

RADNOR VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

YSGOL DYFFRYN MAESYFED



Governors Annual Report
to Parents
2020-2021

Welcome from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to present the Governors' Annual Report for 2020/2021.

I was hoping it would be quite different from last year, which was dominated by the Covid 19 outbreak. Sadly, however, the pandemic has continued into this year too, bringing with it further demands and challenges. That said, it is important to recognise that despite the challenges, it has been another successful year for school. There is still much to celebrate with so many examples of dedication and hard work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Beck and all our staff at school for their ongoing commitment and hard work this year.

While covid restrictions continued to prevent staff from carrying out their roles in the usual way, the staff at Radnor Valley adapted to a whole range of alternative ways of working. During the lockdown staff worked tirelessly to support all pupils. Throughout this period Governors were informed regularly about how things were going and we all recognised the challenges staff, parents and pupils were facing.

It was wonderful when pupils were finally back in school. They were so happy to be back and to see their friends. They have maintained a love of learning which is evident in their attitudes to learning, their enthusiasm and the work they are producing. We are delighted that the pupils continue to thrive despite another challenging year.

Finally, myself and the other governors would also like to thank all parents and carers for your support this year.

I hope you find this report interesting and informative

Yours sincerely,

Jane Donald -Chair of the Governing Body

Our Governing body

The Governing Body and the Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic management of the school, acting within the framework set by National legislation and by policies of the Local Authority.

Governors have a wide range of legal responsibilities. We appoint staff, we make sure the Curriculum is being delivered, we are involved with analysis of school results and with setting the School Development Plan. Governors also regularly review school policies. We have over sixty-five policies and so have a rolling programme of updating each policy. Some of the policies must be updated annually. We ensure that our School Prospectus is available to all parents. We also ensure the school makes the best possible use of resources and uses any grants it receives to beneficial effect.

The full governing body meets twice a term. We would normally also be in school regularly to observe teaching, speak to pupils, meet with staff, and attend school events. Although a lot of these activities were curtailed again last year, we continued our meetings virtually and I also spoke with pupils virtually too. We hope that this coming year we will be able to resume our visits into school again.

The Governing Body has ten places, and I am pleased to say we have good attendance at our meetings. I am very privileged to be elected as Chair again this year and would like to thank my governor colleagues for their support and for continuing to meet and support school virtually.

We said goodbye to Richard Harris at the end of the school year. Richard has been a parent governor for several years and was always willing to help and support school in any way. We will miss him. As a parent governor, Richard had come to the end of his 4-year term of office and as he no longer had children at the school was unable to be re-elected as a parent governor. This opens a vacancy for a new parent governor to join our team.

The Governing Body for our school for the forthcoming year is below:

(Parent governor vacancies are advertised to all parents when they become available. I encourage you to consider applying when a vacancy arises as it is a fantastic way to learn more about how school works.)

Below is the list of our current governors showing the type of governor they are and when their term of office will end. A term of office is for 4 years. Governors can be re-elected to their roles at the end of their term of office. Parent Governor vacancies are advertised to all parents when they become available.

Jane Donald -Chair	Community Governor	May 2022
Nic Dinsdale -Vice Chair	LEA Governor	September 2022
Michael Jones	LEA Governor	August 2024
Jennifer Hodge	Minor Authority Governor	May 2025
<i>Vacancy</i>	Parent Governor	
Ken Williams	Parent Governor	September 2023
Carlee Evans	Community Governor	September 2024
Hari Young	Parent Governor	May 2024
Jan Curtis	Teacher Governor	September 2024
Jill Lingard	Non-teaching Staff Governor	September 2024
Mrs Ros Beck	Head teacher	

Mrs Kit Beaton continues as our clerk. The governors would like to thank her for all her efforts in keeping our minutes, making sure essential information is sent to us all and ensuring that our virtual meetings run smoothly. Mrs Beaton can be contacted through school with any questions concerning our Governing Body.

