

Headteacher: Mrs. C. Wheadon

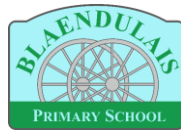
Chair of Governors: Ms. T. James

Education Support Advisor: Mrs. H. Burrows

Standert Terrace, Seven Sisters, Neath, SA10 9AA Tel - 01639 700261

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Blaendulais Primary School



Governors' Annual Report to Parents and Carers 2024-2025

All parents/carers of pupils registered at the school are eligible to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the opportunity for raising questions with reference to the report.

If you wish this meeting to be held please inform the school in writing.

A full copy of the report will be available from the school upon request:

Chair of Governors:

c/o Blaendulais Primary School

Standert Terrace

Seven Sisters

School Tel - 01639 700261

Clerk to Governors:

Mrs Karen Cross

c/o Blaendulais Primary School

Standert Terrace

Seven Sisters

School Tel - 01639 700261

They may both also be contacted via the school.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Governors annual report and to discuss any issues wish parents wish to raise.

Members of the Governing Body 2024/2025

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

Chair of Governing Body	Ms. T. James
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Vice Chair	Mr. D. John
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Headteacher	Mrs. C. Wheadon
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Teaching Staff Governor	Mrs. H. Jones
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Non - Teaching Staff Governor	Vacancy
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Parent Governors	Mrs. K. Humphreys Ms. R. Davies Mr. G. Lias
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LA Governors	Cllr. S. Hunt Mrs. G. Smith Mr. E. Lewis
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Community Governors	Ms. T. James Mr. D. John Mrs. H. Bickle Jones Vacancy
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Clerk to the Governors	Mrs. K. Cross
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When fully constituted this Governing Body is made up as follows:

LEA Representatives	3	Community Governors	4
Parent Governors	4	Teacher Governor(s)	1
Staff Representative	1	Additional Community	0
Headteacher	1	Total	14

Blaendulais Primary School Staff

HEADTEACHER: Mrs Cathryn Wheadon

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Mr Craig Fulford-Astley

TEACHING STAFF:

Mrs L Rudge
Mrs H Edwards
Mr W Curtis
Mr I Clark
Mrs A Totterdale

NON-TEACHING STAFF:

Mrs K Cross	Administrative Officer
Mrs D Hattab	Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Isaac	Teaching Assistant
Mrs K Matts	Teaching Assistant
Ms A. George	Teaching Assistant
Mrs H Richards	Teaching Assistant
Miss R Pugh	Teaching Assistant
Mrs K Evans	Teaching Assistant
Miss C Williams	Teaching Assistant
Miss S Richards	Teaching Assistant
Mr K Roberts	Caretaker
Ms T Lewis	Cook

Kitchen Assistants	Mrs M Davies
	Mrs C Elkins
	Miss L Collins

Lunchtime Supervisors	Mrs T Evans
	Mrs H Richards
	Mrs D Daniels
	Ms S Hunter

Breakfast Club Staff

Miss L Collins

Mrs C Elkins

Cleaning Staff

Miss L Collins

Mrs D Daniel

Ms V Griffiths

Ms S Hunter

Resolutions Passed at Last Meeting

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

Election of Parent Governors

At the current time, there is one Parent Governor vacancy – please contact the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Karen Cross, if interested. All parents with pupils in the school have been notified and ballot forms issued.

Financial Statement

There were no payments to Governing Body members for travel or subsistence expenses.

School Categorisation

Schools are no longer categorized however as of the last year of categorisation Blaendulais Primary School was a 'Green' school.

School Improvement Priorities for 2022-2025

1. To enhance and develop the health and wellbeing of the school community.
2. To develop the new curriculum and progression throughout the school including higher order thinking skills.
3. To establish and develop the language of numeracy throughout the curriculum.
4. To establish a reading culture throughout the school, developing higher order reading skills.

Full details of priorities can be found in the School Improvement Plan which is available to parents upon request.

May Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 26th May 2025

Attendance

As you are aware, regular attendance and punctuality play a vital part in a child's education. It is essential that pupils attend regularly if they are to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. The Educational Welfare Officer works closely with the Headteacher to promote good attendance and to support families with difficulties.

School liaises closely with the Local Authority to monitor attendance and punctuality. We have close contact with the Education Welfare Officer whereby home visits, telephone calls and follow up visits are carried out to reduce absences in named pupils / families. All families are urged to contact the school on the first day of a pupil's absence and every day thereafter.

Exclusions

There has been one permanent exclusions in the school over the past 3 years.

Links with the Community

Our school enjoys the increasing support of an active Friends of Blaendulais Association which regularly holds events. The association is open to everyone in the village who wishes to help to raise funds and support school activities. The Friends Association organised a number of events and raised funds for the benefit of our pupils, such as Halloween discos, Christmas/Summer Fetes, film nights, supper with Santa and Raffles.

