

YSGOL BWLCHGWYN C.P.



Governors' Annual Report to Parents

Academic Year 2024 – 2025

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parents/Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the annual report for our school for the academic year 2024-2025. The report gives you a flavour of the work of the school and of the many people who contribute to its success.

The Governing Body continue to support school to ensure the welfare and education of our pupils is paramount. Governors are appointed to provide strategic support for school, reviewing the School Development Plan and ensuring statutory requirements are met. I would like to record my thanks to my fellow Governors who give freely of their time to the school.

School continues to make improvements to the school environment with the Forest School area being a focus to complete in the new academic year.

On behalf of the Governing Body can I give sincere thanks to Mr Williams and all the staff at school who provide such high-quality care, support and guidance to enhance the wellbeing and education of the children in our care. The recent 'Interim Visit' report from Estyn report is a tribute to their hard work and dedication. The Report highlighted our school as a welcoming and inclusive school, creating a positive atmosphere and ethos for pupils and staff. We are justifiably as a school, very proud of the children in our care.

Thank you too, to you, the parents and carers of our pupils and for your ongoing partnership with us which benefits your children and the whole school
Regards,

S. Tomlinson

Sarah Tomlinson - Chair of Governors

WHO'S WHO ON THE GOVERNING BODY

The Chair of the Governing Body can be contacted via School.

Clerk to the Governing body – Ms. Lisa Curley

Type of Governor	Name	Appointment Expiry date
Headteacher	Dylan Williams	ex officio
Additional Community	Mark Peacock	18/10/26
Community	Jane Williams	19/06/29
Community	Sarah Tomlinson	19/06/29
Local Authority	Rob Woods	31/03/29
Parent	Kathryn James	27/02/28
Parent	David McCall	16/02/27
Parent	Hannah Thorpe	27/02/28
Staff	Nicky Roberts	14/09/25
Teacher	Elizabeth Williams	31/08/25
Local Authority	Berni Durham-Jones	17/06/28

CLASS ORGANISATION

The school currently has four full time classes.

Early Years caters for full time Reception and part time Nursery pupils.

Class 1 is our class for Years 1 and 2.

Class 2 is our class for Years 3 and 4.

Class 3 is our class for Years 5 and 6.

CURRICULUM

The 'Curriculum for Wales' was implemented in September 2022.

Our curriculum development and aspirations at Ysgol Bwlchgwyn provide a holistic approach that meets the educational and wellbeing needs of all pupils whilst providing them with the skills they will need to meet the challenges of their future.

Through consultation with stakeholders and the wider community we feel our school vision is aligned with the aspirational, holistic Curriculum for Wales and reflects our nurturing ethos, which is delivered and supported in partnership with parents. This vision is based on key features of the new curriculum and values that we believe our school community hold in high regard. In consultation with our stakeholders the most frequently occurring words in response to a shared ethos and vision were: *Respectful, Equality, Inclusive, Caring, Support, Positive Mindset, Wellbeing, Team, Consideration.*

This feedback has enabled us to establish a nurturing and inclusive environment by listening to the voices of our pupils and parents. To have high expectations for our learners in all aspects of their lives, in a setting with a strong sense of community and a family 'feel'.

These values can be summed up in our school motto of 'Aim High' and are broken down as follows in our vision statement:

At Ysgol Bwlchgwyn CP we aim high by:

Challenging ourselves and each other to create a positive learning culture with high expectations

Respecting one another and the world we live in

Believing in ourselves and in what we can achieve by embracing challenge together

Nurturing a happy and inclusive school family which is at the heart of the community

This vision reflects the contributions of our pupils through much of the growth mindset, pupil engagement, learning empowerment, innovation and creativity that has been developed through engagement with the Lead Creative Schools and Formative Assessment projects we have been involved in. We have worked with our pupils to identify a range of attributes which sum up our positive learning culture and these are a part of daily discussions and celebrations of academic and personal growth. These attributes underpin the 4 Curriculum Purposes and enable adults and pupils in school to identify success. They are: courage, respect, effort, communication, kindness, perseverance and responsibility.

BILINGUALISM AND CURRICULUM CYMREIG

Ours is an English medium school. Welsh is taught as a Second Language and pupils and staff are encouraged to utilise their Welsh skills in everyday situations such as lunch/snack times. Everyday Welsh is also used for some instructions and simple communications. To help promote the Welsh language the school has a Criw Cymraeg pupil body.