School Staff

Mrs Beck has led school through another tough year. She has also continued her role as Executive Head of Radnor Valley and Gladestry School. The collaboration with Gladestry

School is working very well and indeed there has been opportunity for staff from both schools to work together. Mrs Beck is also undertaking some work for the Local Authority this year. Her experience and excellence in school management means she has been selected as an Improvement Adviser to other schools.

Mrs Curtis is an excellent Deputy. She oversees day to day running at Radnor Valley when Mrs Beck is not on site. Mrs Curtis's expertise has also been acknowledged and she has been chosen as a Pedagogy Lead for the New Curriculum and will work with the authority and other schools, sharing her knowledge and expertise.

Mrs Curtis is our Key Stage 2 teacher this year and we are also pleased to have appointed Miss Laura Powell to also teach in Key Stage 2. This means that what would have been a large KS2 class, now has the benefit of two teachers and can be split into smaller groups. We hope that Miss Powell will be very happy at Radnor Valley. Miss Burgoyne is our teacher for Key Stage 1. Mrs Edwards continues to teach and encourage the use of the Welsh language in school.

Our teachers work extremely hard to ensure the highest standards for all our pupils.

Our Teaching Assistants - Mrs Jones, Mrs Everett, Mrs Lingard, and Mrs Beaton continue to provide consistent, high-quality support to our teachers. They all help to support children in class. This can be in a group situation or working with individual children.

I must also thank Mrs Everett and Mrs Lingard for keeping our School Facebook page regularly updated. This has been a fantastic way for parents and governors to see all the varied activities going on in school.

Mrs Dinsdale also provides cover as a teacher when needed as well as running a very busy office. She ensures parents are kept well informed too with regular communications.

Mrs Jones does a brilliant job in keeping our school clean and helps in the kitchen. She has also recently taken on a role in Breakfast club too.

This term we said goodbye to our school cook Ms Kelly Spence. Kelly is currently training to be a solicitor and we wish her well in her new career. The children will certainly miss her.

Our Achievements and successes

In recent years we have been categorised as a GREEN school. The Welsh Government categorise a green school as follows

'A highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement. These schools have a track record in raising standards and have the capacity to support other schools to do better.'

There has been no categorisation of schools since the pandemic.

Our Core visits from our Challenge Advisor, Mrs Fielding were extremely positive. These visits were conducted virtually. Part of her visit was looking at how school had prepared for children having to work from home. Below are some of her comments

- The school had good systems in place so that they ensured that all pupils were seen, heard, and supported throughout lockdown
- Overall engagement in blended learning sessions has been particularly good.
- Pupils thoroughly enjoyed theme weeks of blended learning. For example, the project on Flight
- Pupil voice and ensuring that pupils lead on the areas of learning is a strength of the school
- The school maintains a strong focus on pupil wellbeing, which is reflected in the training undertaken by staff such as mindfulness and yoga.
- Health and in particular physical activity are given a high priority with two dedicated PE days.
- The school ensures that resources, planning and delivery of the curriculum is well differentiated and matched to pupils needs.
- The school monitors the progress of all groups of learners carefully and all staff know their pupils well
- The school is well prepared for the new curriculum having been part of its development from the start, taking an active role in trialling and taking measured risks in learning.

Powys County Council also conducted a survey with parents last year on how schools had managed learning throughout lockdowns. Thankyou to the parents from Radnor Valley who completed the survey. There were fourteen responses which were very positive. All parents agreed that the school did a good job on the following points

- The school engages my child fully in a range of learning activities
- The school ensures my child has the opportunity to work with other pupils
- My child is provided with regular feedback
- My child feels supported by the school
- My child is provided with regular feedback
- My child can contact school if there is a problem
- My child enjoys most of the activities

Parents also had the opportunity to say how things could be improved and all these suggestions were looked at and discussed at our governor meeting.

