

GELLISWICK CHURCH IN WALES VC PRIMARY SCHOOL



GOVERNING BODY'S ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

Together we value, we hope, we give and we achieve

Gelliswick Church in Wales VC Primary School is privileged to be part of a learning community that

- **values everyone,**
- **provides hope,**
- **and contributes together,**

to make every child's future better than they thought possible.

GELLISWICK SCHOOL AIMS:

That all children and young people will be:

1. Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
2. Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
3. Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
4. Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
5. Safe, will know their rights and will be listened to.

That our school, working with the community, provides:

6. A safe, nurturing and inclusive environment that promotes Christian values and positive wellbeing.
7. Authentic, exciting and inspiring learning experiences through which children acquire the values, skills and knowledge to be healthy, responsible and successful.
8. A dynamic culture of enquiry, collaboration, innovation and exploration for all members of the school community.
9. An expectation that we strive to do the best that we can, and to achieve more than we thought possible.

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

I have pleasure in presenting our 2023-24 Annual Report. The role of the Governing Body is to support the staff, and to deliver the best education and learning opportunities for your children. As always, Gelliswick School Council contributes with ideas, and their reports to the Governing Body meetings are very important and useful, continuing our strong work ethic and nurturing values that are paramount to Gelliswick School.

Governors would like to acknowledge the excellent efforts of our pupils with their learning and for the very good progress they have made. The staff work very hard to provide a stimulating learning environment and the care and encouragement and progress with the areas of development that the school has identified through education. Pupils, Staff and Governors have once again worked well together to maintain an active programme of learning and development for the benefit as always to the pupils.

The school has seen a number of staff changes throughout the 2023-24 academic year. In the earlier part of the year, we said goodbye to Mrs Goodridge and Mrs South, who have served at the school for many years. We thank them for their dedication, kindness and commitment to the children and families of Hakin and Hubberston and wish them a happy and healthy retirement. At the end of the academic year, Mrs Powell, and Miss Wonacott, moved on to pastures new, taking teaching posts in other schools. Mr Scotcher also left Gelliswick with plans to travel to the Southern Hemisphere. We wish him the best of luck in his travels. At the end of the year, we said huge farewell to Mrs Robertson and Mr Dyer. Mrs Robertson has worked for many years across Hakin and Gelliswick School as the administrator and business manager, doing a wonderful job. Mr Dyer, Headteacher, who oversaw the amalgamation of all three schools (Hakin Infants, Hakin Juniors and Hubberston VC School) to make Gelliswick VC School, handed over the baton of Headship to Mrs. Prevel. We are thankful for all the work that Mr Dyer achieved whilst at Gelliswick school and wish him happiness in his new ventures.

The governing body welcomes Ms Sophie Amies and Mrs Jane Rees, who joins as Local Authority Governors. W

The school is making significant progress with Curriculum reform and is involved in a number of projects in forging and establishing these changes. Our curriculum statement reflects the exciting and ambitious vision that Governors hold for our school and learners. We are excited by the opportunities the school is developing to provide purposeful and equitable learning experiences for all our learners. A key element has been continuing learning with genuinely rich and authentic contexts which allows the children to prepare for life after school whilst learning, applying their literacy, numeracy and digital skills across the curriculum.

We maintain our many links with the community, including laying a wreath at the Milford Haven Remembrance service this year. Our Charity events for fundraising are as ever excellent, with both the annual children in need project, and continuing our support for those whose lives will be helped by our community's generosity. The School Lighthouse project provides support for not only pupils and families but also the surrounding community with much needed preloved items and other essential provisions in these continuing difficult times.

To conclude, I would like to thank parents for their continued support. We take pride in working together as a community to the ongoing success of Gelliswick School.

Cllr Yvonne Southwell, Chair of Governors

Parents' meeting with the governing body

In accordance with the criteria in section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the governing body has not scheduled a meeting as it has not received a petition from parents in support of holding a meeting. The arrangements to enable parents to request a meeting are set out in a [letter on our website](#) that is duplicated at the end of this report.

Reimbursement claims by the governing body

No claims were made by the Governors for any travelling or subsistence costs.

