



Rhayader Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Rhaeadr

Governing Body of Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School Annual Report to Parents 2023 - 2024

Message from the Chair

As the Chair of Governors, I am honoured to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and progress that our school community has experienced over the past year.

Our teaching staff, through innovative and engaging methods, have fostered an environment that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and a passion for learning. In addition to academic achievements, our school places great importance on extracurricular activities, such as numerous sporting events and afterschool clubs, which have provided children with opportunities to explore their talents, develop leadership skills, and build lasting friendships.

The sense of community at is one of our greatest strengths. Our parents, teachers, and children have actively participated in various charity events. The Parent Teacher Friends Association have held Summer and Christmas Fairs on top of disco's and held pop up shops. The profits raised from these events have helped the school to purchase much needed extra provisions for the children on top of making wonderful memories for them to cherish. The governors are very grateful for the additional funds the PTFA provide for the school, without their support many activities could not happen due to the limited budget provided by the local authority.

This year, we saw the school train new teachers, provide placements for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) pass their induction year and teaching assistants become Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA). The school is proud to be a learning organization for all. In addition, our headteacher, Mrs Linda Crockett, was seconded to work with ESTYN for the Spring Term and is now a Registered Inspector leading inspections of other schools for ESTYN. We also celebrated to members of staff being runners up in the Welsh Government Teaching Awards, congratulations to Miss Carys Jones and Miss Emma Evans; it is lovely to see their hard work and commitment recognized at such a high level.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children.

The Governors welcome any questions at any time during the year and these can be addressed to the Governing Body via the clerk to the Governing Body.

Graham Taylor

Chair of Governors

The role of the Governing Body

A governor is someone who:

- is a volunteer
- cares about teaching, learning and children
- represents those people with a key interest in the school, including parents, staff, the local community, the church and the local authority
- is part of a team which accepts responsibility for everything a school does
- has time to commit to meetings and other occasions when needed
- is willing to learn
- is able to act as a critical friend who supports the school but also challenges and asks questions about how the school works and the standards it achieves
- acts as a link between parents, the local community, the local authority, the church and the school.

The full Governing Body meets regularly throughout each academic year. The Headteacher's written report on the school is considered and discussed at each meeting. There are also sub-committee meetings held. These committees deal with specific issues, e.g. finance, staffing, curriculum, premises and health and safety.



Who are school governors?

The governing body has a core group of 15 governors consisting of:

- 4 x Parent governors
- 1 x Teacher governors
- 1 x Staff governors
- 3 x Local Authority governors
- 2 x Community governors
- 3 x church
- The Headteacher
- The Deputy Headteacher sits on the governing body as an observer

All governors share exactly the same powers and major goals, which are to safeguard the quality of teaching and learning provided by the school to raise standards of achievement and attainment for the pupils and the staff, and to be accountable to the local community for the school's effectiveness.

LA Governors

Cllr. Angela Davies - (Term of office ends 04/01/2025)

Mrs Veronica Jones-Evans (resigned on) Mrs. Natalie Schmidt – started October 2024 (Term of office ends 17/09/2028)

Vacancy - Miss Kate Blower - started October 2024 (Term of office ends 15/07/2028)

Community Governors

Mr Graham Taylor (Chair) - (Term of office ends 31/08/2026)

Mrs Katy Cronin – resigned October 2024 - **Vacancy**

Parent Governors

Mr Guto Carrod (Vice Chair) - (Term of office ends 04/12/2026)

Mrs Anneka Price - (Term of office ends 16/11/2024)

Miss Shelby Parker - (Term of office ends 04/09/2027)

Mrs Suze Owen - (Term of office ends 19/10/26)

Teacher Governor

Mrs Julie Rimmer - (Term of office ends 15/11/2027)

Staff Governors

Miss Carys Jones - (Term of office ends 07/01/2026)

Foundation Governors

Rev'd Robert Simpson (Term of office ends 10/03/2028)

Mrs Lisa Lloyd – (Term of office ends 04/11/2028)

Mrs Alys Stuart - (Term of office ends 15/01/2027)

