



The Federation of Cwmaber Infants and Junior Schools



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

Governors' Annual Report to Parents

2025-26

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.

No meetings were requested in 2025-26.

A note from the Chairperson.....

As a Governing Body we continue to be grateful for the support of Parents and Guardians to both the Infants and the Junior Schools. Such co-operation is vital to ensure that pupils get the best out of their education in our schools.

The Federation of the two schools under one Governing Body is working well. Both schools have collaborated in devising and delivering the new curriculum so that the children's progression through the federation is seamless.

Once again, we would like to thank Parents and Guardians for their continued support.

Members of the Governing Body 2025-26 (As at July 2026)

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

Name	Start Date	End Date	Governor
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
Elaine Ellis	09/10/2025	08/10/2029	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

Next election for a parent governor - January 2029

Chair of Governors -

Cllr John Taylor

% Cwmaber Junior School,

Brynhafod Road,

Abertridwr,

CF83 4BH

Clerk to the Governing Body - Mrs Liz Everson

% Ty Penallta,

Tredomen Park,

Ystrad Mynach,

Hengoed

CF82 7PG

Managerial and Curriculum

Teaching Staff

The managerial and curriculum responsibilities for 2025-26 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	Deputy Headteacher of the Juniors	Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer Professional Learning Lead Wellbeing and Equity Family/Community Engagement Officer ALNCO Performance Management Team Leader SEWCTET Senior/Mentor Nurture Ninjas Lead PPA Lead Staff Governor

Mrs L. Evans	Deputy Head of the Infants Year 2 Class Teacher (20%)	Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer Professional Learning Lead Maths Coordinator LLC Coordinator Family/Community Engagement Officer ALNCO Performance Management Team Leader Cymraeg Campus Lead SEWCTET Senior/Mentor PPA Lead Staff Governor
Miss E. Knight	Year 3 Class teacher (60%)	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 Ciw Cymraeg Lead EVC Lead
Mrs S. Dann	Year 3 Class teacher (60%)	Languages, Literacy and Communication Lead DCF/ICT Lead
Miss L Barnett	Year 6 Class teacher	Humanities Healthy/Eco Schools
Miss R. Shelley	Year 4 Class teacher	Expressive Arts
Mrs S Cribb	Year 2 Teacher (80%)	Health and Wellbeing Eco Schools
Miss M Harris	Year 1 Teacher	Science and Technology
Miss A Boanas	Reception Teacher (on maternity leave)	Humanities Healthy Schools
Miss B Brace	Covering Miss Bonas' maternity leave	Supply
Mrs N Davies	Nursery Lead HLTA	Expressive Arts

Non Teaching Staff (as of July 2025)

School Secretaries - Mrs J. Ralph & Miss C. Jones		Caretaker /Cleaner – Mr P Razimierski & Mr S Pearce	
Cleaner - Miss C Merkel,, Ms M. Gibbs			
Supervisory Assistants:	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
	Miss V Harding	Miss L Knowles	

Learning Support Assistants	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
	Mrs C Pritchard	Mrs C Berrow	Miss E Purslow

Staffing

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

Curriculum Organisation and Teaching

The curriculum has been carefully planned to ensure all groups of learners have a wide range of experiences, offering both breadth and depth of knowledge, with clear progression in skills from the time they start Nursery, through to Year 6. Through a blend of teaching approaches, learners take responsibility for their own learning, challenge themselves and work collaboratively through authentic contexts. The importance of effort, critical thinking and problem solving are instilled and celebrated. These help our pupils to make connections and apply their skills through meaningful, exciting experiences which are fun and engaging.

Additional Learning Needs

The school implemented its ALN policy in line with the ALN Code for Wales, with a focus on early identification, appropriate support and inclusion.

ALN provision and resources were regularly reviewed by the ALNCOs to ensure they met pupils' individual needs.

The school worked closely with parents/carers, the Local Authority, Educational Psychology Service, LA ALN Advisory Service and other professionals to provide appropriate support.

