



Love Learning for Life
Caru Dysgu am Oes

GOVERNORS ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS AND CARERS



Academic Year 2025 / 2026

'With Christian values at our core we nurture tolerance, confidence and compassion within a safe and happy school community. We challenge our children to become future guardians of the world and achieve their full potential.'



*Love Learning for Life
Caru Dysgu am Oes*

Headteacher: Mr Duncan Mottram

St. Brides Major C/W Primary School

Heol yr Ysgol

St. Brides Major

Vale of Glamorgan

CF320TB

Tel : 01656 880477

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Chair of Governors: Mrs Ann Jenkins

St. Brides Major C/W Primary School

Heol yr Ysgol

St. Brides Major

Vale of Glamorgan

CF32 0TB

Clerk to the Governing Body: Mrs. J Ware

Contact details as above

The Governing Body 2025-26	
Chair of Governors	Mrs A. Jenkins
Vice Chair of Governors	Mrs C. Halsall
Headteacher	Mr D. Mottram
Teacher Governor	Ms H. Morgan
Non-Teaching Staff Governor	ANO
Minor Authority Governor	Mrs J. Rideout
Clergy Ex- Officio	Rev. E. Street
Parent Governor	Mrs. H Howells
LA Governor	Mr. L Sibieta
Foundation Governors	Mrs A. Jenkins Mr. G. Davies Mr A.E. Davies Mrs C. Halsall Mrs J. Rideout Mr. S. Woon

The Governing Body operates mainly through committees. It has a strategic role in formulating the aims and policies of the school and then working with the head teacher and staff to deliver them. The Governing Body acts as a critical friend who asks challenging questions, but who also provides the support and means to achieve objectives.

Voluntary Aided schools- The governing body is both the employer and admissions authority. The premises are held on trust by a foundation, usually a church, and the governing body employs the staff and is responsible for religious education.

There will be no Parents Meeting this year.

(The governors must hold a meeting if there is a petition from the parents of at least 10% of the registered pupils requesting a meeting to discuss matters relating to the school. There can be no more than 3 such

meetings in a school year and there must be at least 25 school days left before the end of the school year when the petition is received by the governors.)



Year 5 enjoy a day of Forest School Activities

Introduction from the Chair of Governors

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Governing Body, to welcome you to the 2025-26 Annual Report to Parents and Carers for St. Brides Major Primary School.

Throughout the year, the governors of St Brides Major Primary School have continued to work in partnership with the Headteacher and staff to support the school's development and ensure the best possible outcomes for all our children.

Our role is to provide strategic leadership, support and appropriate challenge, ensuring that the school maintains high expectations for learning, achievement and wellbeing. Through regular Governing Body meetings, consideration of the Headteacher's reports and governor monitoring activities, we have

continued to review progress against the school's priorities for improvement and celebrate the achievements of our school community.

As a school in Wales, we continue to recognise the importance of the Curriculum for Wales in developing ambitious, capable learners who are confident, creative and responsible members of their communities. An important part of our work has been to monitor the quality of education and the progress pupils are making. Governors have considered information about pupil progress, attendance, wellbeing and the development of the curriculum. We recognise the importance of ensuring that every child is supported, challenged, given the opportunity to succeed and encouraged to reach their full potential. We have continued to consider how the school supports pupils with Additional Learning Needs and how provision is adapted to meet individual needs. We remain committed to promoting inclusion, equality of opportunity and the wellbeing of every child.

Of course, learning should not be confined to the classroom and the pupils of St. Brides Major Primary benefit from a wide range of extra – curricular activities including educational visits, residential courses and after school clubs. The governors are very grateful to all staff who contribute to this very successful enrichment programme.

Our pupil and parent surveys continue to indicate very high levels of satisfaction with the school. Please be assured that staff and governors are committed to the development of an educational environment where every child is nurtured, provided with the opportunity to flourish and achieve to the best of their ability.

Attendance remains strong and within the National and VOG ranked primaries the school retains its high position on the list. This is a clear indication that parents have confidence in the school and the children are happy in their learning environment.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remain central to our responsibilities. Governors have maintained oversight of safeguarding arrangements and relevant policies, seeking assurance that appropriate procedures, training and systems are in place to help keep our children safe. We recognise that children learn best when they feel safe, valued and supported, and we remain committed to promoting a caring and inclusive school environment.

