



Love Learning for Life
Caru Dysgu am Oes

GOVERNORS ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS AND CARERS



Academic Year 2024-25

'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 CF32 0TB

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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 2024-25	
Chair of Governors	Mrs A. Jenkins
Vice Chair of Governors	Mrs K. Lewis
Headteacher	Mr D. Mottram
Teacher Governor	Ms H. Morgan
Non-Teaching Staff Governor	Ms R. Berry
Minor Authority Governor	Mrs J. Rideout
Clergy Ex - Officio	Rev. E. Street
Parent Governor	Mr. L Sibieta
LA Governor	Mrs K. Lewis
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.)

Introduction from the Chair of Governors

It is a privilege to continue my role as Chair of the Governing Body and enjoy the close links that exist between governors, staff, children and parents at St. Brides Major C/W Primary school. I am very pleased to present the Annual Report to Parents and Carers for the 2024-25 academic year.

The purpose of the Annual Governors Report to Parents is to provide information regarding the current state of the school, including its finances, staffing, buildings and future developments. This report details the work of the Governing Body over the last year in carrying out their role providing challenge, scrutiny and support to the school.

As governors part of our collective role is to act as a “critical friend.” We ask challenging questions and are confident that the school can demonstrate that there are very robust systems of self-evaluation in place to ensure that the focus for the school is to raise standards of teaching, learning and care of the pupils We also regularly review school policies to ensure they are up to date and valid.

Governors are also responsible for the management of the school's finances and have this year again managed to maintain a budget surplus. However, as always, uncertainty over future budgets during this time of national financial pressures may present challenges going forward.

2024-25 was an exciting year for the school.

In September 2024 the school welcomed Bishop Mary, Bishop of Llandaff, to officially open and bless our new school hall. The completion of the school hall extension was the final phase of a ten-year development plan which included improvements to the Foundation phase facilities, the construction of the school nursery, a new staff room and refurbishment of the school office, reception area and lobby. It was a delight to see the hall full of visitors including parents, guardians, representatives of the local community, governors (past and present), communicants, politicians, former staff and clergy - all of whom had contributed to the school's development.

Academic standards continue to impress and it has been a successful and rewarding year for our pupils, staff and Governors as we continue to develop the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. Having previously been awarded the Bronze and Silver Siarter Iaith, last Summer we celebrated the achievement of the Gold Award. The award scheme is intended to inspire children and young people to use Welsh in all aspects of their lives. It is for everyone, all members of the school community have a part to play, the school council, pupils, teachers, support staff, parents, carers, governors and the wider community and as such is a fantastic achievement.

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 pupils are happy in their learning environment.

Of course, learning should not be confined to the classroom and the pupils of St. Brides 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.

The staff and pupils' results are also influenced by the involvement of parents and carers. The support provided to the school, as well as the care and guidance offered to pupils, play a role in these

outcomes and on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful pupils that have worked so hard and to our parents/carers who have supported them,

During the academic year, we said goodbye to a valued member of staff. Miss Fulgoni left the school. We wish her well for the future and thank her for her valuable contribution to the school.

We also welcomed a new member of staff, Mrs L. Samuel who took on the role of ALN Co-ordinator, focusing on the additional learning needs of all our pupils.

As always, we are indebted to the Friends of St. Brides for their excellent support both to the school and the wider community. The constant activities that they undertake are inspirational and we are extremely fortunate to benefit from their endeavours.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Governors for their continued hard work, dedication and contribution to the continuing success and achievements of St. Brides Major C/W Primary School. Our role is not only to support the school but also to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. We can only do this successfully if we have the full co-operation of the staff. I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr Mottram and all staff for their work in keeping governors fully informed and in responding to our challenges.

A. Jenkins September 2025



Thomas Picton – Hero or Villain? Y6 decide at Cardiff Museum

Teaching, Learning, Standards and Progress

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 in the School Improvement Plan 2024/2025 ensuring any weaknesses identified during the school's self-evaluation processes are addressed.