Admissions arrangements followed Local Authority procedures, with reasonable adjustments made where required to support pupils with ALN.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

The Health Snacks Steering Group are responsible for promoting the school's policy of only allowing fresh fruit and water during the school day. Healthy eating and drinking is encouraged through the school's curriculum and Parent/Carer Network Meetings.

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

Parent/Community Links

- Coffee & Chat
- Club 707 Assemblies
- Christmas Wrapped Up
- Family learning session
- Harvest donations to the Aber Valley Foodbank
- Harvest service in Beulah
- Remembrance Day service in the Nazareth
- Senghenydd Memorial Service
- Parents' Evenings
- Autism Aware
- Bird boxes
- Club 707 Assemblies and Football Club
- Criw Cymraeg Visit to Nant-y-Parc
- Easter Cracked
- Easter service in Beulah
- Flourishing Finales
- New Risers Stay and Play
- Oasis colouring competition
- Parents' Evenings
- Year 5 & 6 football tournament
- Infants Summer Fair
- Junior Summer Soiree
- Junior Enterprise Event
- Cwmaber team in the Caerphilly 2k
- Knights Brown work on the Infant garden
- Club 707 Assemblies
- Club 707 "It's Your Move" with Year 6
- Club 707 World Cup project with Year 4
- Kerbcraft with Year 2
- Assemblies from the Community Librarian
- Year 2 poems published in Tatws Sion Cent
- Family Learning
- Reading Support teams
- Spotlight on Schools Competition

Raising Funds/Awareness

- Wore odd socks for Anti-bullying Day
- Show Racism the Red Card assembly
- Dress Down Day for Children in Need
- Beep Beep Road Safety Day
- Dress Down Day for Comic Relief
- Kerbcraft Sessions
- Healthy Week

- Proud to be Me Day

Trips and Events

- Year 4 trip to Craft in the Bay
- Year 6 trip to Cardiff Castle
- Year 5 trip to the South Wales Mining Museum
- Year 1 trip to St Fagan's
- Year 3 trip to St Fagan's
- Year 2 toy workshop
- Reception Tie-Dye Workshop
- Nursery Teddy Bear Making
- Year 4 bag printing workshop
- Year 5 Science Workshop - Abbie Ayre and the Shed of Science
- Year 6 Cycling Proficiency
- Dragon Rugby
- Cardiff Football
- Garage Band
- Neon discos
- Local walks
- Nativity plays
- Christmas Dinner
- Infants' Entrepreneur Christmas Market
- Breakfast and Tea with Santa
- Christmas parties
- Bute Energy visits
- Cwmaber Escape Room
- Eisteddodau
- Local walks
- Nursery trip to Parc Play
- Nurture class visit to the Oasis
- World Book Day
- Year 1 trip to Ynysangharad Park
- Year 2 Trip to Cardiff Bay
- Year 2 visit to the local shops
- Year 3 visit to Cardiff Castle
- Year 4 trip to Bristol Aerospace
- Year 5 Dragon Rugby sessions
- Year 5 visit to Cardiff Museum
- Year 6 trip to Crucial Crew
- Year 6 visit to Easter Cracked
- Year 6 visit to Parc Stormy
- Year R trip to Porthcawl
- Young Writers
- Year 5 & 6 Residential
- Walking Bus
- Sports Day
- Year 2 trip to Plantasia
- Year 1 Trip to Margam Park

- Year 4 Swimming Lessons
- Transition meetings and visits
- Nursery & Reception picnics
- Meet the Teacher
- Leavers' Assemblies
- Nursery Graduation
- Year 2 and Year 6 Proms
- Year 3 & 4 trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Park
- Year 5 & 6 trip to Heatherton
- End of year parties

Visitors

- School photographs
- Fluoride varnishing
- Flu Immunisation
- Bute Energy
- Fire Service
- Community Police
- House Martin surveys
- Lindsay Whittle to talk about WW2
- Homes for Hedgehogs
- Nicola Roylance - Chaplain to the Deaf
- Sharon Tyler - Oasis
- Welsh Water
- BSL & First Aid Workshops for Year 6
- Staff from St Cenydd for Yr 6 Transition
- Lots of visitors for Careers Week
- New Nursery parents for Stay and Play
- Dental Nurses
- Birdwatch
- PCSOs

The school is grateful to the small number of volunteers who assist with general activities. Students from Cardiff Metropolitan University and from local colleges are offered placements and work experience.

