

RCCS FAQs: School Leadership and Management, 2019/20

Who is the Head Teacher?



John Kendall is the Head at RCCS. He has been on senior management teams in schools in England and Wales since 1995, and was an interim Head Teacher in another local school before joining Risca in 2009. He and his wife live locally and have two sons. Mr Kendall studied modern languages in Scotland and began his career as a teacher of Spanish and French in Northamptonshire. He has also taught ICT. Passionate about education, he sees the school's key purpose as nurturing each individual child to maximise potential. He writes a weekly blog to keep the community informed of what's happening at the school, and you can also follow him on Twitter, @RiscaCCS_Head.

Who else is on the Senior Leadership Team at the school?

Mr Oliver is Senior Assistant Headteacher. He joined us in 2015, and is a Geography teacher who has considerable experience in local schools. We have two Assistant Headteachers. Mr Coombes has worked here since September 2004 as a PE teacher and teacher of Welsh, and he joined the SLT in September 2016. Mrs Madden was once a pupil here. A former Head of English at the school, she became Assistant Head in 2017. Mrs Coles is Associate AHT. She has been at RCCS since 2009, is a teacher of PE and Welsh Bac, and is also Wellbeing Leader for Y11.

What is the role of the team? Are others involved?

The SLT manage the school on a day to day basis and lead the school in formulating strategies for improvement, particularly in raising attainment, and in setting the ethos and culture of the school. There is a clear philosophy of shared leadership however, and all staff are seen as leaders, and have opportunities to be involved. As with most secondary schools, individual teachers have responsibilities for subjects; at RCCS we call these our Principal Teachers and our Lead Teachers. Year Groups are led by a team of Wellbeing Leaders. Many staff also hold special responsibilities for themes, topics or events. Most teachers are also Form Tutors.

How is the school's work monitored?

Apart from self-evaluation processes which are well established at RCCS, the school is carefully monitored by the Governing Body. The EAS (Education Achievement Service) and the LEA, Caerphilly, also supports and evaluates the work of the school and of course we are subject to regular inspections by Estybn.

So how can I get in touch with staff?

It may not be obvious which teacher or member of staff you'll need to speak with, so the best thing to do is to email the school and your message will be forwarded to the appropriate person. If you ring the school, Reception will ensure you can speak with someone, or perhaps arrange for someone to ring you back. You can make an appointment with the Head Teacher through his PA, Mrs Pinheiro.