Health and Safety

- Issues of health and safety are a regular item at Governor meetings. Because of the situation with Covid 19, a detailed Risk assessment was completed at the start of the year. This was a regular item on our meeting agenda and the Risk assessment was updated regularly as the situation changed. The risk assessment remains in place this year and will be revised and updated regularly.
- All pupils have access to toilet facilities of a high standard. All toilets are cleaned daily, and hygiene is monitored by teaching and support staff during the day.

Additional cleaning and sanitising protocols introduced last year will continue. The whole school is given an extensive clean each day.

- Fire drills were conducted, and fire alarms regularly tested
- The re surfacing of the playground was completed by Powys County Council in January. It has made an enormous difference to our pupils and is a much safer surface
- The grounds have been improved and old sheds removed and replaced
- All children have access to water during the day
- Most pupils make healthy choices and choose to have fruit at breaktimes
- School nurses administered flu immunisations in the Autumn Term 2020
- Walkie Talkies were purchased for staff to use to ensure contact could be maintained without having to move from classrooms
- Detailed risk assessments were also undertaken for the school visits that took place in the summer term.

Safeguarding

Mrs Beck is the designated Child Protection/ Safeguarding officer and Mrs Donald is the designated Governor. They ensure that training for all staff and governors is regularly undertaken. The Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy are updated annually and are the points of reference for all matters relating to protecting your children. A copy is available in school and on the website. A Safeguarding Audit is completed each year and is ratified by our full governing body.

Attendance

Attendance of pupils is regularly monitored by Mrs Beck and Mrs Evans who has governor responsibility for attendance. Despite the difficulties last year, our attendance record was good. Because of the situation with the Covid pandemic, schools have been informed by Welsh Government that they do not need to publish Attendance targets this year in the Annual Report.

We also do not have to officially set an attendance target for 2021/ 2022.

The number of children on roll in September 2021 is 48.

Highlights of the year

These are just some of the activities the children enjoyed last year. It was lovely to see that the children continued to raise money for a variety of charities. This is something that everyone should be immensely proud of.

- Although we did not have a traditional Harvest Festival, a collection was made for a local foodbank and 28.1Kg of food was collected
- £75.50 was raised for Macmillan with a cake sale

- £101.11 was raised for The British Legion with the sale of poppies. We could not have children at the Remembrance Service this year, so I laid a wreath on their behalf. The children all went to the monument during school time and laid their own memorial poppy stones.
- A pyjama day was held for Children in Need which raised £113
- Christmas parties were held, and the children had a virtual visit from Santa. They had a Christmas lunch too. The Christmas production was lovely, and parents received a recorded copy to watch at home.
- Following the resurfacing of the playground, new markings were added, and the children loved playing games outside.
- St David's Day was celebrated in school
- A crazy headgear day was held for Comic Relief and £77 was raised.
- A project to walk virtually around Wales was held during lockdown with an exciting display in school to show how far they had got. The pupils worked together towards a common goal whilst learning about places and geographical diversity in Wales.
- We were finally able to organise out of school trips in the Summer Term. KS2 pupils enjoyed a day at an Outdoor Centre and KS1 pupils enjoyed a day at a farm.
- The children put together an end of year performance which they all enjoyed
- An ice cream van visited school at the end of term and children were able to choose their ice cream. This was extremely popular.
- The outdoor areas at school have been extremely well used. The children have planted fruit and vegetables, provided water for hedgehogs and other animals, put out a bee water station, collected rainwater for watering plants, started a compost bin and have used a fantastic 'bug hotel' made by one of our parents to observe bugs closely. The outdoor classroom bought by 'Friends' is a brilliant asset and is very well used.

In addition to regular P.E lessons at school the following opportunities for sport were provided

- Hockey lessons
- Quidditch games
- Forest school type activities
- Sports Day was held. It was sad that parents were not allowed to be there, but staff ensured that everyone enjoyed the activities.

Children love sporting activities, and it is hoped that this year we will be able to resume local competitions with other schools.

Local community

Again, this year activities involving the local community were limited by Covid restrictions, but the children and staff certainly made effective use of the beautiful area we live in. There were numerous walks around the village including a walk in Harley Valley, welly walks, a walk up Smatcher and a visit to explore the church grounds.

