



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Governing Body of Caradog Primary School

Annual Report to Parents / Carers, 2024 – 2025.

This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions since the last report was published.

Governors' details

Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Mrs Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion, Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN.

Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Mr Mark Strong,
c/o Caradog Primary School, Clifton Street. Aberdare. CF447PB.

Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

Name	Category of Governor	Appointed By	Retirement Date
Mr Dewi James	LEA	Council Members	18-10-28
Mrs Jean Lewis			18-06-28
Mrs Valda Barnsley			18-06-28
Miss Rebecca Buckley	Parent	Parents	03-10-27
Miss Chloe Evans			12-05-28
Mrs Lyndsey Paxton			26-09-28

Miss Amy Marsh			01-10-28
Mr Mark Strong (Chair of Governors)	Community Governor	Governing Body	13-11-27
Mrs Ailsa Reynolds			10-03-26
Mr Phil Buxton			03-02-29
Miss Rhian Evans	Teacher	Teaching Staff	16-09-2028
Miss Molly Williams	Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	02-11-25
Mrs Rhian Derrick	Headteacher		

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

LEA Representatives	3
Parent Governors	4
Staff Representative	1
Headteacher	1

Community Governors	3
Teacher Governor(s)	1
Minor Authority (if applicable)	
Total	13

Election of Parent Governors

The next election of parent governors is due to take place in the Autumn Term, 2027.

However, if there are any parent governor resignations before this date, arrangements will be made for an election to take place to fill the vacancy.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last governing body Summer Term meeting.

School Dates and Holidays 2025-2026

Term	From	To
Autumn 2025	Monday, September 1 2025	Friday, October 24 2025
Half Term	Monday, October 27 2025	Friday, October 31 2025
Autumn 2025	Monday, November 3 2025	Friday, December 19 2025
Christmas Holidays	Monday, December 22 2025	Friday, January 2 2026
Spring 2026	Monday, January 5 2026	Friday, February 13 2026
Half Term	Monday, February 16 2026	Friday, February 20 2026
Spring 2026	Monday, February 23 2026	Friday, March 27 2026
Easter Holidays	Monday, March 30 2026	Friday, April 10 2026
Summer 2026	Monday, April 13 2026	Friday, May 22 2026
Half Term	Monday, May 25 2026	Friday, May 29 2026
Summer 2026	Monday, June 1 2026	Monday, July 20 2026

- i) **Mon 1 Sept 2025 and *Monday 20 July 2026** will be designated INSET days for **all** LEA Maintained Schools. The remaining three INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school following appropriate consultation with staff. ***It is intended that this INSET Day will either be taken on Mon 20 July 2026 or at an alternative time for example in the form of twilight sessions.**

All schools will be closed on **Monday 4 May 2026** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates: Christmas Thursday 25 December 2025
 Easter Good Friday 3 April 2026
 Easter Monday 6 April 2026

May Bank Holidays Monday 4 May 2026

Monday 25 May 2026

School Prospectus

The School Prospectus is updated annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Assembly Government or other related bodies. A copy of the Prospectus is generally issued to parents / carers whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from another school.

The following changes have been made to the Prospectus during the year:

- Uniform for Year 6
- Updated staffing / governor changes and details.
- School term dates.
- Timetables
- Attendance data
- Parent / Carer Agreement Booklet information.
- Information on Curriculum and Assessment.

Performance and target information

Personalised Assessments (which have replaced National Tests) are undertaken by pupils in Year 2 - Year 6 annually. Data from individual standardised scores and learner progress scores (generated by comparing learners' assessment scores with the scores of all learners in their year group in Wales) indicate that learners are performing better in their reading and procedural assessments than they are in their reasoning. As a result, White Rose Maths is now in its second full year introduced from Reception to Year 6. We are beginning to see the impact of changes made to mathematical teaching and pedagogy through a; concrete, pictorial and abstract model.

Target Setting

Whole school targets and priorities are noted in the School Development Plan.

Pupils are assessed against an on-entry Assessment when they start with us in Nursery. This Assessment is in line with the Non-maintained Curriculum for 3-4 year Year Olds. All children's progress is monitored and key, relevant observations captured to contribute to tracking progress. This data includes:

- Read, Write, Inc Assessment.
- Salford Reading and Comprehension Assessment.
- Maths CLIC Level.
- RWI Data
- Personalised Assessment Data for Reading, Numeracy Procedural and Numeracy Reasoning.

- PERMA Survey.

Attendance Information

Our overall whole school attendance for 2024/25 was 93.2%, which meant that we successfully achieved our 93% target by 0.2%. Our target for 2025/26 remains at 93%.

Attendance of all pupils is closely monitored by our attendance lead, which enables early identification of any persistent absenteeism and the subsequent planning of required intervention needed to ensure future improvement.

A Financial Statement

Enclosed, as Appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2024/25. Further breakdown of the information is available upon request

Organisation, Plans and Policies

School Development Plan- Summary

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the School Development Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take over a three-year period, in delivering the curriculum. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements.