We also recognise the importance of the school's denominational responsibilities. During the year the school was the subject of a very successful Section 50 inspection, which considers the school's religious character, religious education and collective worship. We value the contribution that collective worship, religious education and opportunities for spiritual development make to children's experiences. Inspectors commented:

"Through a combination of strategic leadership and shared vision, the governing body, leadership team and staff actively nurture the learners as ethical leaders of the future. By grounding academic achievement in a sense of responsibility, the school ensures that every child leaves St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School with a 'Love of Learning for Life' and as a genuine 'Guardian of the World'."

The Governing Body has continued to oversee the school's financial management, considering how available resources are used effectively to support teaching, learning and the school's priorities for improvement. We recognise the importance of making responsible decisions that protect the quality of provision for pupils while planning carefully for future needs. Responsible management of the school's

finances this year has again enabled the school to maintain a budget surplus. However, as always, uncertainty over future budgets during this time of national financial pressures may present challenges going forward.

We are grateful to Mr. Mottram and all members of staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to our children. At the end of the academic year, we said goodbye to a valued member of staff. Mrs. C. Jenkins, Deputy Headteacher, secured the position of Headteacher at Llangan Primary School. We wish her all the very best for the future and acknowledge her invaluable contribution to St. Brides Major Primary School.

We also value the support of parents and carers, the Church and the wider community, whose contributions help make St Brides Major Primary School such an important part of local life.

The Governors are very grateful to the Association of Friends of St. Brides, a group of hardworking volunteers, for the immense effort which goes into organising the many social and fund-raising activities which so greatly benefit all our children. We are deeply indebted to them for their work and generosity and wish to extend our sincere thanks for the work that they do.

As governors, we are proud to play our part in supporting the school and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that every child is nurtured, valued and encouraged to flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

A. Jenkins

September 2026



The new Foundation Phase outdoor classroom, funded by the FOSB.



Head Boy & Girl at Bridgend Foodbank

Teaching, Learning, Standards and Progress Committee

Role

The teaching and learning, standards and progress committee meet regularly throughout the year to consider all matters relating to the school's provision for curriculum, teaching, standards and pupil progress. We monitor additional learning needs (ALN) provision and pupil attendance at the school and are involved in reviewing progress against improvement targets ensuring any weaknesses identified during the school's self-evaluation processes are addressed.

Over the course of the 2025-26 academic year, the teaching, learning and standards committee discussed regular items on additional learning needs, attendance and assessments, as well as a range of other items relating to teaching and learning.

The committee held regular discussions on additional learning needs at the school. This included the types of needs, how assessments are performed and types of provision.

We discussed levels of attendance at the school. This shows that attendance at St Brides is high relative to the rest of Wales and to the rest of the Vale of Glamorgan. Some concern was expressed for the small number of pupils who are persistently absent, but this is improving over time as well.

The committee received presentations on personalised assessments that take place in autumn and summer terms. There was some frustration that Welsh Government is being slow in providing schools with the ability to compare and learn from assessment scores across schools.

We heard about how the school is using a new approach to assess writing skills across the school. In particular, the school is using comparative judgements from “No More Marking, which also provides pupils with individualised feedback to improve their writing skills.

We were delighted to read glowing inspection reports about the school. This included a Section 50 inspection about the school’s religious ethos, which led to a very positive inspection report. There was also an interim report from Estyn on the school’s progress on previous recommendations. The inspection report found excellent progress, particularly on promoting independent learning. The committee had already discussed the school’s progress on improving independent learning. We heard directly from pupils in Year 5 about the steps they are taking in their independent learning.

L. Sibieta

September 2026



Year 6 children visit the Houses of Parliament

The Finance, Premises & Health & Safety Committee

Role

The Finance and Premises Committee provides strategic material direction for the provision of education and the maintenance and development of the distinctive Christian character, values and vision of the school.

In carrying out this role it is responsible for the oversight of:

Finance, fund raising and the management of the school budget

The management and development of the school buildings and estate

Health and safety policy and management

We hold regular meetings with the head teacher and other members of staff; carry out regular inspections of the premises; monitor the annual planned maintenance and development programme, and review and monitor the budget and other school funds. We may also from time to time receive and

review the reports of various specialist and local authority advisors and assist the Headteacher and Staff in developing and implementing the appropriate policies and actions resulting from them. This is particularly true of health and safety and fire prevention requirements.

Finance

All schools now face increasingly significant financial challenges in balancing their budgets. This is compounded by a forecast decline in pupil numbers going forward which reflects a national demographic trend as overall birth rates decline.

Inevitably this dictates a cautious approach in committing to additional expenditure, particularly for staffing increases or major capital projects. As such we are not yet able to progress with engaging additional administrative staff support for the school, although some infrastructure improvements have been made to enable this, going forward.