Year 6 Transition to High School

It is also important that we ensure our Year 6 pupils are ready for their transition to High School. There are usually regular opportunities throughout the year for activities with local High Schools but because of the lockdown not all of these were possible

We had 4 Year 6 Pupils leaving in the summer and staff did their best to ensure they enjoyed their last term in school. The pupils were able to plant a cherry tree which school were lucky to receive from the Japanese Ambassador. I had a chance to meet with the Year 6 pupils at the end of term to discuss their time at New Radnor and the planting of the tree was very special for them. It was lovely to hear about their time at school and all the positive things they had to say. Luckily, they were able to enjoy a transition day at John Beddoes High School. They felt that this had given them a good insight into Secondary School, and they were all looking forward to new beginnings. We all wish them well.

Helping our pupils to achieve

Everyone wants learning at Radnor Valley to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all our pupils. The staff strive to make the curriculum appropriate to pupils' needs with teaching styles that develop positive attitudes to learning and the acquisition of both knowledge and the skills for self-discovery. Every child is carefully monitored throughout the year and pupil progress meetings are held to discuss each pupil individually. This ensures that pupils who may need extra help are identified quickly and those who are particularly gifted in certain areas are given appropriate enrichment activities.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils

Last year there were 7 pupils on the SEN register. These pupils were supported according to their needs. Each pupil on the register had an I.E.P (individual Education Plan). This plan details areas for concern and targets are set to support and improve these areas of weakness. Some children have one- to- one support outside of the classroom and use specialist programs such as Nessy. Others have support in small groups and some children access support within the classroom. Children are assessed at the beginning and end of any intervention so that progress can be measured. Staff use a wide range of teaching strategies which not only challenges the pupils but also builds and secures confidence in learning.

Mrs Beck has overall responsibility for ALN, and Mrs Donald is the Governor with responsibility. A copy of our ALN policy is available in school.

This year sees the implementation of a new code of practice for ALN across Wales. Both Mrs Beck and I have undertaken training in order to prepare Staff and Governors for the new procedures.

MAT (more able and talented)

These pupils are identified through observation in class, data, and awareness of what they do outside school. MAT pupils are well catered for in highly differentiated tasks and open-

ended challenges set for them. For example, green screening individual and group presentations and performing these to an audience.

Welsh Language

It is an important part of our school to celebrate our Welsh heritage. Welsh is taught and spoken by class teachers and support staff every day. Pupils are currently taught in specific class sessions as well as in daily practice. Incidental Welsh is integrated throughout the school day. Many signs in school are also bilingual. Criw Cymraeg continue to encourage Welsh speaking amongst pupils. Many of the new markings on the playground are in Welsh to encourage its use during play too. Mrs Edwards also continues to work with pupils to develop their use of Welsh both in their books and orally. She recently worked with pupils to secure a grant for more Welsh Language resources.

Listening to pupils

School Council – The school council led by Mrs Curtis and with governor support from Mrs Hodge are a group of children who represent their classmates in having a pupil voice in school.

Eco Committee – The Eco committee is led by Miss Burgoyne with Mrs Donald as governor support. This group also meet regularly to ensure that Radnor Valley is an eco-friendly school. They encourage pupils to remember to save water and turn off lights as well as having specific topics, for example, they have recently introduced a recycling scheme for stretchy plastics.

Hopefully, this year our governors will be able to resume their listening to learners' sessions with pupils.

School Development Plan

The School Development Plan reflects our on-going commitment to improving the educational experience and learning environment provided for all children. Targets are based on our self-evaluation systems but also consider recommendations from our Core visit Advisor.

During 2020 -2021 our SDP outlined the following targets. Targets 1-4 were continued from the previous year because of lockdown restrictions. Targets 5 and 6 were specifically chosen to prepare pupils to a full return to school in September 2020

- 1.To improve the standards of Welsh across the curriculum
- 2.To improve planning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners.
- 3.To further improve the specific provision for specific groups of ALN and MAT pupils
- 4.To ensure the consistency of high-quality teaching and learning through improving the range of strategies used across the school

5.To support and develop pupils' confidence and resilience, ensuring they feel safe and secure as schools reopen.