As a school we support the local food bank at harvest time, decorate Christmas Trees and join the Carol Service, all in the Community Centre

The Learning Support Class has written to the council to ask for recycling bins to be placed in the village and are carrying out village walks. We welcome and provide placements for students at school and college, to enable them to gain valuable experiences to equip them for the world of work.

The school values its links with local religious groups and regularly welcomes Captain Andy from the Centre or Mission, Neath.

Links with the police remain strong. Local police officers and PCSOs visit school on a regular basis. PCSO Siwan Davies regularly attends the school to support initiatives and maintain a link with pupils.

In addition visits are made from community dentists, the fire service, the health visitor etc.

Sport

All pupils take part in weekly physical education and games lessons as part of the National Curriculum during which pupils have access to gymnastics, dance, games, athletics and outdoor adventure lessons. In addition, all pupils in Key Stage 2 have access to swimming lessons in block sessions at Glynneath Swimming Pool.

After school sports clubs are available for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 on a weekly basis. The school's Sports Ambassadors and Playheroes play a vital role in the organisation and delivery of these clubs alongside staff.

Older pupils continue to participate in competitions and festivals organised by the Dragon Sport. Sports include rugby, football and netball.

Healthy School

Blaendulais Primary has achieved Healthy School Status Phase 5 and is currently working towards Phase 6 which it hopes to achieve soon. Pupils are encouraged to bring healthy packed lunches and have the option to purchase or bring fruit for break-time. All pupils have access to water throughout the day.

Session Times

Morning session begins at 8.50am and ends at 12.20 pm in Years 1-6.

Morning session begins at 8.45am and ends at 11.45am in Early Years.

Afternoon sessions begins at 1:10 p.m. and ends at 3.15pm

School Leavers

Year 6 pupils who left the school at the end of the academic Year 2023/24

16 transferred to Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School and Ysgol Hendrefelin and Ysgol Bae Baglan.

2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Education Committee has approved the following school terms and holiday dates for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Term	Term begins	Half Term	Term Ends	
Autumn 2024	Monday 2 nd September 2024	Monday 28 th October 2024 Friday 1 st November 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024	4 N (Fri
Spring 2025	Monday 6 th January 2025	Monday 24 th February 2025 Friday 28 th February 2025	Friday 11 th April 2025	
Summer 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025	Monday 26 th May 2025- Friday 30 th May 2025	Monday 21 st July 2025	

School Designated INSET/Staff preparation days - 5 days are to be taken at the schools' discretion during each school year (between Monday 2nd September and Monday 1st July 2025).

Good Friday: Monday 18th April 2025

Easter Monday: Monday 21st April 2025

May Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 26th May 2025

School Prospectus

The school prospectus has been reviewed and amended since the last meeting. Amendments to the Prospectus include:

*School aspects of curriculum, teaching methods and organisation in school have been amended and are included within this report

A copy of the School Prospectus is issued to all new starters to school and a copy can be found on the school website.

Disability / Equality Policy

The School has a comprehensive Policy for Equal Opportunities which has been adopted by the school's Governing Body. The Governing Body, Head Teacher and all staff, seek to promote equal opportunities and good relations between persons of different racial groups, able bodied and disabled persons and between males and females. Equal opportunity is promoted for everyone and throughout all aspects of school life at Blaendulais Primary School. Governors also follow legal requirements in making appointments and receive advice from the Local Authority's Human Resource Department.

At Blaendulais Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all 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 close their disability and to participate fully in school life.

The Curriculum, Teaching Methods and Organisation at School

LEARNING AND TEACHING IN OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

At Blaendulais Primary, we will aim to ensure our school is a safe, fun and happy learning environment.

From September 2023 the Welsh Government requires all Primary Schools to design their own curriculum. This means that we will use the new national framework called "[A Curriculum for Wales](#)" to support the needs of each child in the context of Blaendulais Primary School. The framework consists of six [Areas of Learning and Experiences \(AoLEs\)](#) as well as the cross-curricular themes of literacy, numeracy and digital-competency.

Learning and teaching time during a normal school week comprises of:

- Early Years – 22 hours 5 minutes
- Year 1/2 – 22 hours 55 minutes
- Year 3-6 – 24 hours 10 minutes

All pupils from Years 2 – 6 sit a National Test in Literacy (Reading) and two tests in Numeracy – one Procedural Number and the other in Reasoning. As from September 2014 it became statutory to report to parents on the Literacy and Numeracy Framework.

Any complaints about the curriculum should be made in the same way as general complaints detailed further in this booklet.

Teaching Methods

Throughout the school, a variety of teaching methods are employed in various lessons. Whole class teaching takes place as well as group, paired, peer supported and individual work. Work is also differentiated to suit the needs of individual pupils.

Teaching assistants are employed in the school and work with individuals and groups of children under the direction of the class teacher.

