day really does make a difference.

By attending regularly, children not only keep up with their learning but also build strong friendships and make the most of all the experiences our school has to offer.

We understand that sometimes families may face challenges and we are here to work together with parents and carers to provide support and encouragement so that every child can achieve good attendance.

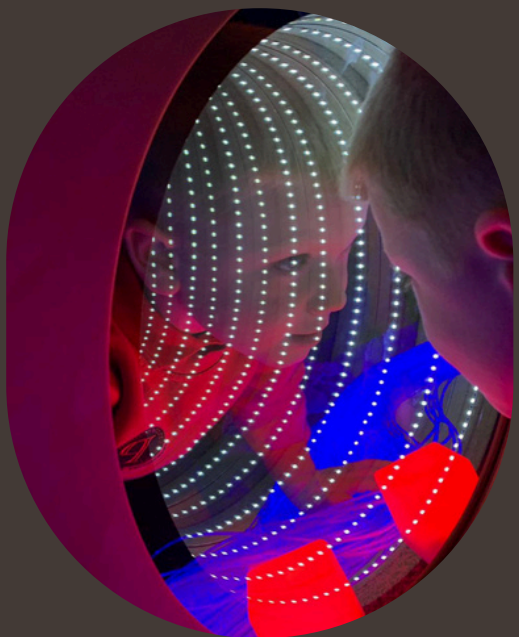
“Learning for life”



At Pencaerau, our motto “Learning for Life” means that learning is much more than just lessons in the classroom. It’s about gaining skills, values, and experiences that stay with us wherever we go. We want every child to leave our school ready not just for the next stage of education, but for life itself.

Being part of Caerau, we are proud of our community and its rich history. ‘Learning for Life’ reminds us to celebrate who we are, to care for one another, and to play our part in making our community and world a better place. It’s about being curious, resilient, creative, and kind; qualities that will guide us throughout our lives.

Most of all, ‘Learning for Life’ means that learning never stops. At school, at home, and in our community, every day brings new opportunities to grow. By carrying this spirit with us, we become lifelong learners—proud of ourselves, proud of Caerau, and ready for the future



The Purpose Patrol






At Pencaerau, we have created four characters, known as the Purpose Patrol: Lambitious, Contribu-tortoise, Swanfident, and Global Kitizen, to bring the Curriculum for Wales to life.

These characters support and guide our pupils, helping us to drive forward the new curriculum in an engaging and meaningful way. They inspire children to be ambitious learners, creative contributors, confident individuals, and caring, informed citizens, while supporting our school motto of “Learning for Life”, encouraging growth, curiosity, and a love of learning every day.



Inclusion



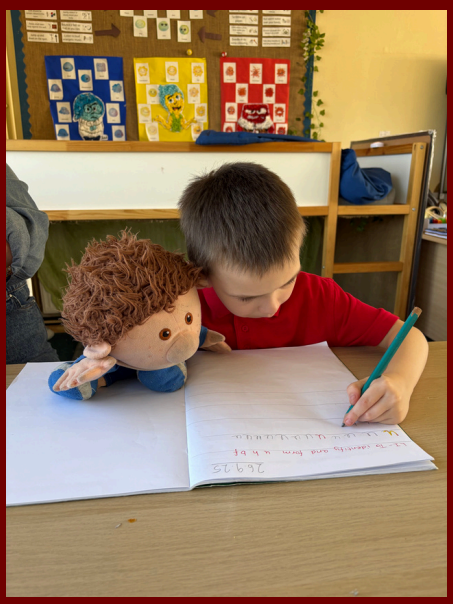
At Pencaerau Primary, inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do. We care deeply about the wellbeing and education of EVERY child, ensuring they feel valued, supported and able to thrive.

Our shared vision brings staff, governors, parents and children together in partnership, working towards the best possible education for all learners. Guided by our school motto, "Learning for Life," we aim to provide children with the skills, confidence and resilience they need both now and in the future.

We are proud of our dedicated team, who support children in groups and on an individual basis, creating a safe and nurturing environment where every pupil can achieve their full potential. Interventions are carefully tailored to meet individual needs, with teachers meeting regularly to monitor progress and plan the next steps in learning.