GELLISWICK CHURCH IN WALES VC PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

| <i>Governor Type</i> | <i>Governor Name</i> | <i>Start Date</i> | <i>End Date</i> |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Additional Community | CLlr Yvonne Southwell | 14/11/2021 | 13/11/2025 |
| Community | Rev Andy Bookless | 24/11/2021 | 23/11/2025 |
| Foundation | Mrs Jacqueline Davies | 24/11/2021 | 23/11/2025 |
| Foundation | Mr John Greenish | 06/04/2022 | 05/04/2026 |
| Foundation | Mr Geraint Williams | 06/04/2022 | 05/04/2026 |
| Foundation | Rev Samuel Patterson | 29/11/2023 | 28/11/2027 |
| Head teacher | Mrs L Prevel | 01/09/2024 | |
| Local Authority | Mr David Humphreys | 23/11/2021 | 22/11/2025 |
| Local Authority | Mrs Jane Rees | 29/11/2023 | 28/11/2027 |
| Local Authority | Ms Sophie Amies | 08/02/2024 | 07/02/2028 |
| Parent | Mr Graham Whitecross | 04/11/2021 | 03/11/2025 |
| Parent | Mrs Rhianon Picton | 04/11/2021 | 03/11/2025 |
| Parent | Vacancy | | |
| Parent | Mrs Paula Holt | 21/11/2022 | 20/11/2026 |
| Parent | Mr Steven Mayne | 21/11/2022 | 20/11/2026 |
| Staff | Vacancy | | |
| Teacher | Mrs Gemma Hopkinson | 13/12/2021 | 12/12/2025 |
| Bishop's visitor (ex officio) | Mrs Lorna Cecil | 06/12/2017 | |
| Diocesan Director (ex officio) | Rev John Cecil | 28/11/2018 | |
| Chair: CLlr Yvonne Southwell c/o Gelliswick VC Primary School Gelliswick Road Hakin, Milford Haven SA73 3RS | | Clerk to the Governing Body: Mrs Jessica Ashworth c/o Gelliswick VC Primary School Gelliswick Road Hakin, Milford Haven SA73 3RS | |

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The prospectus has been revised for 2023-24 to reflect changes to the curriculum in line with recent curriculum reform in Wales, and the new Curriculum for Wales. All statutory policies are reviewed and implemented.

TERM DATES

| <i>2024-2025</i> | <i>Begin</i> | <i>Half Term</i> | | <i>End</i> | <i>No. of School Days</i> |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
| | | <i>Begin</i> | <i>End</i> | | |
| Autumn 2024 | 02.09.24 | 28.10.24 | 01.11.24 | 20.12.24 | 75 |
| Spring 2025 | 06.01.25 | 24.02.25 | 28.02.25 | 11.04.25 | 65 |
| Summer 2025 | 28.4.25 | 26.05.25 | 30.05.25 | 21.07.25 | 55 |

Directed staff training closure days: 02.09.24

School designated staff training closure training days: 25.11.24, 06.01.25, 02.06.25, 30.06.25& 21.07.25

TOTAL

195

COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL

Gelliswick School is fully devoted to being a dynamic community focused school. This means holding the best interests of learners, families and the community at our heart. The school reaches out to engage families and work with the wider community, because we know and understand the difference this can make to the achievements and wellbeing of all our learners. The governing body remains committed to supporting the community to serve the needs of children and young people in our community. The school extends its gratitude to all our community partners, and below are examples of our community focussed work:

Health and wellbeing

- School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP): Bwyd a Hwyl/Food and Fun was the 3 week programme delivered during August 2024
- The Lighthouse hub is a source of uniform, clothing, sports-wear, dressing up costumes, bedding, furniture etc.
 - The school is a 'Trauma informed school' and works with professionals from Health agencies in order to continually enhance our provision for learners and families.



Family learning in 2023-24

- The school ran play therapy courses for parents, designed and provided by our specially trained staff.
- Springboard adult and family learning courses were free and open to all our parents.
- USWTD are now running a degree programme from the school.
- Our Nursery class hosted 'family days' where parents and family members join the children in their learning activities.

