



Cwmaber Junior School

Governors' Annual Report to Parents

2023-24

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.

Currently there is a consultation taking place to create a Federation of the school with the Infants School. This would mean that there would be a single Governing Body over both schools instead of the existing two separate Governing Bodies. Each school would remain separate and still retain their own budgets

Members of the Governing Body 2023-24 (As at July 2024)

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

Name	Start Date	End Date	Governor
Cllr R. Gater	June 2022	June 2026	Minor Authority Representative
CB Cllr J. Taylor	Sept 2020		Local Authority Representative
Mrs H.L. Atay	February 2020	February 2028	Local Community Representative
Mrs H. Jenkins	May 2023	May 2027	Local Community Representative
Mrs J Perry	June 2021	June 2025	Parent Representative
Mr J. Davies	June 2021	June 2025	Parent Representative
Miss A. Beddoe	March 2023	March 2027	Staff representative
Miss L. Howells	September 2021	September 2025	Teacher Representative
Mrs B. Davies	January 2015		Headteacher

Managerial and Curriculum

Teaching Staff

The managerial and curriculum responsibilities for 2023-24 were as follows:

Staff Member	Position	Distributed Leadership Responsibilities
Mrs B. Davies BEd.(Hons) NPQH	Executive Headteacher	Lead Safeguarding Officer Child Protection Health and Safety Assessment Recording And Reporting/Data Analysis School Evaluation SEWCTET Senior Mentor Performance Management Staff Development Governor
Miss L. Howells BA(Hons)	Deputy Headteacher Year 3 Class teacher (40%)	Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer Professional Learning Lead Wellbeing and Equity Family/Community Engagement Officer ALNCO Performance Management Team Leader SEWCTET Senior/Mentor Teaching and Learning Council Lead PPA Lead Staff Governor
Miss E. Knight	Year 3 Class teacher (60%)	Industry & Community Links Science and Technology Lead RRS Lead School Council Lead
Mrs A. Williams	Year 5 Class teacher	Mathematics and Numeracy Lead Welsh Lead Cymraeg Campus Lead Criw Cymraeg Lead EVC Lead
Mrs S. Dann	Year 6 Class teacher	Languages, Literacy and Communication Lead DCF/ICT Lead Techno Tribe Lead
Miss L Barnett	Year 4 Class teacher	Humanities Healthy/Eco Schools

Non Teaching Staff

School Secretary - Mrs J. Ralph & Miss C. Jones		Caretaker /Cleaner - Mr J. Richards	
Cleaner - Mrs M. Francis, Ms M. Gibbs			
Supervisory Assistants:	Mrs J. Thomas	Ms L. Morris	Miss A. Jones
	Miss A. Beddoe	Miss. T. McNamara	Miss C. Allen
Learning Support Assistants	Miss A. Beddoe	Miss. T. McNamara	Miss N. Newbold
	Miss D Williams (Inclusion)		Mr J Rogers (1-1)

Staffing

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

Additional Learning Needs

The school's ALNCO ensures 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

- Cheerleading Workshop
- Chinese New Year activities
- Christmas Concerts
- Christmas Dinner Day
- Christmas Fayre
- Christmas Parties
- Class Parties



- Cinema Night
- Cinema Trip
- Eisteddfod
- Flourishing Finales
- In-House Gardening Sessions
- Local Visits
- Pantomime Trip
- Science Week activities
- World Book Day
- Year 3 & 4 Trip to Folly Farm
- Year 3 and 4 Drama Workshops
- Year 3 and 4 trips to St Fagans
- Year 3 Visit to Infants' School Concert Rehearsal
- Year 4 Swimming Lessons
- Year 5 & 6 Residential
- Year 5 & 6 Trip to Heatherton
- Year 5 Trip to the Film Studios
- Year 6 Shakespeare Day
- Year 6 Trip to Parc Stormy
- Year 6 Visit to Easter Cracked
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
- Year 6 Prom
- After School Clubs
 - Art
 - Football
 - Well-Being
 - Stop Animation
 - Quiet Reading
 - Cricket
 - Athletics
 - Duo Lingo



Visitors to the school

- Club 707 Assemblies
- Gwent Police
- Guitar Teacher
- Photographer
- Librarian
- Paul Thorburn, rugby player



- Ukulele teacher
- CCFC Football
- Cricket Coach

Parent/Community Links

- Senghenydd Memorial Service
- Harvest Service
- Collection for the Aber Valley FC Foodbank
- Parent/Carer Consultations
- Harvest Service
- Remembrance Day Service at the Nazareth
- Aber Valley Lantern Parade
- Aber Valley Christmas Tree Festival
- Carol Service
- Literacy Evening
- Parents' Forum
- Coffee & Chat
- Visits to and from Abertridwr Library
- Football and Cricket Tournaments with other local schools



Raising Funds/Awareness

- Show Racism the Red Card
- Wear Blue for Diabetes
- Children in Need
- Wear Red for Velindre day
- 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



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

- Rights Respecting Gold
- Eco Platinum Renewal

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 staff and the Governing Body. The plan is reviewed termly at GB meetings and progress reported to Governors.

Performance Management

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

School Prospectus

A copy of the school prospectus can be found at

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

The following SDP targets were prioritised for 2023-24

- Literacy/Numeracy
- Wellbeing
- The new CfW
- The new ALN Act
- Self Evaluation

Use of the Welsh Language

Cwmaber Junior is an English-medium school.

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 school was last inspected by Estyn Inspection Services in the Autumn Term 2016. 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 work in partnership with the Education Achievement Services (EAS) to ensure we are performing to the best of our ability.

Pupil Development 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 Mr Richards.

Friends of Cwmaber

Governors, staff and pupils very much appreciate the hard work of our FOC which provides additional resources for our school, as well as subsidising school trips. This year the FOC have organised Autumn disco, raffles, Christmas craft, cinema evening, prom, m

Mothers' and Fathers' Day craft, Easter eggs, and selection boxes.

Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the office or, better still, join us for our next Parents' Forum meeting on 11th November.

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

Appendix 1: School Terms and Holidays

Autumn Term 2024

INSET Day Monday 2 September

Term starts Tuesday 3 September 2024

Half term starts Monday 28 October 2024

Half term ends Friday 1 November 2024

INSET Day Monday 25 November 2024

Term ends Friday 20 December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Term starts Monday 6 January 2025

Half term starts Monday 24 February 2025

Half term ends Friday 28 February 2025

Term ends Friday 11 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Term starts Monday 28 April 2025

Half term starts Monday 26 May 2025

Half term ends Friday 30 May 2025

Term ends Monday 21 July 2025

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

Appendix 2: Budget Information

2023-2024

<i>Staffing</i>	<i>£469,603</i>
<i>Premises</i>	<i>£72,883</i>
<i>Supplies & Services</i>	<i>£37,070</i>
<i>Transport</i>	<i>£0</i>
<i>Service Level Agreements</i>	<i>£23,721</i>
<i>School Development Plans</i>	<i>£7,569</i>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>£610,846</i>
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>£97,118</i>
<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>£575,806</i>