Headteacher Governor

Mrs Linda Crockett





Link Governors

Named Governors:	AOLE Link Governors:
<p>Safeguarding – Cllr Angela Davies LAC – Mr Graham Taylor ALN – Mrs Lisa Lloyd Health and Safety – Mrs Lisa Lloyd Attendance – Graham Taylor Equal Opportunities – Miss Carys Jones Equality and Diversity – Mrs Suze Owen</p>	<p>Welsh – Mr Guto Carrod Lang, Lit and Comm – Mrs Alys Stuart Maths & Numeracy – Miss Shelby Parker Expressive Arts – Mrs Suze Owen Humanities – Mrs Alys Stuart Health & Wellbeing – Mrs Katy Cronin Science & Technology – Mr Guto Carrod</p>

Work of the Governing Body

The governors are each allocated a curriculum subjects. The governors regularly visit each class to monitor the impact of the spending decisions on the quality of learning experiences at our school. They report back to the other governors during the meetings. Our governors have an active role in the school and attended many events held at the school such as leaver’s assemblies, concerts, PTFA activities and special days.

Groups of children have presented to members of committees on an arrangement of topics and governors have visited the school to observe activities and talk to pupils. This helps ensure the pupils are making progress across a range of areas.

Governors have undertaken the performance management of the headteacher to ensure key improvements have been completed.

Governors have attended a range of training to ensure that the school is carrying out statutory duties as it should.

Committee Structure 2023/24

Staff Disciplinary & Dismissal	Staff Disciplinary & Dismissal Appeals	Pupil discipline & exclusions committee	Pay Review
Mrs Alys Stuart, Mr Graham Taylor Mrs Lisa Lloyd	Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Suzanne Owen Cllr Angela Davies	Mr Graham Taylor Mrs Lisa Lloyd Mr Guto Carrod	Cllr Angela Davies Mr Graham Taylor Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Alys Stuart
Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher selection panel	Headteacher Performance Management	Headteacher Performance Management Appeals	Pay Review Appeals
Cllr Angela Davies Mr Graham Taylor Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Alys Stuart	Cllr Angela Davies Mr Graham Taylor Mr Guto Carrod	Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Suzanne Owen Mrs Lisa Lloyd	Mr Guto Carrod Mrs Lisa Lloyd Mrs Suzanne Owen
Staff Grievance	Staff Grievance Appeals	Complaints Committee:	Staffing Committee
Mr Guto Carrod Mrs Veronica Jones-Evans Mrs Lisa Lloyd	Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Suzanne Owen Cllr Angela Davies	Mr Guto Carrod (Complaints Officer) Mrs Veronica Jones-Evans Mrs Lisa Lloyd	Cllr Angela Davies Mr Graham Taylor Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Alys Stuart
Capability	Capability Appeals	Health and Safety Committee	Finance
Cllr Angela Davies Mr Graham Taylor Mrs Katy Cronin Mrs Alys Stuart	Mr Guto Carrod Mrs Lisa Lloyd Mrs Suzanne Owen Mrs Veronica Jones-Evans	Miss Carys Jones, Mrs Julie Rimmer Mrs Lisa Lloyd Mrs Anneka Price	Mr Graham Taylor Mr Guto Carrod Cllr Angela Davies

Governing Body Expenses

No expenses were claimed by the governing body during 2023 – 2024.



School Clubs

The following clubs are held at lunchtime and after school at stages during the year
Choir, Sports, Football, Netball and well-being.

Breakfast Club

The Welsh Assembly Government funds a proportion of the Breakfast Club initiative where children can have a breakfast of cereal or toast and are supervised until school starts.

Breakfast times are 8.00 am to 8.45 am. The children can choose to play games, draw or listen to music.

The charge is £1.50 a day.



The School Day

Times of sessions

Morning Reception to year 2 8.55 to 12.00

Morning Year 3 to year 6 8.55am to 12.30

Afternoon 1.30pm to 3.30pm



Attendance

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher regularly monitor attendance and punctuality and discuss pupils whose attendance causes concern. Parents are asked to phone or message the school on the first day of absence to let us know why your child is absent or late.

The school will contact any parent where an absence is not known.

Attendance last year was **92%**. The governor set target was 95%.

We can only achieve the expected standards if you support us by ensuring your child is in school when they should be.

We focus on attendance because...