Detailed management of the operating budget has always been one of the school's strong points and with current constraints this is becoming increasingly important. An indication of the likely funding available from the Local Authority in the next academic year can be determined from the projected number on role based on admissions applications. This is then used to forecast the potential carry forward required from the current year to balance the budget in the next. This is not a "precise science" as there are always last minute adjustments and unpredictable grant allocations made from the Local Authority at the end of the financial year. It is however a tried and tested approach which, so far, has enabled the school to operate every year with an agreed balanced budget.

The demographic trend however does not leave room for complacency, and the school and governing body is coming under increasing pressure to look for additional funding streams to secure the school's future.

Premises

A further application has been made to the Diocese for financial support towards the cost of the Hall extension although it seems unlikely that this will be forthcoming.

Damage to the "return" between the old roof and the new hall extension was sustained in the autumn most probably as a result of a period of very high winds. After consulting with the Local Authority architect, the damage was very quickly repaired by Willis Construction (builders of the extension) at no cost to the school.

The Friends of St Brides have very kindly funded an additional shelter in the Foundation yard, erected on a concrete base provided by the school. We are extremely grateful for the excellent work the Friends do in supporting the school and their continued contribution to the enhancement of the teaching and learning facilities.

Plans to reorganise the office spaces, including the Headteacher's, and modify the access in the main corridor has received approval for grant funding from the Diocese. It has however been decided to delay the decision on whether to proceed with this work until the next financial year.

Classroom Furniture

Classroom furniture replacement is a standing item on the committee's agenda and this has resulted in the steady improvement in the quality of furniture in nearly all the classrooms in recent years. This year

despite the constraints on the budget there was sufficient headroom to commit to upgrading the Year 2 classroom furniture.

Health & Safety

Following the publication in November 2025 of the North Wales Child Practice Review (NWCPR) in relation to the sexual offences committed by Neil Foden at Ysgol Friars in Gwynedd the committee held an extraordinary joint meeting with the Personnel Committee to discuss it.

While it is expected that the Welsh Government will follow up this review with enhanced guidance for schools it was felt that we should, as a matter of due diligence, immediately review our existing policies on Safeguarding, Whistle Blowing and Complaints to determine whether any amendments needed to be made in the light of the NWCPR. Some additional information requirements relevant to the school were identified and after consulting the Local Authority the information was added as an annexe to the LA policy accessible on the school website.

Work has also taken place on developing and publishing an Active Travel Plan for pupils and in conjunction with the Community Council a request has been made to the Local Authority to reassess the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing on the Southerndown Road. The Local Authority has also been asked to revisit a previously approved crossing on the Ewenny Road at a revised location.

The Local Authority has also been asked to review its classification of the route between Southerndown and St Brides Major as a "Safe Walking Route". The school and Governing Body do not agree with this classification, particularly as the footpath is narrow and often obstructed by bramble from the hedge. It also deprives pupils living in Southerndown from accessing free school transport.

With the ability to use the new air-conditioned hall as a cool space, the school was able to continue to function during the extremely high temperatures experienced during the summer term. However, this is not an ideal teaching environment and with the frequency of extended periods of high summer temperatures forecast to increase, consideration is being given to the possibility of providing air-conditioned classroom spaces.

Policy Review

We regularly review and where necessary amend relevant policies.

This year, in the light of the NWCPR, the Safeguarding, Whistle Blowing and Complaints Policies have all been reviewed and amended to include additional contact information. The main Health & Safety Policy and the Wrap Around Care risk assessment for the movement of the nursery school children between the school and the playgroup are also reviewed annually.

A E Davies

September 2026



Nursery & Reception children enjoy a visit from the Owl Sanctuary

SIP priorities 2025-26

Teaching & Learning	Review curriculum to ensure local relevant content is planned for. (Pedagogical Principle – Real life authentic contexts) Ensure that older pupils take more responsibility for their learning and develop their independent learning skills. <i>Estyn R2</i> (Pedagogical Principle – Learners Leading Learning) Manage the learning environment effectively and develop and embed high-quality outdoor learning opportunities across all primary year groups.
Wellbeing, Care, Support & Guidance	Develop the role of ALNCo in relation to MAT children in the school and develop a process to monitor and track their progress. Ensure that staff are given opportunities through Inset training to further their understanding of the best ways to support pupils with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, DEST, hearing impairments, visual impairments. Develop emotional support programmes - allowing wider targeting of children who need emotional support. Review Jigsaw RSE provision to ensure it responds well to issues that arise.
Leading & Improving	Focus improvement planning precisely on the aspects of teaching and learning that are most in need of improvement. <i>Estyn R1</i>