Working in and with the community

- School prefects represented our school at Remembrance Services and other events in our town and local community.
- The school supports, promotes and contributes to the work of the Hakin and Hubberston Community Forum.
- The school council choose charities to support throughout the year, including Children in Need and PATCH.
- Milford Town Council and local charitable organisations and businesses support the school, e.g. Milford Haven Rotary

The school as a focus for community activity

- The school runs a weekly parent and toddler session.
- The school hosted a 'eating healthily on a budget course' alongside community nutrition practitioner.
- Our dedicated community room is a place where groups meet, as well as a place for support and advice, including signposting to services and support within our community.
- The school has been used for lettings or partnership agreements to use the site.
- The school hosts and collaborates with many external and educational agencies
- A Friends of Gelliswick School is in the process of being established, with the aim of supporting the community work of the school in a range of ways.

Learning activities and partnerships in 2023-24

- The Police community liaison officer, the RNLI and the Fire Service Community Officer all delivered workshops on a range of subjects connected to personal safety and citizenship
- Year 6 attended Crucial Crew workshops on a range of safety matters, including: food hygiene, childline, fire safety, safety with electricity, etc.
- School services were held with St Mary's and Hubberston St David's churches, and the school received regular visits by clergy and volunteers
- Ballet Cymru Duets Scholarship and Ambassadors programmes.
- Design to smile dental workshops.
- Kerbcraft and safe cycling programmes.
- Visits to Milford Library.
- Support from Milford Haven Tesco.
- Visits to and visits from organisations including the RNLI, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and Pembs Youth service.
- Y3/4 hosted a Welsh concert in Milford Haven Secondary, with "The Welsh Whisperer", writing their own Gelliswick song.

We also benefited from our links with:

- Milford Haven Mayor
- Sea Cadets
- Valero
- Army cadets
- Action for Children
- St John's Ambulance service
- Coastguard
- Local sports clubs
- Community Choir
- Windswept
- Morfa Bay and Llangrannog activity centres
- Local area visits, including learning activities and events at the Gelliswick Bay beach, the woods, and the skate-park
- Feelgood Friday activities, including Rika shake, CrossFit, Canoeing, Boxercise, Scooter skills/road safety, Dance, Bush Craft, Coastal schools, Forest schools, cooking, Swimming, Yoga, S7 Fitness, FF Dancers, Paddlewest, Parkour.

The strong cluster schools partnership also results in activities including:

- Darwin Experience science workshops and field trips funded by Dragon LNG.
- A wide range of transition activities, including master classes, STEM activities, wellbeing days and secondary school transition days.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Based on comprehensive evaluation and analysis, the school's development priorities are:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Improve attainment in pupils' literacy and numeracy skills, closing the gap between eFSM and non-eFSM progress and attainment, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing skills of eFSM learners in Reception – Y2• Literacy and numeracy skills of eFSM learners in Y3-6• Oracy skills of all learners |
| 2 | Improve the quality of teaching and learning, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pace of learning• Suitable levels of challenge for all learners in focus and independent activities• Facilitating high quality independent learning across Y3-6• The use of formative action to support learner progression within and across lessons |
| 3 | Improve standards of Welsh second language |
| 4 | Develop the religious identity and life of the school to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wholehearted commitment to putting faith and spiritual development at the heart of the curriculum.• The Christian ethos permeates the whole educational experience.• The continued importance of Gelliswick's clearly ascribed Christian values and their outworking in the life of schools• High quality religious education and collective worship makes a major contribution to the church school's Christian ethos.• Pupils are enabled to engage seriously with and develop an understanding of the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child should be enabled to flourish in their potential as a child of God, as a sign and expression of the Kingdom. This is at the heart of the Church's distinctive mission. |
| 5 | Improve learner attendance, closing the gap between eFSM and non-eFSM attendance, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner below 80% attendance on Fridays, who are above 85% on other days • Learners whose attendance is below 90% |

Standards and progress overall

Most pupils make good progress, and many reach age related attainment levels by the end of year 6. This is very good progress from the average nursery baselines where a large minority of pupils enter school with below age-related development. This progress is already having an impact by the end of year 1 with many learners reaching age related attainment in skills areas. Attainment is strong by the end of year 6 with about one third of learners attaining above age-related expectations at the end of 2024.

