

THE RIVER CENTRE 3-16 LEARNING COMMUNITY



PROSPECTUS 2025-2026

River Centre 3-16 Learning Community
Pontygof
Ebbw Vale
NP23 5AZ

Telephone:
(01495) 369628

Email:
info@trc3-16.co.uk

Website
www.trc3-16.co.uk

Acting Head Teacher: Mr K Dash

Acting Chair of Governors: Lesley Bush

Dear Parents/Carers,

The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community is a day special school in Blaenau Gwent. It provides education for children between the ages of 3 and 16. Following the closure of the local authority pupil referral unit (PRU), the school opened in January 2018. The school's catchment area is predominantly Blaenau Gwent. However, a very few pupils are placed by other local authorities in south Wales and a very few pupils are placed by English authorities.

The school is based on the two main sites that were the location of the PRU. The primary campus in Tredegar provides education for children from the foundation phase through to Year 7 and the secondary campus in Ebbw Vale provides education for pupils from Year 7 to Year 11. In addition, pupils who have high levels of anxiety and are unable to attend school attend Tŷ Afon, a converted house close to the secondary campus.

Our vision is to develop well rounded, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their full potential. We will do this by providing a welcoming, happy, safe, and supportive learning environment in which everyone is equal and all achievements are celebrated.

I hope you find the content of this prospectus informative and look forward to welcoming you to the school at one of our events. Additional information in our Annual Report to Parents and on the school website www.trc3-16.co.uk

Mr K Dash
Acting Head Teacher

The Curriculum

The whole school (3 years to 16 years of age) at The River Centre follow the new Curriculum in Wales which champions six areas of learning and experience (AOLE).

These areas include:

- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics And Numeracy
- Health and Well-Being
- Science And Technology
- Humanities
- Expressive Arts

Child Protection Policy and Guidelines

All visitors should report to reception on arrival at TRC.

This School recognises its prime responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of its children. Children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so. Parents, carers and other people can harm children either by direct acts or failure to provide proper care or both.

The school reserves the right to contact Social Services or the Police, without notifying parents.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors & volunteers working in the school.

Specifically the school will follow the procedures set out by the Local Authority and endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued

The school lead for safeguarding is Acting Assistant Headteacher Mrs Daniels. You may also contact, Acting Head Teacher Kieran Dash, Mr Harris at secondary or Mrs Perrott at Primary. Their role is to:

- Make contact with the right people in the authority
- Act as a source of support and advice in school
- Liaise with Head teacher to inform him/her of any issues and on-going investigations and ensure there is always cover for this role

If a child/parent confides in a member:

- You will be shown concern, support and warmth
- You will be given undivided attention and listened to carefully
- You will be allowed to tell what you want to say

- You will not have to repeat the information to different people within the school
- The staff member will make careful records of what was said, straight away, record the time, date, place and people who were present, as well as what was said, using your own language
- You WILL NOT be asked for lots of details about the alleged event(s)
- Staff cannot make promises they can't keep, such as total confidentiality

The School will:

- Care for your child's welfare and safety
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum and meet their individual needs.
- Work towards achieving high standards of work and behaviour
- Promote good relationships and a developing sense of responsibility
- Keep you informed about school and your child's progress in particular
- Be open and welcoming towards Parents/Carers and value their knowledge and opinions
- Contact Parents/Carers if there are concerns about behaviour, attendance, punctuality or school uniform

Parents/Carers will undertake to:

- See that my child goes to school regularly and all absences are properly notified
- Keep the school informed of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work, attendance or behaviour
- Work with the school to try to make sure that my child behaves well
- Support my child when undertaking homework and other opportunities for home learning
- Attend Parents/Carers' meetings, reviews and discussions about my child's progress whenever possible
- Keep informed about my child's school life

The pupil will: -

- Attend school regularly
- Follow the uniform Policy
- Do my classwork and homework as well as I can
- Be polite and helpful to others
- Keep the school free from litter and look after all school property
- Follow the school rules

Public Access to Documents

Parents are entitled to have access to the following documents, copies of which are held in the school, and are available on request from the Head teacher:

