



# **The Federation of Cwmaber Infants and Junior Schools**

<https://www.cwmaberinfantsandjuniors.co.uk>



## **Governors' Annual Report to Parents**

### **2024-25**

The Governing Body is no longer required to hold an annual meeting with parents to discuss the report. This requirement has been replaced with the duty of the Governing Body to hold meetings on receipt of a parental petition as outlined in the School Standards and Organisation 2013 Act.

## *A note from the Chairperson.....*

*We continue to be grateful for the support of parents and guardians in supporting the school and keeping it on an even keel. That good relationship between the school and parents/guardians is vital for our pupils to progress.*

*I am pleased that the collaboration with Cwmaber Infant School in having Mrs Bethan Davies as an Executive Headteacher covering both schools still continues to work well and the two schools are continuing to improve the links between them. The two schools are working well together in implementing the new Curriculum for Wales at both schools so that progression through the curriculum will be seamless for our pupils.*

*The Infants and Junior Schools have now formed a Federation. Since January this year we now have one Governing Body over both schools. This arrangement is working well.*

### **Members of the Governing Body 2024-25 (As at July 2025)**

**Governors have not received travel or subsistence from the school's budget for any meetings attended.**

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b> | <b>Governor</b>                |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Charlotte Bishop   | 22/01/2025        | 21/01/2029      | Minor Authority Representative |
| Ken Brace          | 20/01/2025        |                 | Local Authority Representative |
| Heidi Jenkins      | 20/01/2025        |                 | Local Authority Representative |
| Colin Langford     | 20/01/2025        |                 | Local Authority Representative |
| John Taylor        | 20/01/2025        |                 | Local Authority Representative |
| Helen Atay         | 30/01/2025        | 29/01/2029      | Local Community Representative |
| Rebecca Davies     | 30/01/2025        | 29/01/2029      | Local Community Representative |
| Carol Thomas       | 30/01/2025        | 29/01/2029      | Local Community Representative |
| Vacancy            |                   |                 | Local Community Representative |
| Bethan Davies      | 06/01/2025        |                 | Headteacher                    |
| Leah Bell-Langford | 20/01/2025        | 19/01/2029      | Parent Representative          |
| Justin Davies      | 06/01/2025        | 05/01/2029      | Parent Representative          |
| Laurie Hunt        | 20/01/2025        | 19/01/2029      | Parent Representative          |
| Joanne Perry       | 06/01/2025        | 05/01/2029      | Parent Representative          |
| Heidi Davies       | 06/01/2025        | 05/01/2029      | Staff Representative           |
| Jennifer Ralph     | 27/01/2025        | 26/01/2029      | Staff Representative           |
| Louise Evans       | 06/01/2025        | 05/01/2029      | Teacher Representative         |
| Leanne Howells     | 06/01/2025        | 05/01/2029      | Teacher Representative         |

## Managerial and Curriculum

### Teaching Staff

The managerial and curriculum responsibilities for 2024-25 were as follows:

