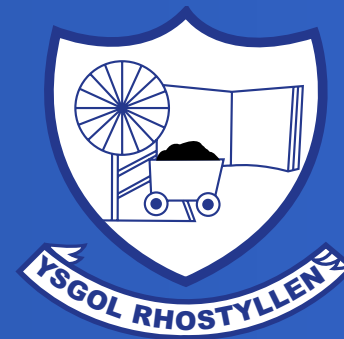




Ysgol Rhostyllen

School Street • Rhostyllen • Wrexham • LL14 4AN
Tel: 01978 352357 • Email: mailbox@rhostyllen-pri.wrexham.sch.uk

Explore our website



Ysgol Rhostyllen

Prospectus



Welcome • Croeso to Ysgol Rhostyllen

Ysgol Rhostyllen is a Community Primary school which caters for children aged between 3 and 11 years old.

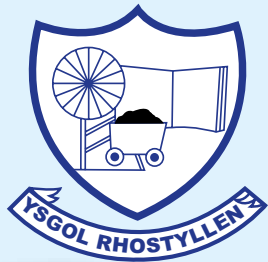
We are delighted that you have expressed an interest in our school and look forward to establishing a positive partnership with you and your child in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The development of the individual child is the shared responsibility of the home and school. This partnership should promote a positive and supportive environment from which the child can respond to the many opportunities provided in school. We strive to create a culture of respect, self-discipline, inner confidence and a pride in good behaviour and appearance.

As a community school we value our relationship with all aspects of the locality. We are a friendly, happy school with traditional values and high expectations of all our pupils. We are fully committed to enriching children's lives now and into the future.

If you would like to visit the school please telephone to make an appointment on (01978) 352357.

We hope that this prospectus will provide you with all the information you need about the life and work of Ysgol Rhostyllen.



'We believe that the best gift we can give our children apart from love is education'

The School Ethos and Aims

All children need love, care, time and understanding. Their primary education is a vital part of a growing awareness of the wider world, for which they need to gain knowledge and skills essential to life. It is of the utmost importance that children are happy at school if they are to reach their potential. Our aims at Ysgol Rhostyllen are:

- To maintain a happy, caring environment with a secure and welcoming atmosphere which gives children the confidence to become independent learners.



- To promote respect for all, regardless of differing religious beliefs and ways of life and develop a culture which is opposed to discrimination relating to socio-economic background, creed, ethnic origin, gender or disability.

- To provide learning environments where children can enjoy success through well planned activities and which caters for individual needs.

- To plan a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum for each child's physical, intellectual, emotional, social and moral needs.
- To work in close partnership with the child's home and family to promote a positive educational experience and which helps children to interact successfully with their peer group, family and community.
- To actively encourage lifelong learning, promote high standards and encourage all children to achieve their potential.



School Staff

Headteacher:	Mr Huw Rowlands
Deputy Headteacher:	Mrs Gemma Brownhill
Learning Leader:	Mr Shaun Valentine
Teaching Staff:	Mrs Sarah Bartley Mrs Kayleigh Davies Mrs Zara Lloyd Miss Zoe Maddock Mrs Rosie Simmonds Mrs Beth Williams
Teaching Assistants:	Mrs Lowri Birchall Mrs Emily Ellis Miss Nicola Jones Miss Dominika Kucminova Mrs Nadine Peers Mrs Lisa Roberts Mrs Sarah Smallwood
Clerical Officer:	Mrs Cheryl Galt



Lunchtime Supervisors:	Mrs Lowri Birchall Miss Dominika Kucminova Mrs Emily Ellis Miss Nicola Jones Mrs Nadine Peers Mrs Lisa Roberts Mrs Sarah Smallwood
Caretaker:	Mrs Valerie Jones
Cleaning Staff:	Mrs Lorraine Bellamy Mrs Clara Oliveira Drago Miss Lucie Williams
Kitchen Staff:	Mrs Olga Wisniewska Mrs Marie Thomas
Breakfast Club Senior Supervisor:	Mrs Karen Jones
Breakfast Club Supervisors:	Mrs Marie Thomas Miss Lucie Williams Mrs Sharon Williams



Admissions Policy

In accordance with Local Authority policy, children are admitted to school (part time) in the September following their third birthday. They begin statutory full-time education in the September following their fourth birthday. All admission requests whatever the child's age should be made to Wrexham Local Authority. Parents who wish to enrol or transfer their children to our school are welcome to make an appointment to visit.