PUPIL PARTICIPATION, SPORTING AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROVISION

Sports are provided both through the curriculum and through extra-curricular provision. This may involve tuition from qualified coaches from local sports organisations. The school also has a partnership with Sport Pembrokeshire who deliver PE lessons to pupils across the school. Provision for learning in arts and music are also through both lessons and extra-curricular activities. These include visiting artists and drama workshops, the Ballet Cymru Duets scholarship and our school choir, as well as our partnership with Pembrokeshire Music Service who deliver peripatetic instrument lessons.

2023-24 pupil participation, curriculum enrichment and extra-curricular activities and opportunities:

Pupil Voice Groups in 2023-24

- The School Council, an elected group, worked with the head teacher and staff to improve our school.
- Our Criw Cymraeg promoted the Welsh language and award tocyn iaith's for speaking Welsh. They led assemblies and weekly rewards and organized our 'Shwmae' day.
- Spiritual Ambassadors, supported Harvest celebrations and Operation Christmas Child, compiling boxes of gifts and hygiene items for underprivileged children in other countries.
- Digital Leaders looked at how we can look after technology in school. They created videos for the school to show them how to care for our technology.
- KIVA Kids supported other children in playing inclusively, and supported staff with promoting anti-bullying during anti-bullying week.
- The Eco Champions formed during the year and have focused on energy use in our building.
- Our Attendance Champions promoted good attendance, arranged weekly presentations and awards, and supported the head teacher in reviewing the effectiveness of the attendance prize draw

Clubs and extra-curricular activity included:

- Art club
- Lunchtime club
- Gelliswick VC School Choir
- Music club
- STEM club
- Dance Club
- Multi-sports club
- Football club
- Netball club
- Cricket Festivals
- Football matches
- Pembrokeshire Cross Country Championships
- Outdoor and adventurous pursuits

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

| | School Target | Actual Attendance | Authorised Absence | Unauthorised Absence |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2023-24 All pupils | 95% | 89.66 | 5.67% | 4.66% |
| 2023-24 Y1-6 | 95% | 90.45% | 5.48% | 4.08% |
| 2023-24 Nurs to Rec | 95% | 86.81% | 6.34% | 6.79% |

Whole school attendance improved in 2023-24 by 0.24% from 89.42% to 89.66%. There is currently no statutory requirement to set attendance targets. However, the governing body has previously set a target of 95%. Attendance for the past three years has been lower than this, with the pandemic having an impact.

In 2023-24 the gap between the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM), who access the school essentials grant, and those who are non-eFSM, closed slightly.

| Year | Boys' attendance | Girls' attendance |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2023-24 | 88.68% | 90.20% |
| 2022-23 | 89.38% | 89.98% |

| Year | eFSM pupil attendance | Non-eFSM pupil attendance |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 88.38% | 90.20% |
| 2022-23 | 86.96% | 90.49% |

There remains a small gap between the attendance of boys and girls, which has closed over the past year.

Attendance on Friday is notably lower than other weekdays and has declined this year.

| Year | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 2023-24 | 90.48% | 91.73% | 91.22% | 90.77% | 85.59% |
| 2022-23 | 90.19% | 91.84% | 92.01% | 91.79% | 87.41% |

In order to counter potential lost learning, the governing body is committed to improving attendance for learners, and in supporting learners to make positive choices about attendance. The following measures have been implemented in support of our attendance policy:

- Support for the Pembrokeshire County Council 'It Starts in School' attendance campaign. The school also featured in the Local Authority's adverts.
- Gelliswick's attendance campaign: 'Don't be Late for the Gate' and 'You have to be in it to win it'.
- Additional attendance officer
- Capacity to support higher number of learners and families with attendance support plans
- Revised monitoring systems
- Weekly attendance competition for classes
- Pupil voice group of Attendance Champions
- Termly attendance Prize Draw

The governing body remains committed to working in partnership with parents, for parents to support their child in achieving success in school.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION AND TEACHING METHODS

The school teaches according to the requirements of the school curriculum for Wales which has grown out of the Donaldson review and was launched throughout Wales from September 2022. The purpose of the new curriculum is to support children to be:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives

- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Therefore the emphasis of the curriculum at Gelliswick is to equip young people for life, and ensure they make good progress throughout their time at school. The curriculum is designed to ensure that pupils learn the key skills they need, and to be able to apply their knowledge creatively. There is an emphasis on communication and literacy skills, on number skills, and on reasoning skills. We also aim to ensure pupils are able to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Teachers plan together to ensure continuity and progression, and lessons are designed to ensure that every pupil makes progress through appropriate challenge and differentiated activities. All children are carefully monitored and assessed to ensure progress is being made, and that pupils understand how they are performing and what they need to do next.