This academic year has been another busy one for staff, pupils and governors. The teaching and learning committee met five times between November 2024 and June 2025 to discuss the work of the school in relation to teaching, learning, standards and progress. We have been privileged to undertake several learning walks, listening to learners' activities and book looks that illustrate the quality of the provision children receive at St Brides, and the high expectations and standards they attain during their time at the school.

In November, the committee undertook a listening to learners and pupil book scrutiny activity focused on Religion, Values and Ethics. A selection of pupils from Year 1 – 6 shared their work with governors,

discussing the aspects they were most proud of, how they liked to learn and what they had enjoyed learning the most. This was followed by a committee meeting where we met the school's new ALN co-ordinator (ALNCo), Ms Samuel, who took governors through the current ALN arrangements at the school and explained how the new system (rolled out as part of Curriculum for Wales and the ALN act) would work moving forward.

Following a meeting in January where governors were presented with a detailed analysis of data relating to the progress of pupils following autumn term completion of Welsh Government's national Online Personalised Assessments (Years 2-6), governors were delighted in March to be invited by staff into their classrooms to observe learning, to see progress first hand and to observe the level to which pupils demonstrate independence. It was, as always, a privilege to interact with staff and pupils and to observe the broad range of activities available to support, consolidate and stretch pupils in their learning. Governors witnessed examples of pupils influencing learning, working productively, and being engaged in effective, collaborative group work. Nearly all pupils were able to articulate confidently what they were learning, and all were at ease conversing with visitors.

March saw the school's Eisteddfod which for the first time spanned a week rather than one day. A considerable feat of planning and preparation, serving as a celebration of Welsh life and culture. Governors enjoyed seeing first-hand the wide range of excellent work pupils had created, which was displayed for the community to see within the school hall. For governors who were unable to visit the school that week, a short film produced by pupils in the school's film club was provided. The film included highlights from the week, such as artwork, recitation, singing, and dawnsio gwerin. The school's hope is that next year the Eisteddfod will be even bigger and parents/carers will be able to take the opportunity to visit the hall and see a range of work and performances on display.

In June, it was a pleasure to speak to Year 6 pupils who talked in enthusiastic detail about their 3D design project. A selection of pupils provided committee members with an excellent presentation whereby they articulated the process of designing and printing in 3D with confidence and attention to detail. They shared examples of what they had produced and demonstrated the depth of their knowledge and technical vocabulary when they described the design process, how to use printing software and the complexities of using the 3D print machine.

And finally, following the school's success in achieving the Welsh Government's Siarter Iaith Silver award last summer term, staff and children have worked exceptionally hard again this year to further develop the use of the Welsh language within the school and the community. Their efforts were rewarded towards the end of the summer term with successful accreditation and being awarded the prestigious Siarter Iaith Gold award.

The report accompanying the award comments: -

"The principles of Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus are clearly embedded in school life.

The links established with the local community are an evident strength and the school hopes to develop these even further in the future.

Whilst celebrating and taking pride in the school's progress, leaders are eager to further embed the good practice, continue to develop the Welsh ethos they have worked so hard to achieve and maintain the high standards of the gold award."

This is a tremendous achievement for the school and would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and strategic leadership of Miss H Morgan and the Criw Cymraeg, supported of course by the entire staff and pupils of the school.

What a lovely way to end the school year. Llongyfachiadau bawb!

K. Lewis September 2025



The RunPudsey event helped raise £2500 for Children in Need 2024



Year 6 children outside the Shaftesbury Theatre, London during late November 2024

The Finance, Premises & Health & Safety Committee Report to Parents

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.



The Criw Cymraeg host a Welsh language coffee morning in Ogmores Community Hall.

Finance

School finances are coming under increasing pressure and a change in the LA financial management system for schools has made it more difficult for both the governors and headteacher to view and manage the operating budget. A drop in pupil numbers going forward, reflecting a national demographic trend, will also create challenges for all schools as per capita funding will reduce accordingly.