MUSIC TUITION

The school accesses the Wrexham Music Co-operative which currently provide violin, woodwind and guitar lessons. School continues to make a subsidy contribution to reduce the costs to parents for peripatetic tuition. Careful planning and budgeting has ensured the provision is available at a charge of £40 per pupil per term. Music tuition for pupils eligible for free school meals (EFSM) is provided without charge and is actively encouraged.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

The School provides support for pupils with ALN in compliance the new ALN Code of Practice, which was implemented in January 2022. The School has since then been migrating to the new systems in line with the Local Authority ALN reform timeline.

The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act sets out the new statutory support system in Wales for children and young people with special needs.

The term ALN has replaced ‘special educational needs’ (SEN) and ‘learning difficulties and/or disabilities’ (LDD), covering all children and young people with additional needs, regardless of how complex or severe they are.

This means ALN covers a whole spectrum of needs, from so-called ‘high functioning’ autism, through dyslexia, dyspraxia and ADHD, to serious global learning delays/difficulties and major physical disabilities. The ALN Act aims to help children and young people with ALN overcome barriers to learning and reach their full potential. Under the new system, school SENCOs (special educational needs coordinators) will be renamed or replaced by ALNCOs.

Further details, parental guides and videos relating to the new ALN Code of practice can be found on the school’s website.

Children are screened using procedures in school which allow us to make early interventions. Children are placed on our ALN register and are supported by the class teacher and ALNCO (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator) initially. ALN support is provided on a graduated response principle which means additional support is provided firstly in school and if necessary is requested from outside agencies, which if agreed, may involve a tailored programme of work with an additional learning needs specialist, Educational Psychologist, Neurodevelopment specialist or other ALN support agency. Our ALN children receive tailored support to allow them full access to the curriculum. Pupils who are More Able & Talented (MAT) are also identified and catered for within the classroom.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Under the 1980 Education Act, parents are free to express a preference for the Secondary School of their choice. Our nearest Secondary School is Ysgol Clywedog. In July 2024 our Year 6 pupils moved on to local schools including Clywedog, St Joseph's, Castell Alun, Ysgol Morgan Llwyd and Bryn Hyfryd.

TRANSITION

We have good links with all the secondary schools our pupils move to and again this year, transition activities took place within our Cluster. As a school, we regularly make use of Ysgol Clywedog facilities during our weekly swimming sessions. Year 6 pupils also attended transition days across the range of schools they applied to.

ACCESSIBILITY

The school is fully accessible to all children according to their needs and requirements, both physically and academically. Integration into mainstream classes is in accordance with Local Authority policy and guidelines and the 2010 Equality Act. An accessibility audit has been carried out and all entrances to school have ramp access, entrances to disabled toilets are widened with doors opening outwards.

SESSION TIMES 2024 - 2025

	<i>Nursery</i>	<i>Reception – Year 1</i>	<i>Years 3-6</i>
Mornings	9:00 - 11:30	9.00 – 12:00	8:55 – 12:10
Afternoons	-----	1:00 – 3:10	1:00 – 3:15

SCHOOL POLICIES

The Governing Body has a Governance Assurance Statement which includes all statutory and recommended policies which are reviewed on a regular basis. Copies of all Governing Body Policies are available in school on request. Policies reviewed 2024 -25:

Performance Management Policy
Safeguarding Policy
School Prospectus
Anti Bullying Policy
Food and Fitness Policy
Curriculum Policy
Governor Code of Conduct
Pay Policy
Sun Safety Policy
Substance Misuse Policy

Admissions Policy
Redeployment Policy
Whistleblowing Policy
Absence Policy
Equality Plan
IT Acceptable Use
Educational Visits Policy
Framework of Responsibility
Lettings Policy
Charging Policy
Behaviour Policy
Assessment Arrangements
Risk Management
Children who Are Looked After (CLA) Policy

SCHOOL SPORT

Pupils enjoyed PE lessons in gymnastics, dance, swimming, climbing, football and athletics. The school football team competed against other cluster schools during the year and took part in a mini tournament.

