

St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Catholig
San Joseff



"One Family - Many Gifts"
"Un Teulu – Anrhegion Di-ri"

The Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2024-25

The Governing body works closely with our team of committed staff to review and evaluate our school's progress and plan our future priorities. It has a statutory obligation to provide specific information to parents but we include additional information which gives a flavour of the work and activity within the school with the Catholic faith and Gospel values at its heart. As a governing body we remain keen for parents and pupils to have an opportunity to engage with us in developing the school for the benefit of all. To this end we hope that you find this report of interest and encourage any comments or questions that you may have. This year, the governing body are focused on the oversight of the financial performance of the school alongside monitoring of curriculum, safeguarding, leadership and teaching.

The headteacher Philippa Brooks and deputy headteacher Chris Anthony continue to step up to the challenges presented and are coping with an ever-demanding budget. They are committed to creating an inclusive environment where pupils are healthy, ambitious and resilient. Above all, they aspire to shape confident learners with strong morals and values, that leave our school with happy memories of their formative years.

As a Governing body, we are always incredibly thankful for the support shown by the parents, grandparents and carers and the part they play in our school family. Our excellent PTA have been very active in thinking of novel ideas to raise funds of which we are extremely grateful.

I am sure that you will continue to give Mrs Brooks and her team of committed staff your support for the forthcoming year and the governors look forward to receiving reports and witnessing first hand activities within the school. We hope that 2024 – 2025 will be a successful and happy one for your child.

Richard Hopkins
Chair of the Governing Body

R. Hopkins

School Governors
2024-25

<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Parent</u>
Mr. R. Hopkins (Chair)	Mrs. R. Weaver
Mrs. M. Caddick	
Rev. Fr. N. Evans	
Mr. R. Clifford	
Mr. A. Potts (Vice chair)	
Mrs. S. Fitchett	
Mrs. B. Lee	
Mrs. C. Elias	

<u>Community</u>	<u>Teaching</u>
Cllr. Mr R Price	Mr. C. Anthony

<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Non-teaching</u>
Mrs. P. Brooks	Mrs. A. Adams

<u>LEA</u>	<u>Clerk to G.B.</u>
Mrs. G. Davies	Mrs. M. Winter

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023-24

	<u>Delegated</u>	<u>Non-Delegated</u>
Teachers Salaries	£365,379	
Non-Teaching Salaries	£177,991	
Other Employee Expenses	£56	
Premises inc Contracts	£37,778	
Capitation	£53,515	
Capital Financing		£629
Transportation	£845	£80,596
Support Services	£80,411	
Sales	-£266	
Government Grants	-£145,425	
Fees and Charges	-£11,540	
Internal Recharges	-£26,760	
Contribution to/(from) reserves	-£24,470	
	<u>£507,514</u>	<u>£81,224</u>

Post Inspection Action Plans

Post Inspection Action Plans were put in place following our Estyn inspection in March 2023. We worked hard on the recommendations throughout the year. Estyn reported that;

- Site security has been strengthened significantly through the installation of a camera system at the main gate and push pads enabling pupils and staff to evacuate safely when required.
- Senior leaders at the school have undertaken a wide range of professional learning focused on developing their leadership skills. This has enabled leaders to develop their understanding of how to lead the school and the importance of ensuring effective teaching and learning.
- Teachers are beginning to benefit from a range of professional learning opportunities including visits to other schools. This is starting to help them understand the importance of effective teaching approaches and of developing a purposeful learning environment.
- Provision for foundation learning continues to improve. Staff have enhanced the indoor and outdoor environments further to provide worthwhile opportunities for pupils to explore their interests and develop their imagination.
- Whole school professional learning has strengthened the subject knowledge of staff relating to the teaching of reading. The school has introduced a systematic approach to develop pupils' knowledge of letter sounds and build their skills more progressively.
- The school is embedding more consistent processes to develop pupils' mathematical understanding. There is an appropriate structure to the mathematics curriculum that supports teachers to build on pupils' knowledge and skills competently.
- Leaders have continued to carry out first hand monitoring of teaching and learning. This work is becoming more helpful in securing improvement. During lesson observations leaders now identify discrete strengths and areas for improvement in the practice of individual teachers.
- The headteacher continues to work closely with the school bursar to monitor school finances and she has secured further reductions in costs. Her understanding of the school's budget has increased. The headteacher considers long term financial decisions carefully and has secured additional grant funding.
- The headteacher works closely with the school's governing body. Governors meet regularly with leaders and receive regular updates on the school's progress towards meeting recommendations in the post inspection action plan. A few governors have been involved in monitoring specific areas of the curriculum.