6.To develop a school wide strategy for blended learning that secures a continuation of intended learning, in the event of a positive test for Covid 19 disrupting online learning for an individual, group or all of the children in school.

Staff have made good progress across all targets. This was commented on in our visit from our Challenge Adviser.

Our focus for this academic year will be on the following targets

1. Implementation of the New Welsh Curriculum in regard to continuing to refine and improve teaching and learning approaches to secure good progress for all learners.
2. Meet the changing needs of all learners through the more extensive use of learning conversations and pre-teaching techniques. To continue to explore ways of challenging our more able learners.
3. To continue with the focus on health and wellbeing with further development of outdoor classrooms and outdoor learning. To explore the 'Jigsaw' scheme as part of our provision for health and wellbeing.
4. To implement the new code of practice for Additional Learning Needs.

Pupil performance results

There are no targets or assessment results to report this year. This is a stipulation from the Welsh Government.

Finance

The Head and Governors have a responsibility to ensure there is good financial management practice in school and that we provide good value for money. As budgets become tighter it is vital that we maintain a workable budget. Our thanks go to Mrs Beck for her efforts in ensuring we can do this. At each of our meetings we are provide with a detailed report on how the budget currently stands and we make our decisions based on this. Throughout last year we were also in receipt of several grants to be spent in specific areas. Governors are informed of how the school wish to use these grants and we then agree these expenditures at our meetings. The information in the appendices, at the end of this report shows the budget and actual spend for 2020/21.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Breakfast club continues to be popular and financially viable and so we are able to continue it this year. Our thanks go to Mrs SJ Jones who runs it so well and this year will be supported by Mrs Amanda Jones. It is very popular and is used regularly by parents.

Although some parents are very keen for us to have an After School Club, we still do not have enough parents who can commit to using it regularly. This means that at the moment an after-school club would not be viable and our finance team at Powys County Council will not permit us to run at a loss. We will keep this under review and if circumstances change, we will reinstate it.

Friends of Radnor Valley

The 'Friends' have continued to meet virtually over the last year. They were thrilled to see the resurfacing of the playground in January as they had worked very hard to raise funds for this to be possible. They have continued to raise funds wherever they can. A new initiative was to get people to sign up to the Powys Lotto. They have also got the token collection in Tesco. New picnic benches have been purchased for the playground. Everyone at school thanks Jill Lingard and her team for all their efforts. It is hoped that we can soon look forward to events in school again. In the meantime, do consider joining the Friends to help with fundraising. Jill can be contacted through school.

Term dates for Year 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2021

Thursday 2nd September 2021 to Friday 22nd October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25th October 2021 to Friday 29th October 2021

Monday 1st November 2021 to Wednesday 22nd December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022 to Friday 18th February 2022

Half Term: Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022

Monday 28th February 2022 to Thursday 7th April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 26th April 2022 to Friday 27th May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

Monday 6th June 2022 to Thursday 14th July 2022

Non – Pupil Days 2021/2022

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Friday 8th April 2022

Monday 25th April 2022

Friday 15th July 2022

Finally, school governing bodies are no longer required to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, parents can request up to three meetings in any school year with a governing body if they have any matters of concern. Ten percent of parents are needed to

request a meeting. Information is available in school or on the Welsh Government website. As no requests were received, the governing body did not hold a meeting with parents in 2020/2021.

Our school offers an open-door policy and parents are encouraged to approach the school at the earliest opportunity to discuss any concerns.

If you have any comments about this Annual Report or would like to know more about being a Governor or the work of the Governing Body, then please do not hesitate to contact me

Mrs Jane Donald, Chair of Governors

3 The Porth, New Radnor LD8 2SX

01544 350

508 jane.donald18@btinternet.com

