



Pontarddulais Comprehensive School

General Information

Pontarddulais Comprehensive School is a very successful 11-16 school on the outskirts of the city of Swansea.

The school is well known for its innovative practice and is a Lead Pioneer school for curriculum development. In addition, the school is a Creative Pioneer school. We are at the forefront of developments in education in Wales.

The school is categorised as a Green school. The outstanding results achieved by the pupils put us in the top quartiles when compared to similar schools. We also lead the schools in the family in nearly all quality indicators. Attendance is excellent and is also in the top quartile.

Approximately 17% of our pupils are eligible for free school meals. The socio-economic context of the school is varied. There are areas of expensive private housing, new estates, older traditional housing and local authority housing. The school has a truly comprehensive intake both in terms of background and ability of its pupils. However, there is a universal valuing of education and support for the school. The school has 848 pupils at present.

Pontarddulais comprehensive school is at the heart of the community of Pontarddulais. Pupils come to Pontarddulais from our partner primary schools; Pontarddulais Primary, Pengelli Primary, Llangyfelach Primary, Penllergaer Primary and Pontlliw Primary. Each year a significant number of preferred placement applications are successful, which means that pupils from areas of City and County of Swansea and Carmarthenshire are part of this school community. Over half of our pupils travel to school by bus, the LA provides transport for a substantial number of pupils.

The school opened in 1982. It provides a vibrant and well-maintained learning environment for our pupils. A Special Teaching Facility (STF) for up to 10 pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties opened in January 2007 and is now an integral feature of the school.

The buildings are available to all pupils at break and lunchtime who are given the freedom to behave responsibly. The school has medical facilities consisting of a suite of adjacent rooms which are equipped to provide for the needs of all pupils. An office area and two treatment rooms are situated near main school reception. A lift provides access to the 1st floor for pupils with mobility difficulties.

The Specialist Teaching Facility

The STF provides an inclusive and child centred education to our young people. The curriculum is relevant, multi- sensory, suitably challenging and personalised to meet individual need. It integrates care and therapy to meet their holistic needs and is designed to prepare pupils for the next stage of their lives.

Many of our learners are developmentally very young and developing communication skills is a priority. We are enthusiastic and creative in ways of meeting our pupils' very different communication needs through using a Total Communication approach.

Our philosophy is that every child matters, is unique and has the right to be safe, valued and comfortable. Learners are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. Key to our pupils' success is the high levels of support they receive from the STF staff team who are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, have a 'can do' attitude and a sense of humour!

Our pupils enjoy their school day which is a measure of our success. We celebrate learners' small steps of achievements. We work collaboratively with parents/carers and outside agencies to share approaches, provide continuity and to ensure the right support.

We have a minibus and look forward to re-establishing our links with the community at the earliest opportunity.