

Ghyllside Primary School

Gillinggate, Kendal,
Cumbria.

LA9 4JB

Tel: 01539 814930

Email: admin@ghyllside.cumbria.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr.H.B.Davies (BA. Hons)

Headteacher – 4th January 2027

Situated in a very attractive elevated position close to the edge of town, in extensive grounds on the western side of the historic market town of Kendal, Ghyllside Primary School is ideally placed at the Gateway to the Lake District. Stunning southerly views and easy access to the nearby rural surroundings, close to the National Park, J36 of the M6 motorway and the mainline west coast railway make Ghyllside a sought after school for parents and staff alike.

Originally built in 1952, Ghyllside has been extensively re-modelled, modernised and extended in recent years due to increasing pupil numbers and increased Extended School provision.

Ghyllside Primary School is a stand-alone Academy and consists of separate classroom areas, a linked Early Years Foundation Stage Unit, (Nursery and Reception) with attached Neighbourhood Centre and small-group withdrawal areas. At present there are 2 parallel classes in each year group through to Y6, with a large open-plan Reception teaching area for up to 60 children. The school has generous grounds for outdoor learning surrounding the school, including an adventure trail, Reception and Nursery gardens, large sports field, several hard play areas and a wildlife area with a pond.

One of the largest primary schools in Cumbria and well above the national average, the school serves a very diverse social and private housing catchment on the west side of Kendal and provides education across the full 3 to 11 age range. Currently there are 384 children on roll with an additional 43 part-time Nursery children. Class sizes range from 23 to 32, averaging 26.

Teaching staff plan, work and evaluate progress in Phase Teams, (the school places a high priority on an individual's ability to work as part of an effective team), whilst being predominantly responsible for their own class groups. The teams are Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1, and KS2.

Most staff have additional curricular or organisational responsibilities (for Maths, Science, English, Humanities, Art, PE, Music, RE/PSHE, and Assessment etc.) Ghyllside has a reputation locally for providing an experiential curriculum, making use of visitors in to school and trips out. Part of this is extensive use of the Lake District National Park to provide outdoor opportunities for our children. This is seen as a strength of the school and is the reason some of our parents choose us.

The Senior Leadership Team currently consists of the Headteacher, a Deputy Headteacher, an Assistant Headteacher and senior teacher. The School Business Manager also attends all SLT meetings.

Nurturing high self-esteem and the development of emotional intelligence, generated in a friendly, caring environment are key priorities. High standards of both pupil achievement and behaviour are expected. Ghyllside has a supportive PTA and a hard-working Trustee Body.

The school is heavily involved in local networking activities. The Kendal Collaborative Partnership, (KCP) consists of all Primary and Secondary schools in the Kendal area in addition to Nursery and Special Schools. The partnership works closely on a range of School Improvement strategies including Peer Reviews, SEND Support Groups, many subject support groups, (PE, Literacy, Maths etc).

Our Mission: Ghyllside Primary School – Growing Hearts and Minds

Our Values: Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences

Applications & Interviews

The closing date for applications is 12 noon, Friday 26th June 2026. Ideally all applications should be completed electronically, marked for the attention of Sarah Hansen, Clerk to Trustees and emailed to clerk@ghyllside.cumbria.sch.uk with an appropriate letter to accompany the application form. Ghyllside takes its Safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. All staff will need full DBS checks and the appointee will undertake Level 1 Safeguarding training as a matter of course.

All application forms MUST be accompanied by a letter of application; this MUST state what you can offer the school and be specific to the post.

A visit to school is strongly recommended, this can be arranged by contacting the school office on 01539 814930.

Interviews will take place week commencing 6th July 2026.

If you do not hear from us by 3rd July 2026 you have not been selected for interview.

May I thank you for your interest in this post.

Please bear in mind a lack of success in this application will not affect your chances should a post become vacant in the future.

Diane Horner

Chair of Trustees
June 2026

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