- School work is easier to cope with
- Pupils feel more secure
- Friendships more easily maintained
- Longer term prospects are better being on time

We focus on lateness because.... If your child is 10 minutes late a day they miss:

- 50 minutes learning a week
- 633 minutes a term
- Over 32 hours a year



Class	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	% Attend
Aderyn Y To	5.79	0.34	93.87
Brongoch	8.79	0.37	90.83
Gwdi-Hw	7.81	0.71	91.48
Barcud Coch	6.12	0.59	93.30
Colomen	8.06	1.23	90.71
Gwalch Bach	7.05	0.72	92.24
Curyll Coch	8.47	0.30	91.24
Hebog Glas	5.87	0.49	93.64
Bwncath	7.37	1.18	91.45
Totals	7.34	0.66	92.0

Enrichment Opportunities

- Children in Year 2 -6 have visited Rhayader Swimming Pool for swimming activities during the year.
- Children in Year 5/6 visited Llangrannog Urdd Activity Centre for 3 days to do 'outdoor and adventurous activities' and learn Welsh.
- Children in Year 4 visited Cardiff Urdd Centre to learn about the capital city and learn about the journey of coal.
- We have sports day for each year group during the summer term.
- We enter football, cross country, cricket and netball tournaments

We are fortunate to have excellent sporting facilities which allows the children to have regular and varied physical activity lessons i.e. a large hall, a large field and wooded area, playground with a climbing wall plus equipment which is put out regularly such as bike and scooters. These are all designed to encourage children in 'Active Play'.



Cleaning

The school is cleaned daily once the children have left for the day. The school employs three cleaners across the school daily. In 2023 – 2024, one job was shared by teaching assistants working at the school. The cleaning team are:

Miss Zoe Allen – Cleaner in charge

Miss Emma Jones, Mrs Anneka Price and Miss Shannon Hamer.

As the school has struggled to fill the cleaning hours, following Mrs Price and Miss Hamer's resignation so they could cover After School hours, the governors have appointed an external contractor to cover those hours and ensure all school areas are cleaned daily.

Toilets

The school has five sets of male/female facilities for pupils, with a total of 17 toilets and 4 urinals. There are male and female staff toilets. There are also 2 disabled toilets, one with disabled changing facilities.

Transition

The school's partner high school is Llanidloes High School. Some of the children attend Ysgol Calon Cymru School as a preferred placement.

To help prepare the children for the move to secondary school, we have regular meetings involving staff and children with both these schools.

Community Links

- Schools Police Liaison officer regularly visits the school
- Visits to the Crosfield House to sing and work with the residents
- Fundraising for a number of charities including Children in Need, Red Nose Day and



Welsh

The school is a dual stream school, speaking both Welsh and English. Three classes are taught through the Welsh medium and the remaining six classes are English. All pupils are taught Welsh and the school has adopted 'Siarter Iaith' to further improve the use of Welsh throughout the school. The school is waiting for the Silver 'Arian' accreditation.

PTFA

The school is very fortunate to have an active PTFA who organise many fun events for the children whilst also raising money for the school. Events include Film Nights, Disco's and summer and Christmas Fairs.

** Please remember that all parents are automatically members of the PTFA and everyone is very welcome to attend meetings and help at the events.



**RHAYADER PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTFA
UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Friday 8th November
WHIZZ, BANG POP PARTY DISCO

Wednesday 4th December
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR
The PTFA will be hosting Santa Grotto and selling deluxe hot chocolates at this event

Thursday 5th December
PTFA SANTA RUN
A fun run for all children in the school. This will be during the school day.

Information for each event will be available on event posters.
All monies raised by the PTFA are used to provide items for the children, their classes and the school!

Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school promotes the importance of a healthy lifestyle amongst the pupils, particularly in relation to healthy eating and drinking. The children bring a healthy snack into school or break times and they are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. The school sells fruit daily for 30p.



Charging Policy

Under the terms of the Education Act the school will seek voluntary contributions from parents for such activities as excursions. These contributions are entirely voluntary and no child will be excluded from any such activity because he/she has not contributed. If contributions are not sufficient to cover the majority of the costs it may be necessary to cancel the proposed activity. The cost of every activity is kept to a minimum and often the school subsidises the event through the PTFA or grant funding.