| Staff Member                     | Position                                                       | Distributed Leadership Responsibilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs B. Davies BEd.(Hons)<br>NPQH | Executive Headteacher                                          | Lead Safeguarding Officer<br>Child Protection<br>Health and Safety<br>Assessment Recording And<br>Reporting/Data Analysis<br>School Evaluation<br>SEWCTET Senior Mentor<br>Performance Management<br>Staff Development<br>Governor                                                             |
| Miss L. Howells                  | Deputy Headteacher<br>of the Juniors                           | Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer<br>Professional Learning Lead<br>Wellbeing and Equity<br>Family/Community Engagement<br>Officer<br>ALNCO<br>Performance ManagementTeam<br>Leader<br>SEWCTET Senior/Mentor<br>Teaching and Learning Council Lead<br>PPA Lead<br>Staff Governor                 |
| Mrs L. Evans                     | Deputy Head of the<br>Infants<br>Year 2 Class Teacher<br>(20%) | Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer<br>Professional Learning Lead<br>Maths Coordinator<br>LLC Coordinator<br>Family/Community Engagement<br>Officer<br>ALNCO<br>Performance ManagementTeam<br>Leader<br>SEWCTET Senior/Mentor<br>Teaching and Learning Council Lead<br>PPA Lead<br>Staff Governor |
| Miss E. Knight                   | Year 3 Class teacher<br>(60%)                                  | Industry & Community Links<br>Science and Technology Lead<br>RRS Lead<br>School Council Lead                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Mrs A. Williams                  | Year 5 Class teacher                                           | Mathematics and Numeracy Lead<br>Welsh Lead<br>Cymraeg Campus Lead<br>Ciw Cymraeg Lead<br>EVC Lead                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                 |                                             |                                                                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs S. Dann     | Year 6 Class teacher (60%)                  | Languages, Literacy and Communication Lead<br>DCF/ICT Lead<br>Techno Tribe Lead |
| Miss L Barnett  | Year 4 Class teacher                        | Humanities<br>Healthy/Eco Schools                                               |
| Miss R. Shelley | Year 3 and Year 6 Class teacher (40% & 40%) | Expressive Arts                                                                 |
| Mrs S Cribb     | Year 2 Teacher (60%)                        | Health and Wellbeing<br>Eco Schools                                             |
| Miss M Harris   | Year 1 Teacher                              | Science and Technology                                                          |
| Miss A Boanas   | Reception Teacher                           | Humanities<br>Healthy Schools                                                   |
| Miss B Brace    | Covering Miss Harris' maternity leave       | NQT                                                                             |
| Mrs N Davies    | Nursery Lead HLTA                           | Expressive Arts                                                                 |

### **Non Teaching Staff (as of July 2025)**

|                                                          |                 |                                                            |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>School Secretaries</b> - Mrs J. Ralph & Miss C. Jones |                 | <b>Caretaker /Cleaner</b> – Mr P Razimierski & Mr S Pearce |                 |
| <b>Cleaner</b> - Miss C Merkel,, Ms M. Gibbs             |                 |                                                            |                 |
| <b>Supervisory Assistants:</b>                           | Mrs J. Thomas   | Ms L. Morris                                               | Miss A. Jones   |
|                                                          | Miss A. Beddoe  | Miss. T. McNamara                                          | Miss R Hart     |
|                                                          | Miss R Graves   | Miss S Mead                                                | Miss R Thomas   |
| <b>Learning Support Assistants</b>                       | Miss A. Beddoe  | Miss. T. McNamara                                          | Miss N. Newbold |
|                                                          | Mrs S Hicks     | Mrs S Walton                                               | Mrs H Davies    |
|                                                          | Mrs L Hughes    | Mrs S Smith                                                | Miss B Parker   |
|                                                          | Miss L Williams | Miss C Berrow                                              | Miss E Purslow  |

### **Staffing**

To enable distributed leadership all staff have been assigned roles and responsibilities.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

The schools' ALNCOs ensure that resources are allocated to pupils on the ALN register in a variety of ways, depending on age and need. The school is visited by the Educational Psychologist, as and when requested.

### **More Able and Talented**

The school continues to develop strategies to ensure that it meets the needs of our Gifted and Talented pupils.

### **Enrichment Programme**

#### **School Activities**

- Bute Energy visits
- Carol service at Beulah
- Christmas parties
- Eisteddodau
- End of year parties
- Escape Room Day
- Fluoride Varnishing
- Junior Entrepreneur Fair
- Junior trip to the cinema
- Leavers' Assemblies
- Local walks
- Meet the Teacher
- National Numeracy Day
- Nativity plays
- Nursery Graduation
- Nursery trip to Cefn Mably
- Nursery trip to Jump
- School photographs
- Sports Day
- Student Enterprise
- Transition meetings and visits
- VE Celebrations
- Walking Bus
- World Book Day
- Year 1 trip to St Fagan's
- Year 1 trip to Ynysangharad Park
- Year 2 toy workshops
- Year 2 Trip to Oceans Explorers
- Year 2 trip to Plantasia
- Year 2 trip to Techniquet
- Year 2 visit to Christmas Wrapped Up
- Year 3 & 4 trip to Jump
- Year 3 trip to St Fagan's
- Year 4 Swimming Lessons
- Year 4 trip to Bristol Aerospace
- Year 4 trip to Cardiff Bay
- Year 5 & 6 Residential