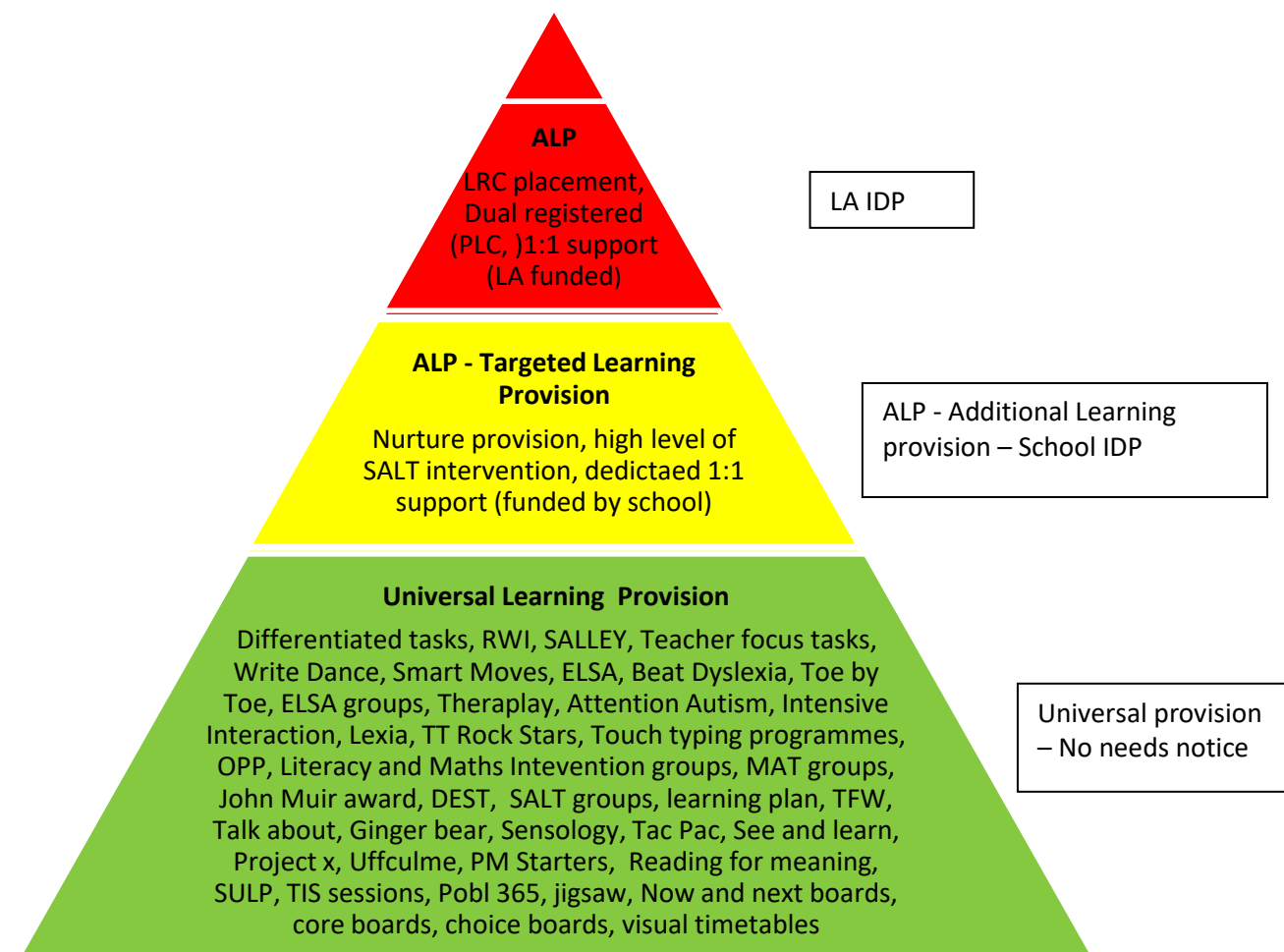
[Please find a summary of our curriculum on our website.](#)