A meeting for parents will be held prior to children in Nursery and Reception commencing school. This will be an opportunity to meet the staff and receive relevant information regarding school procedures and organisation. Nursery pupils will have the opportunity to visit their new class before they attend in September.



Estyn Inspection
"Older pupils...are aware of their personal learning strategies and understand the importance of developing relevant knowledge and skills before applying them in real-life situations."

Access and Admission for Disabled Pupils

The school is on one level and its design is easily accessible to pupils and visitors with disabilities. There is a spacious disabled toilet on site. Local Authority policies and practises (which cover admissions) ensure that pupils with a disability are not treated less favourably than other pupils and have equality of access to the curriculum and school facilities.

The Curriculum, Educational Organisation and Teaching Methods

Ysgol Rhostyllen is an English medium school with Welsh taught as a second language to all pupils from Nursery through to Year 6. Pupils are taught in eight straight year groups. From September 2022 a new curriculum is being introduced in Wales and the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 sets out the following concepts and mandatory elements which will be taught to pupils from ages 3 to 16:

- The cross curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence
- Religion, values and ethics
- Relationships and sexuality

The school aims to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, which gives varied opportunities to develop essential skills. We will support learners in their journey to become:

- Ambitious, capable learners, who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society
- 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

These are called the four purposes of the curriculum and will be central to children's learning and development. As well as literacy, numeracy and digital skills children's learning will be focused around six areas of learning and experience. Everything your child learns will be connected to these areas. They are:

- **Expressive Arts** – where your child will explore art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills.

- **Humanities** – children will learn about the world, society and events in the past and present. They'll explore the challenges and opportunities that face us, and what ethical action we can take to safeguard the world and its people in the future.
- **Mathematics and Numeracy** – your child will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They'll explore shapes and measurement and learn about statistics and probability.
- **Health and Wellbeing** – is about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional well-being. They'll learn about healthy eating and how to make good decisions, deal with influences and develop healthy relationships.
- **Languages, Literacy and Communication** – your child will learn about languages. They'll understand and use Welsh, English and other languages. They'll study and create literature, and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways.
- **Science and Technology** – your child will learn about biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and design and technology. They'll learn about design and engineering, living things, matter, forces and energy, and how computers work.

Your child's learning will focus on things that matter to them now and when they grow up. Each area of learning and experience contains statements of what matters, which shape learning for children of all ages. These help your child think about what they're learning and how topics link to each other, to work and to life. They also support your child to progress each year as they build their understanding and skills.

The curriculum also covers the following aspects:

- Diversity and respecting differences
- Experiences and skills for careers and the workplace
- Learning about local, national and international contexts
- Developmentally appropriate relationships and sexuality education

Religion, Values and Ethics

RVE will be a statutory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales for learners from age 3 to 16. Through RVE, we aim to give learners opportunities to respond sensitively to religion and non-religious philosophical convictions and explore the beliefs and practices of people in their community, Wales and the wider world. We also aim to develop secure values and establish their ethical beliefs and spirituality through the exploration of a range of issues. This will also support the development of pupils' mental, emotional and spiritual well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy.

There are three acts of collective worship per week and on the other two days short assemblies are held in class. There are regular visits from the local Minister and occasionally from representatives of charitable organisations. Parents and family members are invited to join the staff and children in class assemblies throughout the year. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from such activities will need to inform the school of their decision.



Welsh

English is the language of the day to day business of the school, but some Welsh is also used as a language of communication with the pupils. As a school within Wales we pride ourselves on celebrating our country's language and culture through drama, music, dance, stories and visits to the Urdd organisation's residential centres in Bala and Cardiff. We endeavour to promote the Welsh language so that it can survive as a living tongue as our pupils acquire second language skills. Although there are attainment targets in our programme of study, we will take into consideration that the pace of progress in second language development varies from child to child, situation to situation and that the same levels of achievement will not correspond to particular ages, or to every teaching situation, but we hope to ensure that all our pupils will attain some measure of second language success. The normal expectation is that pupils will transfer to English medium secondary provision and continue to learn predominantly through the medium of English, learning Welsh as a second language.

Relationships and Sexuality

A Personal Development and Relationships Policy and scheme of work have been approved by the Governors. The school has a progressive sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical maturity of pupils. This covers basic life processes and human life development. Teachers arrange separate sessions for boys and girls in Years 5 and 6 to discuss puberty and emotional development.