- Year 5 & 6 trip to Buzz
- Year 5 Dragon Rugby sessions
- Year 5 trip to Rhondda Heritage Park
- Year 6 pupils (selected) to St Cenydd for maths transition
- Year 6 trip to Cardiff Castle
- Year 6 trip to Crucial Crew
- Year 6 visit to Easter Cracked
- Year R trip to Porthcawl
- Year R trip to the Library
- Young Writers

#### After School Clubs

- Athletics
- Art
- Cookery
- Cricket
- Dance
- Football
- Local History
- Mindfulness
- Netball
- Singing
- STEM
- Stop Animation

#### Visitors to the school

- Fire brigade visit to Nursery and juniors
- Recycling officer met Yrs 2-6
- Vaping Workshop
- Rhianon Roberts, artist, to paint a mural with the infants
- Louby Lou - storyteller
- Designed to Smile
- After school football and netball coaching sessions in the juniors
- Science Made Simple shows for the juniors
- Welsh Water
- Designed to Smile
- Netball and Basketball coaches for Year 5 & 6
- BSL & First Aid Workshops for Year 6
- Staff from St Cenydd for Yr 6 Transition
- Techniquist staff for the juniors
- Stick2Cymru music workshops for the juniors
- Lots of visitors for Careers Week
- New Nursery parents for Stay and Play



### **Parent/Community Links**

- Senghenydd Memorial Service
- Collection for the Aber Valley FC Foodbank
- Parent/Carer Consultations
- Harvest Service
- Remembrance Day Service at the Nazareth
- Parents' Forum
- Coffee & Chat
- Visits to and from Abertridwr Library
- Football Tournament with other local schools



### **Raising Funds/Awareness**

- Show Racism the Red Card
- Children in Need
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Safer Internet Day
- FoC Cinema Evening
- Comic Relief
- Sponsored "Rescue" for the RNLI
- "Proud to be Me" Day
- Year 6 to Wings to Fly
- Year 6 "It's Your Move" with Club 707
- Anti-bullying week
- Road safety week
- Welsh climate week
- NSPCC assemblies for the juniors
- Healthy Week



The school is grateful to the small number of volunteers who assist with general activities. Cardiff Met, Ystrad Mynach College and pupils from local comprehensives are offered placements and work experience.

### **Action taken to review School Policies**

All school policies are reviewed on a rolling programme.

### **Awards**

- The National Nurture Award Reaccreditation

### **School Prospectus**

A copy of the school prospectus can be found at

[Home | Cwmaber Infant & Junior Schools \(cwmaberinfantsandjuniors.co.uk\)](http://cwmaberinfantsandjuniors.co.uk)

### **School Development Planning (SDP)**

This document identifies clear priorities for the school on an annual basis. Targets are taken from the school's process of self-evaluation after consultation with all stakeholders. The plan is reviewed termly at GB meetings and progress reported to Governors.

The following SDP priorities were prioritised for 2024-25

|                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To improve the quality of teaching and learning to secure the best possible outcome for all learners                                                     |
| To improve the quality and purpose of the learning environment (indoor and outdoor) and resources to secure improved learning experiences for all pupils |
| To improve outcomes for pupils in the identified areas of learning.                                                                                      |
| To secure accurate teacher assessment in maths and writing to support effective pupil progress in these areas.                                           |
| Embed a whole school approach to teaching emotional and mental health wellbeing.                                                                         |
| Improve pupil attendance with a focus on persistent absence                                                                                              |
| Build leadership capacity across the school                                                                                                              |
| To Federate CIJ and CIS                                                                                                                                  |
| To deliver a purposeful and relevant PL offer, linked to improvement priorities that has measured impact on pupil progress.                              |

### **Professional Development Reviews (PDRs)**

A system for Performance Management for teaching and support staff is implemented throughout the school. Objectives are set for each member of staff and incorporated into the School Development Plan.

### **Use of the Welsh Language**

Cwmaber Infants and Junior Schools are English-medium schools.

All pupils are taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a lesson throughout the school and is used incidentally during the day, e.g. for instructions, counting etc. Every week, we have a Welsh assembly, when the story is in Welsh or related to Welsh culture and the songs are in Welsh.