USE OF WELSH

Gelliswick is an English medium Primary school, where Welsh is taught as a second language. We teach Welsh daily and use it around our school. We have an active 'Crew Cymraeg' who support and encourage the use of the Welsh language throughout our school.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

During the 2023-24 academic year, the school provided a range of Additional Learning Provision (ALP), in line with the *Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021*. By the end of 2023-24, ALP was in place for 12.6% of learners. The school has a system of graduated support with the unique ALP that Gelliswick offers learners, and a clear pathway through the new ALN system. This is a working document and not an exhaustive list:



The ALNCo supports and advises staff in the monitoring and review of Individual Development Plans (IDPs). Review is undertaken regularly in partnership with parents, and with professionals from external agencies when appropriate. The ALNCo has robust plans for Person Centered Planning (PCP) meetings and reviews to take place for pupils in the mandatory year groups. All pupils who are Children and Young People Looked After (CYPLA) have support arrangements in place in partnership with the LA. All staff (including support staff) receive training to develop their understanding and knowledge of the ALN transformation that came into effect in January 2022. The whole school approach to health and wellbeing, including partnerships with a wide range of external professionals and agencies from the Education service, Social Care and Health, supports the provision for ALN.

Current equality objectives from the [Strategic Equality Plan and Accessibility Plan](#) include

- 1. Reduce the attainment and attendance gap between eFSM and non-FSM learners**
- 2. Provide cultural, active and learning experiences for learners who may not otherwise access these experiences owing to vulnerability, disability or disadvantage**
- 3. Improve pupils' and parents' online safety to reduce the risk of bullying, including bullying in connection with protected characteristics**

TOILET FACILITIES

There are appropriate toilet facilities for all pupils at the school, all of which are designed to promote anti-bullying. On the ground floor these are in the cloakrooms of 10 classrooms, and additionally adjoining the hall and near the south door to the 3G pitch; there are two fully accessible hygiene rooms. On the second storey there are two separate units of toilets for pupils and one accessible hygiene room. All toilets are cleaned daily, in line with protecting against communicable diseases, and both the caretaker and head teacher monitor the standard of cleaning.

2023-24 FINAL SCHOOL RESOURCES STATEMENT

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Funding for the Financial Year | £2,420,675.00 |
| School Reserve Balance brought forward from Last Year | £437,162.20 |
| Grants | £344,012.22 |
| Total Funds Available | £3,201,849.42 |
| Less: Budget Expenditure | |
| Staffing Costs | £2,403,802.14 |
| Premises Costs | £228,307.50 |
| Supplies and Services | £339,952.43 |
| Other costs | £0 |
| Total expenditure | £2,972,062.07 |
| In year income | £140,974.02 |
| 2023-24 Year End Reserve Balance | £370,761.37 |

Together we value, we hope, we give and we achieve



Together we value, we hope, we give and we achieve.

Parents' Right to Request a Meeting with the School's Governing Body

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Your right to request a meeting with the school's governing body

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with a governing body, on matters which are of concern to them. If parents wish to use their rights under the Act to hold a meeting, 4 conditions will need to be satisfied:

1. Parents will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting. The parents of at least 10% of the school's registered pupils/ 30 registered pupils (whichever is lower) will need to sign the petition. I can provide guidance, if requested, on how a paper or electronic petition can be raised. Please do not start a petition without receiving this guidance.
2. The meeting must be called to discuss matters which affect the school. The meeting cannot be called to discuss such matters as the progress of individual pupils, or to make a complaint against a member of the school's staff or governing body.
3. A maximum of 3 meetings can be held during the school year. The law allows parents to use their rights to request up to 3 meetings with a school governing body during the school year.
4. There must be at least 25 school days left in the school year. The law makes it a condition that at least 25 school days are left in the school year when the petition is received so that the meeting can be held. A "school day" means a day when the school is open to pupils.

Any petition requesting a meeting with this school's governing body should be sent to the Chair of the Governing Body at the school's address.

Further advice on how parents may go about requesting a meeting with a governing body is available on the Welsh Government's website at:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/130503-statutory-guidance-parentsmeetings-en-v2.pdf>

Cllr Yvonne Southwell

Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr / Chair of Governors

Autumn term 2024