Financial Statement 2023/2024

	Expenditure £
Delegated Budget	1,060,853
Salaries and wages	1,096,598
Premises	142,275
Supplies & Services	82,952
Gross Expenditure	1,113,324
INCOME	(208,502)
PLANNED UNDER/(OVER) SPEND	
	(52,471)
UNDER / (OVER) SPEND B/F	(58,182)
UNDER/ (OVER) SPEND C/F	(110,652)

The school receives regular advice and guidance through the school's finance support officer who helps draw up the school budget with the governors who helps monitor and update the school finances.

The school also has a school fund account, which is a current account with a local bank allowing the school to pay in cash and cheques and have a chequebook and bankcard to pay for non-vat resources and equipment to companies not registered on the Powys e-procurement payment site. This fund is often used as a holding account for donations, which are then paid to the Powys account when equipment is purchased.

Opening Balance 1.04.23		£ 9,228.80
INCOME		
Total Income		£ 50,523.42
EXPENDITURE		
Total Expenditure		£ 50,513.59
Closing Balance 31.03.24		£ 9,238.63

School Development Plan 2023-24

- 1: Improve pupils' literacy skills, in particular their reading and extended writing skills
- 2: Strengthen provision to develop pupils' skills in Welsh from their different starting points
- 3: Ensure that teaching provides appropriate challenge for all pupils and that feedback helps them further improve their work

Equal Opportunities & Disability Equality Plan

The school does everything possible to ensure that all pupils are offered the same opportunities regardless of race or gender. Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated.

At Rhayader Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for disabled pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and to participate fully in school life. The achievements of disabled pupils and students will be monitored and we will make reasonable adjustments to make sure that the strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Mrs Wendy Thompson (ALNCo) offers support to pupils with their learning and gives advice to staff and parents of children with additional learning needs, throughout the school. Mrs Lisa Lloyd is the governor with responsibility for ALN.

In 2021 – 2022, the school started work on the new ALN legislation, called the [Additional Learning Needs \(Wales\) Act 2018](#), and [Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\) Code 2021](#), which will replace all of the existing legislation and guidance about special educational needs.

Over a three year period, the new ALN system will replace the previous Special Educational Needs (SEN) system. As well as the name change, responsibilities towards children and young people with ALN is changing too.

All children with Additional Learning Needs have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which replaces the previous SEN Statement, Individual Education Plan or Learning and Skills Plan.

Learners with any level of Additional Learning Need who require Additional Learning Provision' (ALP) to be made for them, will be entitled to an IDP outlining their support needs. This new system protects the rights of all children, regardless of the extent of their additional learning needs.

When the school is 'made aware' that a child or young person may have additional learning needs [ALN], it MUST decide whether that child or young person does have additional learning needs through issuing an IDP notice.

Parents can request that a school consider their child's needs and request that a decision regarding ALN and IDPs are made.

Parents will be part of developing the IDP.

School Policies

All school policies have been drawn up and ratified by the Governing Body. These include statutory and non-statutory policies.

A timetable is in place to ensure the policies are kept up to date

Copies of the policies are available on the school website

www.rhayader.powys.sch.uk



Complaints procedure

If you have any concerns and would like to make a complaint, the complaint procedure is available to view on the school website.

The first stage of a complaint would be to speak to your child's class teacher.

Should it be necessary to consider the matter further the headteacher will request the complaint in writing. This complaint will then be acknowledged within 10 days.

If you feel your complaint still has not been resolved you may wish to contact the governing body of the school. This should be done by contacting the clerk to the governors Mrs Jade Land via school office.



Term Dates

2024-25

Autumn term:

- Monday 2 September 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024
- **Half Term - Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024**
- Monday 4 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024

Spring term:

- Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- **Half Term - Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 28 February 2025**
- Monday 3 March 2025 to Friday 11 April 2025

Summer term:

- Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025
- **Half Term - Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025**
- Monday 2 June 2025 to Friday 18 July 2025

Non-pupil days:

- Monday 2 September 2024
- Monday 6 January 2025
- Friday 21 March 2025

Cluster INSET days

- 7 and 8 October 2024
- 14 July 2025

It is important to remember that as well as ensuring your child has a good education we also want to make sure they have happy memories.

If there is anything you think would be useful to include in this report next year, please pass on your idea to one of the governing body members.