

RCCS FAQs: Community School

What is a “Community” School?



A Community School is both a place and a set of partnerships between schools, in our case Risca Community Comprehensive, Risca Primary, Ty Sign Primary, Ty Isaf Infants and Waunfawr Primary. It also represents a partnership amongst community stakeholders and parents, focused on supporting pupil development, improving pupil outcomes, supporting pupil families and developing strong communities together.

Why is Risca Comprehensive a Community School?

We can't do everything we're asked to by ourselves. We need to forge partnerships with communities. Pupils come to school with a range of talents and challenges. Strong schools like Risca recognise the importance of partnering with other organisations to ensure that all pupils' developmental needs are met. By building strong partnerships among schools and service providers, we can deliver a more integrated approach to student and family development.



How are Community Schools coordinated?

1. **Academic Development** . A community school offers programmes and services to ensure that academic remediation, academic support and academic enrichment are offered *in addition to a strong core instructional curriculum* taught by high quality motivated teachers. Academic, cultural, sporting and arts-related courses are aligned to classroom learning, and enhance--rather than duplicate--children's classroom experiences.
2. **Healthy Minds & Bodies**. A community school ensures that physical, mental and social emotional developmental needs are addressed through curriculum, services and programmes. Mental and physical health-related barriers to learning are removed. Students and families have information and tools to achieve optimal health.
3. **Family Support & Engagement**. A community school recognises parents as important resources, and pays attention to creating a positive, welcoming and supportive school climate and to providing a range of opportunities for parental involvement. A community school provides programmes and services that support parents' capacity to be advocates for their children's success such as our mentoring programme. It can also mean recognising that parents often have the capacity to bring skills and resources to the community school partnership.
4. **Community Engagement**. A community school is actively engaged with the community and provides services, programmes such as intergenerational learning and supports for community members through its parenting classes. It serves as a resource for community learning and partners with the community provide resources that support student and family development.