Strong systems are in place at Pencaerau Primary to ensure that every child's attainment, progress and attendance are closely monitored and reviewed throughout the year. We continually strive to provide the right support and provision, breaking down barriers to learning and ensuring that all children have the opportunity to succeed.

Charlotte Brown
ALNCo



Useful websites

https://keepingmewell.com/childrens-support-services/occupational-therapy-for-children-and-young-people/occupational-therapy-for-children-and-young-people-videos-and-resources/

https://speechandlanguage.link/parent-portal/

Additional Learning Needs



If a child has been identified as having ALN, parents, the pupil and relevant professionals are invited to a Person Centred Planning (PCP) meeting. This meeting is a chance for everyone's voice to be heard, and together we consider:

- What do we like and admire about the pupil?
- What is important to the pupil?
- What is working well?
- What could be better?
- What is important moving forward?



Following the discussion, one of two outcomes may be agreed:

- It may be decided that your child does not have ALN requiring Additional Learning Provision (ALP), so they would not be placed on the ALN register.
- It may be agreed that your child does have ALN requiring ALP. In this case, an Individual Development Plan (IDP) will be created. This sets out the support in place, along with targets to help your child progress. IDPs are reviewed annually through another PCP meeting.

The four broad areas of ALN are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Sensory and/or physical
- Behavioural, emotional and social





If you are ever concerned about your child's progress, please speak first with their class teacher or contact our ALNCo, Mrs Brown.

At Pencaerau Primary, we believe strong relationships with parents, carers and external agencies are key to ensuring children receive the right support. If concerns cannot be fully resolved in school, families may also seek guidance and advice from Snap Cymru, an independent organisation offering free support to pupils and parents.

Castell Enfys

Special Resource Base



We are proud to have created a new Special Resource Base in partnership with the local authority, providing tailored support for children aged Reception to Year 2 with complex needs. This dedicated provision offers a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where every child is supported to achieve their potential.







Our staff are highly trained in supporting complex needs and work closely with each child to personalise learning. Activities and lessons are carefully planned to meet individual strengths, interests, and requirements, ensuring every child can engage meaningfully and confidently.

Through this combination of expert guidance, tailored support, and a nurturing environment, children in the Special Resource Base are encouraged to develop independence, confidence, and essential skills, helping them thrive both in school and in life.





Teaching and Learning



Curriculum Design at Pencaerau

Our curriculum at Pencaerau has been carefully designed to meet the individual needs of every pupil, ensuring learning is meaningful, purposeful, and tailored. Working collaboratively as a staff, we have embedded opportunities for a curriculum rich in skills and knowledge, preparing children not just for primary school but for life beyond. Each year group has planned contexts for learning that give pupils authentic experiences, developing real-life skills, creativity, and problem-solving. Literacy and numeracy are taught in ways that connect to the world around them, helping children apply their learning in practical situations.







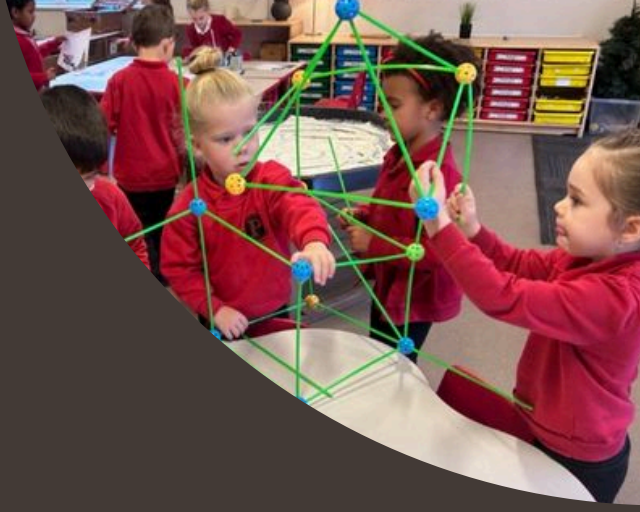
Cymraeg

At Pencaerau, we are committed to embedding the Welsh language and culture throughout school life. We create regular opportunities for pupils to learn and use Welsh in meaningful ways, from classroom routines and lessons to songs, stories, and celebrations. By making Welsh fun, relevant, and part of daily experiences, we support the Curriculum for Wales and help our pupils grow in confidence, pride, and a strong sense of identity in Wales.