Organisation

The organisation of classes throughout the school is governed by pupil numbers and staffing restrictions. At the present time, there are 6 classes.

Classes consist of:

Nursery	-	12 pupils
Reception	-	9 pupils
LSC 1	-	7 pupils
LSC 2	-	10 pupils
Year 1 / 2	-	23 pupils
Year 3/4	-	18 pupils
Year 5/6	-	31 pupils
Total	-	110 pupils

Curriculum Arrangements for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

The school enters into regular consultation with representatives of the LA in order to support pupils with additional learning needs.

We want all pupils to feel equally valued at Blaendulais Primary School and so pupils with additional educational needs are integrated into mainstream classes. Reverse integration takes place as and when it is deemed appropriate. When necessary, pupils may be withdrawn from class to work in a small group or on an individual basis with a teaching assistant.

The school also makes use of LA support staff to provide additional, specialised, teaching resources and advice.

Staff are in regular receipt of up to date training which is appropriate to the needs of pupils in our school.

The LA has a policy for inclusion of all pupils including disabled pupils, which the school has adopted. The Additional Learning Needs Policy has been reviewed during the last year and The Code of Practice is adhered to stringently. The school's policy for Additional Learning Needs can be viewed at school.

The school's ALN Governor is: Mr Emyr Lewis. He visits the school's ALN Coordinator every half term to discuss provision and arrangements for pupils with ALN.

At the present time we have a total of 38 pupils on the ALN register (18 of whom are statemented) across the whole school, with a variety of additional needs. A range of appropriate intervention strategies and support is given to these pupils on a daily basis.

Language Category

Blaendulais Primary is an English Medium School.

Welsh Second Language

Welsh is introduced as a second language in short, mainly oral lessons from the time the child enters school. Enjoyment in learning the language is incorporated in a variety of situations: incidental, conversational, display and in singing. Welsh is used in most areas of the curriculum and is an integral part of classroom life.

As pupils progress, they develop reading and writing skills in Welsh in addition to oral skills.

We receive support and relevant teaching materials from peripatetic Welsh teacher visits, delivering lessons and providing support to all staff throughout the school.

We aim to promote bilingualism across the curriculum and aim to enable pupils to communicate effectively in English and Welsh at a level appropriate to their age and ability. Bilingual development is on-going within the school and is often apparent in most areas of the curriculum.

CYNEFIN is also important in our pupils' development and understanding of their Welsh heritage, culture and passion is reflected throughout the year in arrange of activities.

Security Arrangements

The condition and state of repair of the buildings have been monitored by the Governing Body. All external doors are fitted with turn-buckle locks. Day time security locks are in use from 9.00 a.m. All children or visitors who arrive after this time must use the main entrance, and access into the building is controlled by an electronic intercom system. All security locks can be opened from inside the building. Regulation fire doors have been fitted to all classrooms, hall & cloakroom entrances. All visitors to the school are asked to sign the Visitors' Book and wear lanyards so they can be easily identified.

There are 8 qualified first aiders in school.

Toilet Facilities

There are separate and adequate toilet facilities for boys and girls in all parts of the school building. All toilets are cleaned daily. The school also has a unisex disabled toilet located near the entrance to both the Foundation Phase building and Key Stage 2 building.

Neath Port Talbot CBC

Period: April 22-March 23

Blaendulais Primary

DELEGATED COSTS 2022/23

-	<u>YTD-Actual</u>
<u>TEACHERS SALARIES</u>	£ 456,385.71
<u>SALARIES</u>	£ 254,082.45
<u>WAGES</u>	£ -
<u>OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES</u>	£ -
<u>PREMISES</u>	£ 36,386.59
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	£ 608.30
<u>SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</u>	£ 26,781.74
<u>TRANSFER PAYMENTS</u>	-£ 549.84
<u>SUPPORT SERVICES</u>	£ 74,826.84
<u>GOVERNMENT GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	-£ 164,063.57
<u>SALES</u>	£ -
<u>FEES AND CHARGES INCOME</u>	£ -
<u>RENTS</u>	£ -
<u>INTERNAL RECHARGES</u>	-£ 11,017.10
<u>INTEREST RECEIVED</u>	-£ 320.00
<u>TRANSFERS</u>	-£ 41,268.12
-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	£ 631,853.00

NON-DELEGATED COSTS 2022/23

-	<u>YTD-Actual</u>
<u>TEACHERS SALARIES</u>	-
<u>OTHER EMPLOYEES</u>	-
<u>OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES</u>	-
<u>OTHER DIRECT COSTS</u>	-
<u>MISC INCOME</u>	-
<u>CAPITAL CHARGES</u>	£ 51,357.00
<u>CONTRIBUTION TO/FROM RESERVES</u>	-£ 41,268.00
-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	£ 10,089.00
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