Sports

- This year we have taken part in the Year 5 & 6 football tournament and the Caerphilly 2k run.
- Planned Cricket and Year 3 & 4 football matches were unable to take place due to the weather.
- There have been in-house opportunities for rugby, football and athletics and pupils have been encouraged to take part in Caerphilly netball club. We hope to have our own team next year.
- We have been liaising with Caerphilly CBC, Club 707 and other local schools to increase our range of sporting activities.

Action taken to review School Policies

All school policies are reviewed on a rolling programme. This includes Safeguarding and Attendance.

Awards

- Both schools received the Eco-Schools 6th Platinum Renewal Award without any formal recommendations.

School Prospectus

A copy of the school prospectuses can be found on the school website.

www.cwmaberinfantsandjuniors.co.uk

The prospectus is updated regularly and in 2026-27 we hope to produce one prospectus for the federation.

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 2025-26

To improve the quality, consistency, and impact of mathematics teaching and leadership, to maximise impact on pupil progress to reduce cumulative dysfluency in Number
To improve the quality of well-being, care and guidance for all pupils especially those at risk of adverse outcomes.
To strengthen and further develop independent learning across the school

Professional Development Reviews (PDRs)

A system for Performance Management for teaching and support staff is implemented throughout the school. Priorities 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 for 2025-26

	Authorised Absences		Unauthorised Absences		Attendance
Juniors	2972	7.0%	645	1.5%	91.5%
Infants	2811	9.2%	655	2.1%	88.7%

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

An illness, medical appointment, family circumstance 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, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Progress Since Last Inspection

The schools were 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 Local Authority School Improvement Service(LASIS) 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 which provides additional resources for our schools, as well as subsidising school trips. This year they have organised and paid for the following:

- Discos
- Cinema Evening
- Sponsored "Rescue" for the juniors
- Breakfast and Tea with Santa
- Christmas Fayres
- Summer Fete
- Summer Soiree
- Year 2 and Year 6 Proms
- Raffles
- 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 2026

- Autumn term starts Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Half term starts Monday 26 October 2026
- Half term ends Friday 30 October 2026
- Autumn term ends Friday 18 December 2026

Spring Term 2027

- Spring term starts Monday 4 January 2027
- Half term starts Monday 8 February 2027
- Half term ends Friday 12 February 2027
- Spring term ends Friday 19 March 2027

Summer Term 2027

- Summer term starts Monday 5 April 2027
- Half term starts Monday 31 May 2027
- Half term ends Friday 4 June 2027
- Summer term Tuesday 20 July 2027

INSET Days

1st September, 23rd October, 4th January, 5th April, 19th July, 20th July

Appendix 2: Budget Information

2025-2026

	<i>Infants</i>	<i>Juniors</i>
<i>Staffing</i>	<i>£669,787.52</i>	<i>£594,094.16</i>
<i>Premises</i>	<i>£70,559.38</i>	<i>£76,286.55</i>
<i>Supplies & Services</i>	<i>£27,063.93</i>	<i>£44,358.88</i>
<i>Service Level Agreements</i>	<i>£26,205.04</i>	<i>£25,263.41</i>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>£793,615.87</i>	<i>£740,003.00</i>
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>£579,600.49</i>	<i>£600,789.54</i>
<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>£778,675.87</i>	<i>£622,530.00</i>

No gifts were made to the school.