Physical Education

In Physical Education sessions we aim to develop the skills essential for taking part in a variety of sporting activities. The school has a good sized hall for indoor work, adequate outdoor hard surfaces for class lessons such as short tennis and netball and a grassed area which includes a football pitch. This is also used for rounders and athletics.



Homework

At Ysgol Rhostyllen we regard homework as a very important aspect of children's learning. We see homework as an opportunity for parents to share activities with their children and to encourage their learning. The involvement of parents or carers can be so effective, not only in assisting the child to make educational progress but also to reinforce the values of learning. Children in Nursery and Reception will have 'Home Activity' books which are varied, often practical tasks. Reception pupils will also practice their key words, phonics and reading.

Children in Years 1 and 2 will also have 'Home Activity' books. In addition they should spend time practising their reading, spelling and phonics. In Year 2 pupils who have a computer may access some of their Maths homework on line.

Children in Years 3 to 6 should spend time each evening reading at home. They will also have spellings to learn each week and at least one piece of homework which could relate to Literacy, Numeracy or topic work.

At the beginning of each year, class teachers will inform parents of the arrangements for homework in their class.



Assessment, Progression and Reporting

We use the Descriptions of Learning for each What Matters Statement to assess and plan for learners' progress. These broadly correspond to expectations for ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 and offer guidance on how learners should demonstrate progress within each statement.

Assessment is on-going in all classes and is of a summative and formative nature. We support teacher assessment with National Literacy and Numeracy tests for pupils in Years 2-6. The Literacy test has been designed to test the children's reading capabilities and the Numeracy test assess the children's procedural and reasoning maths. These tests can be done up to twice in an academic year and at any time deemed suitable by the school.

Parents are invited to attend two meetings to discuss their child's progress during the year. These take place in October and February. A written report on overall progress for the year is issued at the end of the summer term.



Children with Additional Needs

The school's procedures comply with the Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice. Children experiencing difficulties with areas of the curriculum are identified by the class teacher and this is discussed with the ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator). After consultation with the parent, children who need support will work from an individual education plan which will focus on areas of specific difficulty. This will be undertaken in class and in small group session support by the Additional Needs teacher. If we are unable to adequately provide for an additional need we can request support from external agencies. Regular review meetings will be held to determine the progress of the child. These meetings will involve parents and all those concerned with the education of the child.

More Able and Talented Pupils

Our broad and balanced curriculum offers opportunities to extend and challenge the more able. Teacher planning is differentiated to fulfil their academic needs and any child with an identified talent in other areas such as sport or music is fully supported and their achievements celebrated.



Behaviour

Whenever possible we use positive reinforcement of good behaviour to maintain good discipline. School rules are drawn up with the children and the importance of keeping to these reinforced regularly throughout the year. At all times children are expected to behave in a polite, orderly and sensible manner, respecting others, property and the school building. Sometimes however, unacceptable behaviour makes it necessary for there to be a consequence. This is usually done in stages and can involve apologising or discussing differences in the case of minor incidents or in more serious cases, lead to the loss of privileges. If the unacceptable behaviour continues, parents are informed and called in to school to discuss the problem. Serious or persistent misbehaviour may lead to exclusion.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities play an important part in the life of the school. A variety of these are on offer for pupils in KS2 including football, netball, gardening and choir. These activities take place during lunch time or after school hours. The school's football and netball teams regularly play matches against other local schools.

The School Day

The school bell is rung at 8:45am. Pupils in the infants will be greeted by their classroom door by the teacher and junior pupils will gather in their class groups on the junior yard where their teacher will escort them into the school building.



School Council and Eco Committee

Pupils in Years 2-6 are eligible to join the School Council and Eco Committee and at the beginning of each school year, classes vote for two representatives to be members of each group. Our School Council has been responsible for recommending changes to aspects of school life such as addressing parental concerns regarding school meals and the lack of choice for older pupils. As pupils in the Foundation Phase were served first, menu choices for the pupils at KS2 were often limited. Due to the intervention of the School Council, pupils now routinely select from a menu each morning which ensures that their food is cooked to order. The school benefits from the efforts of its Eco Committee which meets to discuss ideas for improving the environment. Examples of efforts to promote sustainability are the recycling of materials such as paper, card and plastic and lights switched off when rooms are not in use.



It is essential that pupils arrive in school on time. Being late disrupts the school day for everyone. If you know in advance that your child is going to be late, please inform the school.