Additional Learning Needs

At St. Joseph's we are proud of the support that we offer for our pupils with Additional Learning Needs. We feel that all pupils within the school are supported well, and that we have positive working relationships with pupils and their families, as well as other individuals and organisations that work with the young person. We feel that the support, guidance and inclusive learning provision that we offer for our pupils is tailored to meet the needs of each pupil individually, and that this support is monitored and adapted in a pupil-centred way.

What is ALN?

ALN refers to any needs pupils may have in addition to what is provided in the differentiated curriculum resulting in the learner having significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age .

How do we identify pupils with ALN?

The school follows a 'Graduated Response' to ALN, beginning with Emerging ALN where a learners needs are identified. A Person Centred Review (PCR) meeting is arranged with parents/carers and the pupil if appropriate and inclusive learning provision will be put in place to support the pupil. A One Page Profile will also be drawn up at this stage in conjunction with parents/carers and the pupil.

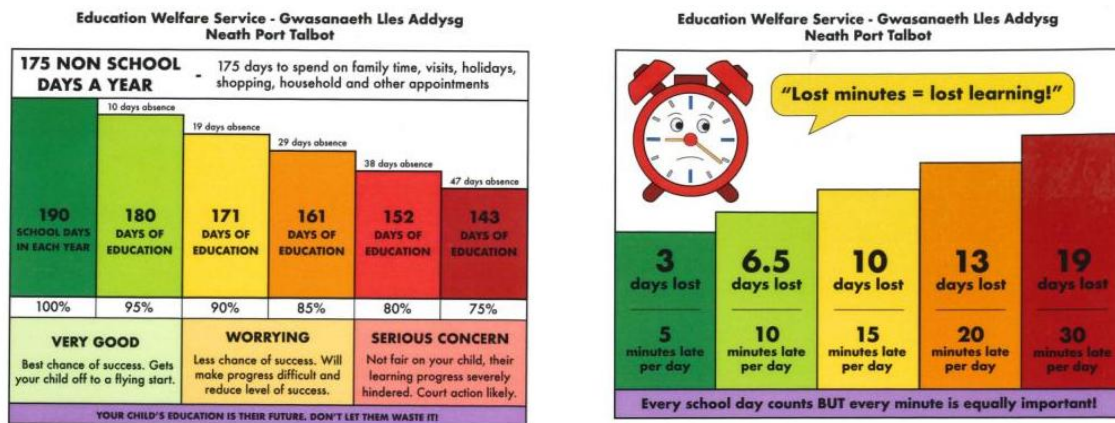
Progress is then monitored, a further Person Centred Review is held with parents/carers to discuss the pupils progress and to identify whether a School Maintained Individual Development Plan (IDP) is required. A school maintained IDP is required if a pupil requires additional learning provision which is significantly greater than

the inclusive learning provision available within the schools capabilities. If this is agreed, an IDP is written within 35 days of parents/carers being notified and progress continues to be monitored.

If following monitoring and further PCR meetings it is felt that the school is unable to meet the additional learning provision needs of the pupil, a request can be submitted to the Local Authority to request a Local Authority Maintained IDP is put in place.

How do we address pupils' needs?

These needs will be met in a variety of ways, including One Page Profiles to identify how best to support pupils, School Maintained IDPs or Local Authority IDPs as appropriate.



Transition to comprehensive school

In 2025, 21 pupils moved onto Secondary Education. Of these: 7 transitioned to St. Joseph's Comprehensive, 11 to Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and 3 pupils moved to Dwr Y Felin. We wish them all every success and happiness in their new schools!

Attendance

Whole school attendance for this academic year was 90.5%, which falls below the Welsh Government target of 95%. We are fully aware that poor attendance has a detrimental effect on attendance so the Governing Body will continue to work closely with School and the Local Authority to help improve this figure. Please support us in raising attendance by ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time.

Religious Education

The aim of Religious Education at St Joseph's is to enable pupils to develop their awareness of the spiritual aspects of life, to experience Christian worship and, through the daily life of the school, to experience Christianity in action as a relevant foundation of their lives. We encourage pupils to develop awareness of other people and their needs, often in appropriate practical ways. In following the Religious Education Directory, "To See You More Clearly", the school fully complies with the requirements of the Catholic Church regarding Religious Education.