The build cost for the new hall received significant grant funding however a contribution from the Governor's George Francis Capital Fund was also required to enable the school to maintain a balanced budget.

The routine costs for parents for school visits was also discussed and it was agreed to publicise these as far as possible in advance to allow parents to budget effectively. It was noted that the school subsidises most visits and provides staged payment options for parents.

Funding to increase the staffing and administrative support facility for the school has also been agreed in principle subject to sufficient headroom being available in the operating budget.



Year 5 children working with local artist Rhiannon Roberts on our community mural.

Premises

The extension of the school hall and the new lobby and entrance area has vastly improved the school's facilities, however, the vinyl sheet flooring in the hall started to lift after a few months use. This was attributed to moisture in the underlying screed which had not been allowed to dry sufficiently before the flooring was laid. When the sheeting was lifted a preexisting damp problem was also identified in the server area. After an extended period to allow the screed to dry and deliberation between the

school, building contractors, managing architect and flooring sub-contractor, it was agreed to relay the floor with a vinyl plank at the contractor's expense. This method of repair would also allow for an easier repair option should the problem reoccur.

Plans to make minor alterations to the school's main corridor layout and improvements to the hall sound system have also been agreed in principle but further progress is constrained by the current budgetary restrictions.

The committee did approve expenditure to utilise existing railings and posts, held in store, to fence the years 3 and 4 outdoor area.

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. With an increasingly constrained budget no further expenditure on this item is planned for the immediate future.

Health & Safety

We have continued to monitor all aspects of health and safety relating to the school fabric and activities. This includes safeguarding issues, and the dedicated safeguarding governor and chair of governors are both members of the committee.

Policy Review;

We regularly review and where necessary amend relevant policies.

This year the Safeguarding Policy provided by the Local Authority was reviewed and adopted with minor amendments. 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.

AED September 2025

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 £355

Dreams and Wishes £2129

Down Syndrome Association £100

Children in Need £2500

Contributions to Bridgend Food Bank.



An outdoor worship during May 2025

School Attendance Data 2024-25

	Attendance	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences
St Brides Major	95.96%	2.32%	1.72%
Vale of Glamorgan	93.2%	4.58%	2.19%
Wales	92.6%	5.1%	2.3%

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, Ewenny 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 2024 / 2025

The following report is a revenue summary for the school financial year 2024 - 2025. It is a requirement that this information is reported to parents in the Governors Annual Report.

Cost Centre Description	AREA	Budget	Actual	Variance
St.Brides Major Primary	Teaching	665,585.00	658,892.17	6,692.83
St.Brides Major Primary	Non Teaching	301,955.00	299,868.09	2,086.91
Sub Total	Employees	967,540.00	958,760.26	8,779.74
Sub Total	Premises	72,450.00	82,861.55	-10,411.55
Sub Total	Transport	115.00	58.39	56.61
Sub Total	Supplies & Services	100,330.00	61,262.41	39,067.59
Sub Total	Transfers To/From Reserves	1,303.00	-7,945.16	9,248.16
Sub Total	Cont to Capital Outturn	119,791.00	138,173.31	-18,382.31
Sub Total	Internal Recharges Expenditure	30,795.00	33,878.24	-3,083.24
Sub Total	Government Grants	-196,406.00	-208,524.74	12,118.74
Sub Total	Other Grants	0.00	-5,035.00	5,035.00
Sub Total	Customer Receipts	-67,190.00	-60,307.91	-6,882.09
Sub Total	Internal Recharges Income	-1,671.00	-4,166.00	2,495.00
Sub Total	BFCC Income	-5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.00
St.Brides Major Primary		1,022,057.00	984,015.35	38,041.65
Grand Total		1,022,057.00	984,015.35	38,041.65



Year 5 girls in Llangrannog during March 2025