Unaccompanied children should not be on the premises before 8.35am. For security reasons gates onto the Infant and Junior yards are locked at 8:50am and the only access after this time is through the main reception area where the late register will need to be completed. At the end of the school day if due to unforeseen circumstances you will be late collecting your child please try and let us know so that supervision arrangements can be made. It is essential that you inform us of any changes to routine for collecting your child.

Although we encourage parents to arrange medical and other appointments outside of school hours we do understand that this is not always possible. If there are occasions when you need to collect your child during the school day please notify us of the time of collection and the reason for this. Children are not permitted to leave without an adult. Parents collecting children during the school day should do so from the school office.

The school offers before and after school care. We operate a Breakfast Club from 7:50am in the school hall with the charges as follows:

7:50am – 8:20am - £3 daily

From 8.20am - free admission

All participating children must be in Breakfast Club by 8:35am. A local nursery operate an after school and holiday facility. They also offer wrap around care for Nursery pupils following their morning sessions. These services are all based at the school. Application forms and details of costs are available from the school office.

General Information

School Times

Foundation Phase	Morning Session 8.50 am – 11:45 am
Key Stage Two	Morning Session 8.50 am – 12 noon
Foundation Phase and KS2	Afternoon session 12.45 pm – 3.00 pm
Nursery	Mornings only 8.50 am – 11:20 am



Attendance

It is important that your child attends school regularly. If your child is unable to attend school, please let us know on the first day of absence. Medical or dental appointments should where possible, be made out of school hours.

Parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupils from school during term time for holidays.



All requests for holidays must be completed on a holiday request form and the Headteacher will make a decision whether to authorise based on the following factors:

- Time of year.
- Length of time.
- Overall attendance.
- Impact on the child's learning.
- Whether the holiday meets the criteria for exceptional circumstances and adequate proof has been provided.

Lunchtime Arrangements

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to free school meals. The meals are freshly cooked each day by the canteen staff and need to be pre-ordered through the Council's ParentPay system.

Alternatively, your child may bring in their own packed lunch and as a healthy school we encourage a balanced diet.



Snack Time

Free milk is provided for your child throughout their time in Nursery to Year 2. Water bottles are allowed in the classroom and the children will be encouraged to take regular drinks.

School Uniform

We have an agreed dress code which helps identify all pupils as belonging to our school community. The uniform consists of a white blouse, shirt or polo shirt, a royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan and grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore. Pupils are expected to wear sensible, strong, black shoes with no open toes or high heels. Sweatshirts and cardigans can be purchased from RAM Leisure on Whitegate Industrial Estate. For Physical Education pupils wear plain black shorts, a white T shirt and black pumps or trainers. All items of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name.

Estyn Inspection

"The school has highly effective arrangements to support pupils' wellbeing. It is a caring community that nurtures pupils' personal and social skills effectively."

Estyn Inspection

"The school has thorough arrangements to support pupils' healthy eating and drinking. It provides appropriate opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of fitness-related activities."





Hair Styles

We expect our pupils to wear their hair in a way that is both suitable for school and appropriate for a primary age child. We do not expect our pupils to come to school on a normal working day with extreme haircuts, styles or colours. For health and safety reasons we require pupils with long hair to tie it back when in school.

Estyn Inspection

"Provision for pupils who require additional support is strong...Individual learning plans for pupils with additional needs are purposeful and useful. Teachers make consistent use of them when planning a range of specific interventions that ensure support and challenge for these pupils."



Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn or brought to school. Pupils who have pierced ears are only permitted to wear a single stud in each ear. Please note that earrings are not allowed in the swimming baths.



Pupil Deprivation Grant

The introduction of the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) by the Welsh Assembly Government has enabled schools to fund strategies to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The school uses its grant to employ additional staff to support individual free school meal pupils and ensure that they have access to the same opportunities as the less disadvantaged. Pupils are supported individually and in small groups and their performance closely monitored to ensure that their progress is on a par with other groups of learners.

Child Protection

The school adheres to the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and staff are aware of their duty in the protection of children from abuse. They attend training regularly and any concerns about the wellbeing of our pupils are referred to the Social Services Department. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are the named staff members responsible for child protection and looked-after children.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed in all its thoughts, systems and practices to ensure equal opportunities for all involved in our school community. Members of staff ensure that they treat children equally and that everyone has the same opportunities regardless of gender, race or colour, age or faith. The School's Equality Plan and Equality and Diversity Policy are regularly updated and set out our objectives, a summary of what we hope to achieve and the steps we will take to deliver those objectives as an employer, as an educational establishment and as part of our local community.