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The school has updated its prospectus during 2024-25. The prospectus provides information relating to the school's ethos, values curriculum and organization. The prospectus is available on the school website

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Following careful monitoring of progress and as we continue to work toward the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales, the school determined the following priorities for development during the 2024-25 academic year:

Key Targets/ Priorities:

PRIORITY 1: To improve and embed the curriculum for Wales through effective leadership, processes and systems. Developing distributed leadership further to embed understanding of progression, assessment, feedback and monitoring of AOLE provision. This priority was identified as the next logical step in our CfW journey as a means to foster a consistent understanding of expectation and practice in assessment and pupil progress. Monitoring activities and the Estyn inspection identified that pupils were progressing well across the school and that standards were good. This priority seeks to develop our good practice and understanding of the CfW principles of assessment and progression, evaluate and review systems/processes for capturing pupil progress and provide greater opportunities for professional dialogue to enhance consistency of approach. Feedback applied consistently by all classes following trialling and professional learning enquiry.

PRIORITY 2: Enhance consistency of CfW pedagogy through further effective collaboration, peer work and shared professional learning for all staff, based on feedback and professional learning recommendations from Estyn.

This priority has been identified in response to Recommendation 1 of the school's inspection report. Following the work to implement CfW and meet all statutory requirements, there is a greater opportunity to provide time for staff to engage in professional learning both within school and outside school, to take part in professional dialogue and share and evaluate practice to enhance consistency of approach. The priority will take account of the WG School Improvement Guidance that became statutory in September 2024 and enable engagement of stakeholders in the self-evaluation and improvement process.

PRIORITY 3: Maintain momentum and develop staff and pupils' skills and attitudes further following Cymraeg Campus Gwobr Efydd Jul 2024

This priority was identified following the attainment of the Cymraeg Campus Bronze award in Jul 2024 and the positive impact it had on engagement and attitude to Cymraeg. To maintain these positive steps it is essential that we continue a focus on the national priority of Cymraeg through positive engagement of staff and pupils and not see the Gowbr Efydd as a completion of the development. Criw Cymraeg The school will continue to engage in training from the Local Authority for a range of teaching and support staff, further developing staff awareness and confidence. Criw Cymraeg pupil voice group will continue to be promoted and facilitated to ensure further pupil engagement and positivity regarding Cymraeg.

PRIORITY 4: ALN transformation – complete migration of all pupils, ensure PCP, and begin transition/ training for new ALNCO.

This priority was identified as the next step in moving all pupils on to the new ALN Code of practice. School has worked closely with the LA inclusion team to ensure all statutory obligations are being met and that processes for identification of needs and subsequent, appropriate support and review is in place. In addition to this there is a need to ensure effective transition of the ALNCO role to a new staff member for September 2025. Steps will be taken to provide coaching and mentoring support from the current and experienced ALNCO during the spring and summer terms. The aim of this is to ensure current good practice is maintained. Consideration of strategic steps will be made to develop the current ALNCO's governance role to facilitate ongoing support for the new ALNCO from Sept. 2025.

INFORMATION RELATING TO GRANT FUNDING
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Pupil Development Grant

The purpose of the Pupil Development Grant is to improve the educational attainment of pupils from low income families and who are entitled to free school meals (eFSM). Schools are expected to maximise the use of this funding by introducing sustainable strategies which will lead to improved outcomes for pupils entitled to free school meals.

As a school, we utilise the PDG by:

1. Planning interventions that focus on improving the attainment of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, regularly monitoring pupils' progress and evaluating impact.
2. Integrating plans for the effective use of the PDG into the School Development Plan.
3. Balancing whole school strategies with targeted interventions to ensure that all learners entitled to free school meals benefit as individuals, whilst the whole school also develops its ability to support every learner to achieve their full potential.

PDG Allocation and Expenditure for 2024-25:

Activity	Cost	Impact
TA salary to deliver intervention and support to ALN and EFSM pupils	£8,450	EFSM pupils achieve and progress in line with non EFSM pupils
Funding to support training and release time for ELSA (emotional literacy support assistants) staff	£400	Greater capacity to support vulnerable pupils
Resources to develop engagement opportunities through outdoor learning and play e.g. forest school resources	£1,000	Positive impact on wellbeing for vulnerable learners
Resources to establish a sensory circuit for vulnerable and neuro diverse pupils	£ 500	Provision for pupils' diverse needs enhanced
TOTAL GRANT	£10, 350	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£10, 350	

Educational Improvement Grant

The purpose of the Educational Improvement Grant (EIG) and is awarded to schools with the aim of aiding them with improving the quality of teaching & learning; addressing learners' barriers to learning and improving inclusion; improving the leadership of educational settings; and. improving the provision for learners and the engagement of learners.

