



Ribblesdale School is a mixed, local authority maintained 11–16 comprehensive school. We are situated in the market town of Clitheroe in the Ribble Valley. Preston, Burnley, Blackburn, Colne, Manchester and North Yorkshire are within a 30–45 minute car journey. A large part of the Ribble Valley lies in The Forest of Bowland, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the school has views of Pendle Hill and Longridge Fell as well as the town's Norman castle.

Our pupils come from Clitheroe and from the surrounding areas (about one third use school transport). We are a popular school in the local community and have 1400 pupils on roll, aged 11–16.

There are 81 teachers and 50 support staff. The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Headteacher, Executive Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers, the School Business Manager, and five Assistant Headteachers.

The school's last Ofsted inspection took place in February 2020. Inspectors recognised that our school maintains high standards, judging the school to be 'Good' in three areas of the inspection and rating our Personal Development provision 'Outstanding'. Our ambition, of course, is to become an outstanding institution in all that we do.

Ribblesdale has a long tradition of harnessing new technologies to enhance learning. We are one of only 22 schools globally to be designated a Microsoft Showcase School. This involves working closely with Microsoft to promote and develop new technologies to improve the quality of teaching and learning. For two and a half years, our school was designated as a Department for Education EdTech Demonstrator school, until the end of the programme in summer 2022.

The Curriculum

At Ribblesdale, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum in a range of subjects to all year groups. All young people take part in Enrichment, which encompasses all areas of personal development, including Character Matters, Wellbeing Matters, PSHE and CIAG. We have a nationally recognised Enrichment programme and our personal development provision was rated outstanding by Ofsted.

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum

In Years 7 and 8, pupils follow a common curriculum, which includes English, maths, science, design technology, computing, history, geography, RE, French, Spanish, PE, art, performing arts, music and PSHE/citizenship. Pupils choose between studying French or Spanish at the end of Year 7 so that they may study their preferred language in more depth.

During Year 9, pupils choose their options with the support of their parents, form tutor, subject teachers and careers advisors as necessary. They take part in an Options Taster Day and they, as well as their parents, are invited to an Options Evening to further support them in making important decisions about their future courses of study.

Throughout Key Stage 3 a small selection of pupils who require extra support follow an alternative curriculum and receive additional literacy-based lessons in addition to their core lessons. All Year 7 pupils also benefit from an additional numeracy and an additional literacy lesson to help them in their development in these skills areas.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

All pupils follow a core curriculum of English language and literature, maths, science, PE and RE. The structure of the curriculum gives all pupils the opportunity to follow the English Baccalaureate curriculum route, which requires them to study a modern foreign language (French or Spanish) and History or Geography to GCSE level. Pupils can also choose from a wide range of other subjects in school including graphic design, computer science, design technology, ICT, textiles, art, hospitality and catering, performing arts, iMedia, music, GCSE PE and business studies. All pupils study trilogy science in which they study biology, chemistry and physics and can attain two GCSE grades. A number of pupils also choose to study triple science as an option choice with guidance from the science department.

Some pupils are guided towards a pathway that allows them to follow the core Key Stage 4 curriculum, whilst studying a more vocational offer alongside. For example, pupils will follow the core curriculum, choose one traditional option subject and then study automotive maintenance, construction or health and social care alongside. This is so that the curriculum is structured to enable pupils to achieve the best possible outcomes, whilst also supporting positive wellbeing. A minority of pupils, who received additional support during Key Stage 3, are also given the choice to study for the Prince's Trust qualification which comprises units to support personal and social skills, as well as preparing pupils for the world of work.

21st Century Learning

At Ribblesdale School, we pride ourselves in being a technologically innovative school, enhancing the pedagogy of teaching with 21st century technologies. We allow pupils to access learning whenever and wherever they want, breaking down the walls of the classroom. Giving pupils access to their own device provides them with a wealth of opportunities to help progression and also allows teachers to formulate more engaging learning content which draws on different opportunities to enhance engagement and motivation.

We are a Microsoft Showcase School and part of the North West EdTech Hub. This means that our pupils have access to the latest technologies and resources to support teaching and learning, both within and beyond the classroom. This not only helps pupils to achieve their best academically, but also helps to prepare them for a life beyond Ribblesdale, giving them 21st century skills for the future. It also allows our teachers to have access to tools and training to develop their pedagogy, integrating technology within lessons to enhance learning. What we do at Ribblesdale is showcased and shared on a local, regional and national level!

One-to-one devices are now being used by all our pupils. The scheme not only provides a device, but a full package including, accidental damage & theft cover, extended warranty, web-filtering and software updates for the life of the device. A range of donation options ensures that the scheme is accessible to all.

Our pupils are encouraged to self-regulate their learning and understand how to learn most effectively. Our teachers facilitate the learning process and provide our young people with the skills needed to take ownership of their own progress. We support our pupils to be confident, motivated and resilient young people both in and out of the classroom.

Results

In summer 2022, 70% of pupils achieved grades 4-9 in English and mathematics.