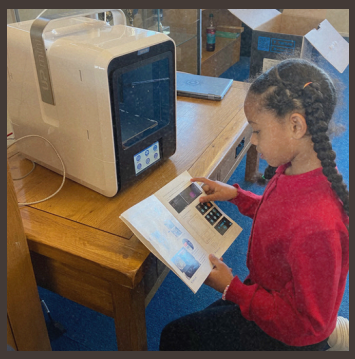
Cynefin

At Pencaerau, we embrace Cynefin, a sense of place, belonging, and identity. It helps children understand who they are, where they come from, and how they fit into their community and the wider world. Through the Curriculum for Wales, we connect learning to the history, culture, and stories of Caerau and Ely, giving pupils pride in their roots while encouraging respect for others.

Teaching and Learning







Collective Worship & Reflection

At Pencaerau, Collective Worship and reflection is an important part of our school day. It gives pupils regular opportunities to reflect on values, personal growth, and the world around them, supporting their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. These sessions help children think about themselves, their actions, and their relationships with others, while encouraging empathy, respect, resilience, and reflection in line with the values we uphold as a school.

Homework and home learning

At Pencaerau, homework and home learning are an important part of supporting children's progress and reinforcing what they learn in school. Tasks are carefully planned to be meaningful, manageable, and tailored to each child's stage of learning, helping them practise key skills, extend their knowledge, and develop independence. Homework also encourages partnership between school and home, giving families the opportunity to engage with their child's learning and celebrate their achievements.





Teaching and Learning



Well-being and inclusion

At Pencaerau, we are proud that our school is inclusive to all needs and that children's wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that when children are happy and content, they learn more effectively and enjoy positive, memorable experiences that stay with them for life. We provide a nurturing and supportive environment where every pupil is valued and encouraged to achieve their best. For children with Additional Learning Needs, or those who sometimes find the classroom environment more challenging, we offer extra support through our dedicated Castell Raglan room. This safe and welcoming space helps children build confidence, develop strategies, and access learning in a way that meets their needs. Our approach balances care with high expectations, ensuring every child feels safe, included, and able to thrive both in school and beyond.







Creativity, Real-life experiences and Enrichment

We believe that children learn best when their education is enriched with creativity and real-life experiences. Every year, pupils take part in at least three educational visits, which broaden their horizons and bring learning to life beyond the classroom. Within school, our carefully planned contexts provide rich, engaging opportunities that inspire curiosity and imagination.

A highlight of our week is the Pencaerau Project on Wednesday afternoons, where children choose a course to follow for 10 weeks and explore new skills and interests. These experiences not only make learning exciting but also help children develop confidence, independence, and a lifelong love of learning

Early Years at Pencaerau



In our Early Years setting, we are dedicated to cultivating a nurturing and calming atmosphere, ensuring that every child feels supported and valued. We believe that creating a safe and welcoming environment is paramount for meaningful learning experiences. Through a blend of structured activities and free play, we cater to the individual interests and developmental stages of each child. Our committed staff prioritise building strong relationships with both students and families, fostering a sense of belonging and trust within our school community. By nurturing a warm and inviting ambiance, we aim to instill a lifelong passion for learning, enabling young minds to flourish and thrive.







Learning Through Play

In our Early Years setting, we are passionate about learning through play. We pride ourselves on creating an environment that is exciting and engaging, where children can explore, discover, and learn independently. Through magical and imaginative experiences, we spark curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning from the very start, helping children develop confidence, resilience, and essential skills for their future.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is an important part of our Early Years experience. Our children are encouraged to explore and discover in our outdoor areas, taking part in activities that inspire curiosity, imagination, and a love of learning. Every week, they enjoy Welly Wednesday, a special time dedicated to exploring our school grounds. These outdoor experiences also help children develop independence, empathy, resilience, and teamwork, while supporting their wellbeing and laying strong foundations for future learning.

Family Engagement



At Pencaerau, we pride ourselves on building a strong community of support and encouragement for all our families. We believe children thrive when school and home work together, and we are committed to welcoming parents and carers as valued partners in their child's learning journey.



Our Parent Engagement Officer, Gina Powell is truly passionate about supporting families. She is a cornerstone of our school community and has won multiple awards in recognition of her outstanding dedication.
Gina works hand-in-hand with our PTA, Friends of Pencaerau, helping to organise events and engaging with the local community.