Please details of the school's allocation and expenditure for 2024-25 below:

LA Education Grant Breakdown	
School Standards	49568
Professional Learning	2081
PDG	10350
EYPDG	3450
Reform - ALN Implement	3146
Total	68595

Additional Services

Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew – Childcare Provision Update

The Governing Body is proud to share with parents the ongoing success and development of the childcare provision at Bwlchgwyn School, operated under the name Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew.

Originally established in 2005 as the Bwlchgwyn Out of School Club, this provision was created to support both the pupils and parents of our school by offering vital wraparound care through Breakfast and After-School Clubs. In 2009, a newly formed Management Committee took the club forward, establishing it as both a Limited Company and a Registered Charity. Their vision and dedication led to the successful acquisition of funding, via multiple grants and a loan from Wrexham County Borough Council, which enabled the purchase and installation of a purpose-built modular building in July 2011.

Affectionately known as "The Cabin", this space is now exclusively used to deliver a wide range of childcare services for children aged 2 to 11 years, including:

- After-School Club
- Holiday Club
- Nursery Plus Wrap-Around Childcare
- Flying Start / Playgroup sessions (introduced in 2024, operating daily from 9:00am to 11:30am)

Collectively, these services are known as Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew, and they form a vital part of our school and wider community. While the core provision supports Bwlchgwyn School pupils, children from surrounding areas are also welcomed into the Holiday Club, Nursery Plus, and Flying Start/Playgroup sessions. We are immensely proud of the achievements of Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew, including:

- Outstanding feedback from the most recent Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) inspection (report available at www.cssiw.org.uk)
- Being named 'Out of School Club of the Year' at the Wrexham Childcare Awards for two consecutive years

The scheme is wholly managed by Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew CIO, through a voluntary management committee of Trustees. The committee employs qualified, experienced staff in full compliance with CSSIW regulations and Welsh Government standards.

This childcare provision offers more than just convenience - it strengthens our school's appeal to prospective families and supports the wider educational offer, complementing initiatives such as the Welsh Government's 30 Hour Childcare Offer, Flying Start Funded places for 2 Year Olds and Tax Free Childcare Initiatives. It also fosters a sense of community and continuity for our pupils, many of whom begin and end their day in the supportive, nurturing environment of The Cabin.

The Governing Body has consistently supported this initiative and is pleased with the strong partnership that exists between the school and the Cabin Crew. Our Head Teacher, who is actively involved in the voluntary management committee, plays a key role in ensuring alignment between the provision and the school's values and goals.

We look forward to the continued growth and success of Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew, and we thank all staff, volunteers, parents, and community partners for their ongoing support.

School Toilets

The Welsh Government provides guidance on good practice with regard to the provision of toilets in schools. The Governing Body is aware of this guidance and its implications with regard to our school. Automatic sensor foam soap dispensers and warm air hand dryers are provided. The toilets are cleaned and inspected on a regular basis and pupils are allowed access whenever necessary. The toilets were renovated during the spring term of 2021 to increase capacity and ensure appropriate ratios are in place.

Healthy Schools

The School is part of the healthy schools scheme and provides a range of activities and provision that fulfill this role. All pupils are encouraged to be active and take part in regular exercise either in school or as part of an extra-curricular activity.

We provide healthy snacks throughout the whole school which fulfill the recommended guidance from Wrexham County Healthy Schools team. A wide range of fruit and vegetables is available and in Key Stage 2 and snack is co-ordinated by the pupils themselves, who monitor, prepare and share the snacks.

2024-25 Attendance

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	96%
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Community Links

The School continues to have a close relationship with Christchurch and school pupils have visited church throughout the year. The school has welcomed community members to several performances during the year in addition to the enterprise fair and learning celebration days.

BUDGET SUMMARY STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR - 1ST APRIL 2024– 31ST MARCH 2025

BUDGET HEADING	PLANNED BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE
EMPLOYEES	527,457	543,389	-15,932
PREMISES	66,729	62,002	4,727
TRANSPORT	750	8,690	-7,940
SUPPLIES	71,180	25,829	45,351
SUPPORT SERVICES	30,353	30,015	338
CONTINGENCY FUND	42,939	0	42,939
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	739,408	669,924	69,484
OTHER INCOME	-158,049	-180,812	22,763
OPENING BALANCE	-60,876	60,876	0
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	520,483	428,236	92,247

The school fund was audited by K. Williams, auditor appointed by the School Governing Body. LA approved Form D was submitted.