Resources

- A campus-wide state of the art Wi-Fi system, capable of supporting over 2000 devices
- Pupils in all year groups have a one-to-one Windows 10 device
- Each teacher is provided with a mobile Windows 10 device
- 120 higher specification computers for pupil learning in Computer Science, Media, Graphic Design and across all subject areas, recently updated with new hardware
- Digital projectors or panels are in every teaching room controlled by wireless Windows 10 technology
- Good, high quality accommodation to support an effective teaching and non-teaching staff
- A Learning Resource Centre/Library, with a range of support services
- Technicians for departments to allow teachers to concentrate on teaching

- A Sports Pavilion with changing and learning resources, including an outdoor wireless network and access to the ICT resources found in all teaching areas

Pupil Guidance and Support

Each year group is overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who in turn oversees the work of a Year Leader who focuses on pupil progress. These are supported by a team of Pastoral Co-ordinators and Pastoral Intervention Managers, who focus on pupil welfare and removing any barriers to learning that a pupil may experience. The school employs a counsellor, and our work with other agencies is extensive.

Sports, Facilities and Environment

The school's main outdoor facilities are on a separate site 300 metres from the school campus. There are playing/sports fields, an astro-turf playing surface and a sports pavilion where the newly refurbished fitness suite is situated. On the Ribblesdale site there is a large sports hall and drama complex.

The PE changing areas offer modern changing facilities with private shower rooms and toilets. The layout also provides enough space for an indoor pupil learning environment in times of wet weather.

There are two large 'green spaces' on site. They break the campus up and encourage pupils to consider their leisure space and surroundings as active citizens. Often, these spaces link to the curriculum, for example in science, pupils and staff have developed a pond area to use as a resource for environmental science together with a large, modern greenhouse.

The Studio provides a state-of-the-art space with acoustic panels and cushioned flooring for dance, drama and performing arts.

Dining

The school currently has three separate dining facilities: a main dining hall, 'Gusto' serving traditional hot meals, a 'fast and healthy' dining room, 'Fresco' including outdoor seating, and an outdoor kiosk serving grab and go meals, 'The Outback Shack'. We also use our Drama Complex as a separate packed lunch dining area.

Assemblies

Assemblies and form time are valued parts of school life, encouraging social, spiritual, moral and cultural development in line with The Ribblesdale Way. We actively encourage pupils to participate in and lead assemblies.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their children from assemblies. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Religious Studies

This is taught according to the locally agreed syllabus as part of the Year 7-10 Curriculum. Year 11 study RE as part of PSHE drop-down days throughout the year. The main aims are to develop pupils' understanding of religious, spiritual, moral and cultural issues to enable pupils to develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes, and to understand the beliefs of others. The agreed syllabus explores the multi-religious nature of our society and school community alongside elements of the Christian faith.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their children from religious education. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is taught as an intrinsic part of the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education)/Citizenship) programme.

The school has a clearly defined policy regarding sex and relationship education which has evolved over a number of years, following consultation with teachers, pupils and school governors. Feedback from parents is also considered when offered.

Child Protection

Philosophy

As part of the ethos of Ribblesdale, which aims to provide a secure, happy and caring school in which we encourage respect for and understanding of each individual, we provide an environment in which all children feel valued and can share problems and be listened to.

Procedures

Any suggestion by pupils that they are at risk of harm will be taken seriously. That information will be passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Dewhurst (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Khan (Pastoral Intervention Manager), Mrs Power (Pastoral Intervention Manager), Mrs Parkinson (Year Leader) or Mrs Mashiter (Associate Assistant Headteacher and Lead for Mental Health & Wellbeing). The school will then follow the procedures laid down by the Local Authority.

The school will work with other agencies as appropriate and will attend any subsequent case conferences. Wherever possible, the school will maintain good relations with the parents of the pupil involved. Pupil awareness, contacts and strategies in relation to child protection will form part of the citizenship curriculum.

Learning Support and SEND

SEN and Disability Arrangements

At Ribblesdale School we respect the fact that pupils:

- Have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations
- Require different strategies for learning
- Learn at different rates
- Require a range of different teaching strategies and experiences.

Teachers respond to pupils' needs by:

- Providing support in all curriculum areas
- Planning to develop pupils' understanding through the use of senses and experiences
- Planning for pupils' full participation in learning including physical and practical activities
- Planning for pupils to learn to self-regulate effectively, asking for support as needed, enabling them to participate effectively and safely in learning.

The school accommodates provision for pupils who experience difficulties with:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health development
- Neurodivergent, sensory and/or physical conditions
- Medical conditions

The school employs a SENDCO who is also a specialist support teacher, an Assistant SENDCO, Higher Level Teaching Assistants and numerous Teaching Assistants. Other specialist teachers also visit individual pupils.

Attendance 2021/2022

Group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
Total	95%	93.3%	93.3%	91.8%	93.6%	93.4%

Insurance

The school uses the government's insurance arrangements, RPA. Details are available on request.

Admissions for September 2022/2023

Published admission number for Year 7: 285.

Full details are provided in the Local Authority booklet 'Secondary School Admissions in East Lancashire 2022/23'. It is essential that parents read carefully the Local Authority booklet, produced for this area, detailing the admissions procedure.

Pupils transferring voluntarily to Ribblesdale School within a term are admitted with effect from the start of the new full term unless agreed by the Headteacher and the Local Education Office to the contrary.

Transport Arrangements

Please refer to the Local Authority for guidance concerning transport arrangements and section 4 of the main Local Authority booklet 'Secondary School Admissions in East Lancashire 2022/23'.

Statutory Policies

All policies are available on request from the school, or can be viewed on the school's website, www.ribblesdale.org