We offer a wide range of opportunities for families to get involved, including baby classes, parent workshops, book clubs, our Sisterhood group, and the PTA.
We also celebrate cultural and community events such as Eid celebrations, World Book Parent Days, and Stay and Play sessions. These activities not only bring parents into school but also give them the chance to form networks of friendship and support with one another.





Friends of Pencaerau PTA



Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) plays an important role in supporting school life at Pencaerau. They help bring our school community together by assisting with the design and decoration of learning spaces, supporting the setup of events such as Halloween parties, the Christmas Fayre, and the Year 6 Prom. Their commitment ensures that our pupils enjoy memorable experiences and that school life is vibrant, welcoming, and full of fun opportunities for everyone.





We are extremely proud to celebrate the achievements of many of our parents who, through opportunities at Pencaerau, have rediscovered their love of learning. Some have even gone on to complete university degrees. By opening our doors in this way, we support children while also inspiring and empowering families, creating a true sense of belonging within our community.



Extra Curricular





At Pencaerau Primary, we believe learning goes beyond the classroom. Our wide range of extra-curricular activities inspires curiosity, builds confidence, and gives every child the chance to discover new passions and talents. With something for everyone, we help pupils grow into well-rounded individuals ready to thrive in school and beyond.

Clubs and Activities

At Pencaerau Primary, we offer a wide range of clubs that reflect our pupils' interests and talents. From outdoor learning and Eco Club to art, drama, poetry, and cooking, children have plenty of opportunities to be creative and build new skills. Coding and sports coaching further help pupils to stay active, work as a team, and develop confidence.



Shaping Our Clubs



Our extra-curricular clubs are heavily shaped by pupil voice. We listen carefully to our children's needs and interests throughout the year, ensuring the activities we offer reflect what they want to try and enjoy. This gives every pupil the chance to take part in clubs that inspire them and help them grow.

Pencaerau School Senedd



At Pencaerau Primary, we are proud to have a School Senedd that truly reflects the voices of our pupils.

The Senedd plays a vital role in our school community, giving children the chance to share their views, influence decisions, and take on leadership roles. We believe every child's opinion matters, and the Senedd ensures that their ideas and priorities help shape the life of the school.



Our Senedd is made up of a number of committees, each focusing on an important area of school life.

Pupils in each committee listen carefully to the views of their classmates and bring these ideas to half-termly Senedd meetings, where current topics are discussed, and actions are planned.

Being part of the Senedd helps our children develop key life skills such as leadership, teamwork, confidence, and oracy. They learn how to debate, make decisions, and take responsibility, skills that prepare them for future roles both within school and in the wider community. Importantly, the Senedd also fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our school, as pupils see that their voices really do make a difference.



Breakfast Club and Healthy Eating

Breakfast Club



Our School Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8:15 a.m. and offers a warm and welcoming start to the day for our pupils.
The club is designed to support parents with busy early mornings, providing a safe and friendly environment where children can enjoy a healthy breakfast, spend time with friends, and prepare for a positive day of learning ahead. It's a great way to make mornings easier for families while helping children arrive at school happy, settled, and ready to learn.

If you would like more information on breakfast club, please see Miss Powell.

Healthy Eating

At our school, we are proud to be a Healthy Eating School, where we encourage everyone to make nutritious choices that help their bodies and minds grow strong.
We believe that eating well is an important part of learning well. When we fuel our bodies with healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and plenty of water, we have more energy to play, focus, and achieve our best. By teaching healthy habits early, we help students build a positive relationship with food that can last a lifetime.
Together, we make healthy eating fun and rewarding, showing that looking after our health is something to celebrate every day.



Contact Us

We hope you have been able to gather from our prospectus an idea of what our school stands for, what it means to our community.

If you would like to make an appointment to come and visit, please call or email the school.

We look forward to welcoming you





Contact us on:
Cyntwell Ave, Cardiff, CF5 5QN
Tel: 029 2059 9224

Email: pencaerauprm@cardiff.gov.uk

School Website: https://www.pencaerauprimaryschool.com
Instagram: @pencaerau_primary_cardiff

Headteacher: Mrs H Brady

Chair of Governors: Caroline Gleeson