We integrate the Catholic Virtues into everyday life. These values have their roots in the Gospel and are based on Jesuit Values whose aims are "improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good."

Prayer and worship are an integral part of the life of St Joseph's. Assemblies and Religious Education are based on the Catholic faith.

Curriculum for Wales

The curriculum in Wales aims to help each school develop its own curriculum, enabling their learners to develop towards the four purposes of the curriculum – the starting point and aspiration for every child and young person in Wales. These are:

1. To be ambitious, capable learners
2. To be creative contributors
3. To be healthy, confident individuals
4. To be ethically informed citizens of the world

Throughout their time at St. Joseph's Primary School pupils will benefit from a curriculum that ensures they develop an understanding of all the Statements of What Matter across the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs). These are:

1. Expressive Arts
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Humanities
4. Language, Literacy and communication
5. Mathematics and Numeracy
6. Science and technology.

It also includes three cross curricular responsibilities of 'Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence' The resulting curriculum is broad and balanced, enabling pupils to achieve mastery over increasingly complex content, using their developing skills with a higher level of control and independence. In this way we will ensure that all pupils make progress in a wide range of skills, understanding and knowledge.

Welsh as a Second Language

The main language of our school is English, however, Welsh is taught as a second language in all classes, aiming at oral fluency and the written word in preparation for further development in comprehensive school. Pupils are encouraged to use every day phrases and instructions that are practised daily through the use of incidental Welsh. An interest in Welsh Culture is developed throughout the school through the learning of Welsh songs and hymns and the reading of stories of a Welsh background including Welsh folklore and historical people and events and also through the whole school celebrations of St. David's day and Dydd Santes Dwynwen (the Welsh Valentine's day). Our children will also learn about historical Welsh events, local artists/musicians and celebrities and national geographical issues.

Community Links, Trips and Visits

We are lucky to have the opportunity to enhance our children's learning opportunities, giving them the chance to thrive outside of the classroom environment, whilst all the time building lifelong memories.

Off site activities include: Mass and services at St. Joseph's Church, Class Trips, Year 6 Transition Days to St. Joseph's Comprehensive School, Swimming, Crucial Crew, Transition sports, Llangrannog residential.

Visitors to the school include: West Glamorgan Music Services, Design to Smile, Local Authority Road Safety Scheme, Community Police Officers, School Nurse, HSBC and Camhs.

Fund Raising

Our supportive PTA have continued to raise money for resources our for pupils to attend trips.

School have continued to build strong community links and have continued to be well supported by our local community. Donations have been made to Neath Food Bank, Cafod, the SVP Shoebox Appeal and Mind.

Toilet Provision

The school has five different toilet facilities. Each of these are cleaned at the end of the school day in accordance with the Local Authority's Cleaning Service.

Sporting Aims and Achievements.

Our sporting aims for the pupils at St. Joseph's are as follows:

- For all pupils to enjoy sport and to take part in a range of sporting activities
- For all pupils to develop team spirit

During P.E. sessions, a range of sporting activities, skills and games were taught. We also celebrate pupils' achievements outside school during our weekly "Celebration" assemblies.

Child Protection

Mrs P Brooks is the Designated Child Protection Officer and Mr C Anthony and Miss N. Beesley are Deputy Child Protection Officers. Mrs Carolynn Elias is the nominated Designated Child Protection Governor.

School Prospectus

The school prospectus is reviewed annually. They are available to any parent upon request and can also be viewed or downloaded from our school website.

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn term 2025

- Monday, 1 September - Friday, 24 October
- Half-term holiday: Monday, 27 - Friday, 31 October
- Monday, 3 November - Friday, 19 December
- Christmas holiday: Monday, 22 December - Friday, 2 January

Spring term 2026

- Monday, 5 January - Friday, 13 February
- Half-term holiday: Monday, 16 - Friday, 20 February
- Monday, 23 February - Friday, 27 March
- Easter holiday: Monday, 30 March - Friday, 10 April

Summer term 2026

- Monday, 13 April - Friday, 22 May
- Half-term holiday: Monday, 25 - Friday, 29 May
- Monday, 1 June - Monday, 20 July

Summer holiday: Tuesday, 21 July - Monday, 31 August