	Align the school's evaluation processes and improvement planning with the new Estyn framework in order to prepare the school effectively for an interim visit or full inspection. Develop a deeper understanding of the Section 50 inspection process through senior staff applying for and undertaking inspector training. Re model the school staffing structure to match budget restraints whilst continuing to meet the needs of the school. Compile an Active Travel Plan with pupil voice groups and other stakeholders making recommendations that remove barriers to active travel.
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Charity Work

Supporting local and national charities not only raises community spirit but also enhances children's learning and reflects the ethos of the school. During the academic year money raised included:-

MacMillan- £315

Children in Need- £3200

British Legion- £85

Velindre- £1600

Kidney Wales- £502.70

Contributions to Bridgend Food Bank.

School Attendance Data 2025-26

	Attendance	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences
St Brides Major	95.2%	2.6%	2.2%
Vale of Glamorgan	93.1%	4.36%	2.59%
Wales	92.3%	5.1%	2.6%

Parish Links

We enjoy very close links with the picturesque village church, St Bridget's, which is situated just two or three minutes walk away. We also have strong links with the other churches in the catchment, such as, Eweny Priory Church. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated by the whole school in church several times each year and worship is led in the school hall by visiting members of the clergy.

Toilets

The school has an adequate number of age appropriate toilets for all pupils at the school. These are arranged throughout the school. The toilets are cleaned daily by our cleaning team both before and

after school. Additional cleaning takes place as necessary throughout the day. The school has 5 disabled toilets.

Financial Report – School outturn report 2025 / 2026

The following report is a revenue summary for the school financial year 2025 - 2026. It is a requirement that this information is reported to parents in the Governors Annual Report.

DETAIL	ANNUAL BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL
TEACHING EMPLOYEES (inc Grants)	£ 690,986.81	£ 690,208.11
NON TEACHING EMPLOYEES (inc Grants)	£ 296,478.04	£ 286,656.68
INDIRECT EMPLOYEES EXPS	£ 9,399.00	£ 9,215.98
EMPLOYEES (inc Agency)	£ 996,863.86	£ 986,080.77
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	£ 22,350.00	£ 16,275.34
GROUND'S MAINTENANCE	£ 6,405.00	£ 5,456.25
ENERGY	£ 18,856.00	£ 15,108.47
RENTS/RATES/WATER	£ 4,697.00	£ 6,600.88
CLEANING AND DOMESTIC SUPPLIES	£ 50,121.00	£ 54,657.73
PREMISES	£ 102,429.00	£ 98,098.67
OFFICE SUPPLIES & EXPENSES/PRINTING	£ 9,423.00	£ 7,528.51
TEACHING/LEARNING & RESOURCES	£ 33,246.00	£ 30,438.76
EVENTS & FUND RAISING	£ 0.00	£ -
EXPENSES	£ 108.00	£ -
SERVICES	£ 994.00	£ 1,532.15
ICT	£ 2,548.00	£ 2,582.81
CATERING, HOSPITALITY & SNACKS	£ 681.00	£ 2,488.75
OTHER	£ 0.00	£ -
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	£ 47,000.00	£ 44,570.98
DIRECT TRANSPORT	£ 0.00	£ -
CAR ALLOWANCES	£ 115.00	£ 260.78
TRANSPORT	£ 115.00	£ 260.78
CENTRAL SUPPORT INTERNAL RECHARGES	£ 18,618.00	£ 18,945.35
CENTRAL SUPPORT INTERNAL RECHARGES	£ 18,618.00	£ 18,945.35
CONT TO CAPITAL OUTTURN/RESERVES	£ 1,303.00	£ 1,308.52
TRANSFER TO/FROM SCHOOL RESERVES	£ 73,037.14	£ -
CONT. TO FUNDS	£ 74,340.14	£ 1,308.52
WG & OTHER GRANTS	-£ 153,858.92	-£ 153,859.36
GOVERNMENT & OTHER GRANTS	-£ 153,858.92	-£ 153,859.36
OTHER INCOME	-£ 57,523.00	-£ 59,263.30
EVENTS & FUND RAISING/COMMUNITY PROJ	-£ 0.00	£ -
INTERNAL RECHARGES INCOME	-£ 5,287.00	-£ 13,268.89
OTHER INCOME	-£ 62,810.00	-£ 72,532.19
Total	£ 1,022,697.08	£ 922,873.52



The school football team win the Rotary Club Cup