Health and Safety

All at the school are committed to the highest standards of health and safety. Most staff are first-aiders and in the event of minor accidents, parents are informed of the details. If there is an accident of a more serious nature then parents will be asked to come to school and dependant on the circumstances the child may need to attend hospital. If we are unable to contact the parent we will make emergency arrangements in the best interests of the child.

Risk assessments are always undertaken for out of school activities.



Medicines

Staff are permitted to administer medicine under the following strict guidelines:

- The medicine must be brought in to school by a responsible adult and handed in at the school office
- The medicine must be clearly labelled with the child's name and content
- A form authorising consent to administer the medicine must be completed stating dosage and time.

Security

Ensuring the security of all on the premises is very important. The only access into the school during the day is through the main reception entrance where visitors have to identify themselves before being allowed into the building. Gates onto both yards are locked by the Caretaker at 8:50am every morning and unlocked at the end of the school day.

The school premises are fully alarmed out of school hours.



School Trips and Residential Visits

All classes participate in educational out of school visits which are usually linked to topic work. This can provide an inspirational stimulus to learning and the details of any activities involving individual classes will be sent out prior to the visit. In Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to attend the Urdd Centre in Bala on a residential visit where they participate in various activities such as canoeing, climbing, swimming and rafting.

In Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to participate in a visit to Cardiff where they explore our capital city, visiting sights such as the Millennium Stadium, the Welsh Assembly and Cardiff Bay.

Charging and Remissions Policy

When organising trips or visits which enhance the curriculum, the school invites parents to contribute towards the costs. All contributions are voluntary, however if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip.

If a parent wishes their child to participate in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we will still allow the child to participate fully in that activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support visits.



Complaints Procedure

The school has an open door policy whereby we can usually address any issues or concerns you may have as the need arises. We are committed to dealing effectively with complaints and we aim to clarify any issues about which you are not sure. If possible we will put right any mistakes we have made and we will apologise. We aim to learn from mistakes and use that experience to improve what we do. Our definition of a complaint is ‘an expression of dissatisfaction in relation to the school or a member of its staff that requires a response from the school.’



The following list is an example of additional activities which may be organised by the school and which may require voluntary contributions from parents:

- Visits to museums/theatres
- Some sporting activities
- Visitors to the school such as Storytellers/Theatre Companies/Musicians

Remission for the costs incurred for the accommodation on residential visits can be applied for as long as parents/carers can provide evidence of being in receipt of certain benefits. Details are available from the school office.



If you wish to raise a concern or make a complaint these stages usually apply:

- Raise your concern with the teacher or designated person
- If issue not resolved, raise your concern with the Headteacher
- If issue not resolved, write to the Chair of Governors

All these stages have timescales. Full details are available in the School’s Complaints Procedure.

Policies

All our policies are available to view at the school office. Key policies are available on the school website.

Governors

Our Governors play a key role in the leadership and management of the school and represent those with an interest in its development and success, including parents, staff, the local community and the Local Authority. During the Autumn Term the Governing body publishes its Annual Report to Parents which gives an overview of the previous school year including details of pupil performance and a summary of financial expenditure. Parents of pupils at the school may petition a meeting with the Governing Body on matters which are of interest to them. Details of criteria and conditions for these meetings are available from the school office.



School Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

Commences:	Monday 2nd September 2024
Half-Term Closes:	Friday 25th October 2024
Half Term Open:	Monday 4th November 2024
End of Term:	Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Commences:	Monday 6th January 2025
Half-Term close:	Friday 21st February 2025
Half-Term open:	Monday 3rd March 2025
End of Term:	Friday 11th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Commences:	Monday 28th April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday:	Monday 5th May 2025
Half-Term close:	Friday 23rd May 2025
Half-Term open:	Monday 2nd June 2025
End of Term:	Monday 21st July 2025

Our School Governors:

Headteacher:	Mr Huw Rowlands
Local Authority Governors:	Mrs Heather Owen (Chair of Governors) Mr Paul Humble Rev'd Dylan Parry Jones
Parent Governors:	Mr Glen Bellamy Mr Daniel Brown Mr Joshua Davies Mrs Emma Jones



Estyn Inspection

"Fairness, equality and respect for other cultures and races come through strongly in aspects of pupils' topic work and in the day-to-day life of the school."

Community Governors:	Ms Bushra Ali Ms Sarah Love (Vice Chair of Governors) Ms Gemma Richards
Additional Community Governor:	Vacancy
Teacher Governor:	Mrs Beth Williams
Staff Governor:	Mrs Emily Ellis