- The Local Education Authority's Statement of Curriculum Policy
- All Welsh Office Statutory instruments, circulars and memoranda
- All published Estyn (Inspection) Reports, which refer expressly to the school
- All current schemes of work used by the teachers at the school
- A full copy of the Complaints Procedure

In addition to these statutory documents the following are always available on request:

- National Curriculum Documents
- Governors' Policies
- Latest minutes of the meeting of the Governors of the school
- A copy of the prospectus (es)

Dealing with complaints about curriculum matters

The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community strongly believes that many potential concerns or complaints can best be resolved early at an informal level. This may be in discussion with the Headteacher, member(s) of staff, officers of the Local Authority or School Governors.

A record of any complaint is kept and wherever possible it is resolved quickly and fairly. If the person making the complaint is not satisfied and wishes to formally complain, the Governing Body will ask for this complaint to be made in writing to reduce any misunderstandings. The matter is discussed and the complainant informed of the decision and or action to be taken. If the complaint relates to something which is solely the responsibility of the Local Authority then they will deal with the matter, as outlined in the policy.

To summarise there are three levels at which a complaint may be considered. These are informal, formal to the Governing body, or formal complaint to the Local Authority. A complaint may be considered at more than one of these levels

Further information on our complaints procedure can be found on the Schools Website

Term Dates

2025/26:

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	01/09/2025	27/10/2025	31/10/2025	19/12/2025
Spring	05/01/2026	16/02/2026	20/02/2026	27/03/2026
Summer	13/04/2026	25/05/2026	29/05/2026	20/07/2026

2026/27:

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	01/09/2026	26/10/2026	30/10/2026	18/12/2026
Spring	04/01/2027	08/02/2027	12/02/2027	19/03/2027
Summer	05/04/2027	31/05/2027	04/06/2027	20/07/2027

Bank Holidays 2025

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
25 December	Thursday	Christmas Day
26 December	Friday	Boxing Day

Bank holidays 2026

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
1 January	Thursday	New Year's Day
3 April	Friday	Good Friday
6 April	Monday	Easter Monday
4 May	Monday	Early May bank holiday
25 May	Monday	Spring bank holiday
31 August	Monday	Summer bank holiday
25 December	Friday	Christmas Day
28 December	Monday	Boxing Day (substitute day)

Session Times

Primary Campus

School Opens: 8:30

Morning Session: 9:00

Afternoon Session: 1:15

Campus ends 2:30

Secondary has a separate timetable

Uniform Policy

Aims

At the River Centre our uniform plays a very important part of our identity.

We understand that the cost of uniform can be a concern so we signpost families to additional support for these costs where required. The wearing of school uniform is NOT currently compulsory for pupils

We consider that uniform is important because it can:

Provide a sense of identity, community and cohesion within the school

Support positive behaviour and school discipline

Ensure pupils dress appropriately for learning activity

Remove peer pressure to dress in particular fashions

Enable pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements

Help reduce inequalities between pupils and help reduce some triggers for bullying

Benefit safeguarding and attendance policies through helping to identify truants
assist identification of strangers on school premises

Support and promote the ethos of the school

To be mindful of costs:

Basic items are not required to have the school logo and therefore can be purchased from multiple retailers.

The First company that stocks branded school wear is based in Tredegar, and can provide the uniform in a very timely manner at a reasonable price.

Uniform is available in black or blue.

Here is the website:

<https://www.reflexembroidery.co.uk/rivercentrelarningcommunity>

Right now you can order T-shirts, polo shirts, 1/4 zip tops and rain jackets



Here is our alternative supplier if you prefer a different style



<https://kitsportswear.com/product-category/the-river-centre/>

Alternatively, pupils can wear a plain black, blue or white t shirt/polo, when not in school branded tops. Bottoms can be shorts, trousers, bottoms or knee length dark skirts, with trainers or shoes for footwear.

Make up, hair and nails

Hair must be of a natural colour and sensible style for school activities.

Nails must be of a must be of a natural colour and sensible length for school activities.

Jewellery:

Small stud earrings only and a Wrist Watch are permitted.

No other jewellery including nose piercings are permitted.

All jewellery MUST be removed before PE.