### **Attendance**

Parents are politely reminded that if their child is absent from school, it is necessary to inform the school in writing or by telephone of the reason for the absence – preferably on the first day of the absence.

An illness, medical appointment, family holiday etc., is recorded as an authorised absence. If no explanation is received by the school then an unauthorised absence is recorded in the register – this category includes holidays of more than two weeks in any given academic year.

### **Progress Since Last Inspection**

The schools was last inspected by Estyn Inspection Services in 2016 and 2017. All parents were provided with a summary of the Inspection report (full report can be found on the Estyn website). The school was pleased with the findings of the team and progress continues to be made.

### **Assessment and Progression**

We use a range of assessment processes to ensure learners are supported and challenged accordingly. This enables practitioners to plan effectively for learner feedback and progression. When planning knowledge, skills and experiences for our learners, we ensure the Principles of Progression underpin progression across all Areas of Learning.

We have worked in partnership with the Education Achievement Services (EAS) to ensure we are performing to the best of our ability.

### **Equity Grant**

This is money awarded to the school based on Free School Meal (FSM) numbers. The money was used to employ additional support for pupils.

## **Premises**

The school premises are regularly inspected and routine maintenance work continues throughout the year. The Governing Body continues to develop the interior and exterior of the building. The pupil toilets are of a good standard and kept to a high standard of cleanliness by Caerphilly Cleaning and the caretakers.

## **Friends of Cwmaber and Helping Hands Committee**

Governors, staff and pupils very much appreciate the hard work of our FOC/HHC which provide additional resources for our schools, as well as subsidising school trips. This year they have organised and paid for the following:

- Neon discos
- Breakfast and Tea with Santa
- Christmas Fayres
- Summer Fete
- Year 2 and Year 6 Proms
- Raffles
- Mothering Sunday and Fathers' Day Crafts in the Juniors
- Paid for the Escape Room Day
- Provided Selection Boxes and Easter Eggs for all the children

## **Feedback**

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the office or, better still, join us for our next Parents' Forum meeting on 12th November.

*The Governing Body would like to thank all parents / carers, the  
Friends Of Cwmaber and Helping Hands, the non-teaching and teaching staff  
for  
their continued commitment and support.*

## **Appendix 1: School Terms and Holidays**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

**Autumn term starts and the first day of the school year Monday 1**

**September 2025 - INSET Day**

**Friday 26th September 2025 - INSET Day**

**Half term starts Monday 27 October 2025**

**Half term ends Friday 31 October 2025**

**Autumn term ends Friday 19 December 2025**

### **Spring Term 2026**

**Spring term starts Monday 5 January 2026**

**Half term starts Monday 16 February 2026**

**Half term ends Friday 20 February 2026**

**Spring term ends Friday 27 March 2026**

### **Summer Term 2026**

**Summer term starts Monday 13 April 2026**

**Half term starts Monday 25 May 2026**

**Half term ends Friday 29 May 2026**

**Summer term ends and the last day of the school year Monday 20 July 2026**

### **Autumn Term 2026**

**Autumn term starts and the first day of the school year Tuesday 1**

**September 2026**

There will be four further staff training days taken during the year.

## Appendix 2: Budget Information

2024-2025

|                                 | <i>Infants</i>     | <i>Juniors</i>     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Staffing</i>                 | <i>£640,360.21</i> | <i>£548,220.12</i> |
| <i>Premises</i>                 | <i>£74,013.00</i>  | <i>£86,229.00</i>  |
| <i>Supplies &amp; Services</i>  | <i>£27,992.00</i>  | <i>£38,120.00</i>  |
| <i>Service Level Agreements</i> | <i>£26,163.00</i>  | <i>£25,998.00</i>  |
| <i>School Development Plans</i> | <i>£3,340.00</i>   | <i>£0.00</i>       |
| <i>Total Expenditure</i>        | <i>£771,868.21</i> | <i>£698,567.12</i> |
| <i>Total Income</i>             | <i>£261,328.58</i> | <i>£157,850.48</i> |
| <i>Total Funding</i>            | <i>£744,689.00</i> | <i>£591,022.00</i> |