The School Development Plan for the 2024-2025 academic year was approved by Governors. The targets set included short, medium, and long-term aims, and were regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

The priorities of the School Development Plan, 2024-2025 were as follows:

Priority 1:

To refine approaches to the newly designed "Caradog Curriculum", ensuring effective curriculum cohesion, progression and mapping across the school.

Headline Summary

- Mostly achieved

Priority 2:

To ensure consistent pedagogy and practices in Foundation Learning which aligns with current guidance and research.

Headline Summary

- Nearly all achieved

Priority 3:

To progressively develop transferable DCF skills across the school, aiming to impact positively on pupil progress and achievement.

Headline Summary

- Nearly all achieved

Priority 4:

To implement a comprehensive whole school approach to enhancing emotional and mental well-being for all pupils, staff and families.

Headline Summary

- Nearly all achieved

Review of School Policies

The school has many policy documents covering both curriculum and non-subject areas. These documents are constantly reviewed/ revised by staff/governors to incorporate changing trends and legislation. Further information is available on the school website or by contacting the Headteacher during school time.

Policies reviewed and agreed in Summer Term Meeting;

- Complaints Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Permissions/ Admissions Booklet
- Attendance Policy

Additional Learning Needs

It is the Authority's policy that all children, as far as is possible within the terms of the Education Act 1996 (amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act 2018) should be educated in mainstream Welsh, English and dual language schools within their local communities. The Additional Learning Needs Code 2021 provides statutory advice to professionals regarding their roles and responsibilities and further guidance is provided within the Equality Act 2010.

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act 2018 clearly states that most pupils with additional learning needs should receive appropriate and inclusive additional learning provision within their local mainstream Welsh, English or dual language school. However, children with significant and very complex learning difficulties may be offered placement in a Learning Support Class within a mainstream school or in a special school. Children with significant and highly complex social, emotional and behavioural difficulties may receive their education via RCT's EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) Provision. Decisions regarding specialist placements are made by the Access and Inclusion Service following consultation with parents, schools, health professionals and other relevant support services.

The Governing Body is mindful of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2001 in drawing up the School Development Plan/Post Inspection Action Plan, and the day-to-day operation of the whole site.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information are included in the planning process.

The Authority has in place an Accessibility Strategy Plan and in line with this strategy has had an audit of the school site undertaken, as part of an Authority wide brief, to identify any potential barriers and to improve the access to the school.

The school's policy for the Assessment of and Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs is summarised as follows:

The school's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with additional learning needs is consistent with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales (approved by the Senedd on 23rd March 2021) under section 4 of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

The school's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them.

The ALNCo also liaises with all members of staff, to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.

During the academic year 2024/2025 8 pupils were in receipt of an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Access for Disabled Pupils

The Governing Body is mindful of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2001 in drawing up the School Development Plan/Post Inspection Action Plan, and the day-to-day operation of the whole site.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of

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Admission/Transition Arrangements

RCTCBC is the Admissions Authority for all schools (other than Church schools where the schools governing body is the admissions authority) within the Authority's boundary. The school's admission arrangements are therefore operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication Starting School Book. The book is made available to parents at the point of their application for their child's admission to school. The contents of this book can also be accessed online on the Authority's website.

Pupils will usually remain in the school until they complete year six and then transfer to secondary school. This school is a feeder school for Aberdare Community School or St. John the Baptist Comprehensive School, however, pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose, subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy.

Community Focused Schools

A community-focused school is one that provides a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. Across Wales many schools already provide some community services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes.

The development of community-focused schools is not just a short-term project or initiative, but a real opportunity for schools and communities to work together in new ways for the future benefit of children, young people and adults.

During 2024-25 Caradog has continued to develop links with our Families and the community.

Our uniform shop, food "Pantri" and hygiene bank support families regularly or when they are new to the school. We are also a recognised "warm space".

The School continues to engage in various fund-raising events, led by our School Council and supported by Rebecca Buckley. These include, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Children in Need and Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.

Links with local businesses are developing, 'supporting local' and enhancing our children's knowledge of the town in which they live. We have linked with the Beeches Care Home, Aberdare Market, St. Elvans Church and our local food bank.

We regularly visit our local Churches and Nursing Home, for a variety of events and link up sessions.

Police Liaison provide educational sessions for our children, around community topics.

In the Summer term we were able to hold our fifth 'Caradog Fest' for our school, linking in with businesses to support us.

Fabric of the Building & Provision of Toilet Facilities

The building is generally in a good state of repair. Over the past year the following refurbishment/repairs have been carried out;

- Year 4 classroom refurbished
- Zen Den re-purposed
- Sensory room established
- Staff toilets refurbished
- Staff room refurbished
- Year 6 "Amser Fi" space developed.
- Outdoor classroom in Year 4 developed

The school has adequate toilet facilities for pupils and staff. They are cleaned daily.

Curriculum and organisation of education and teaching methods

At Caradog Primary School, our inclusive curriculum is thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of all of our learners, shaped in collaboration with families, staff, and the wider community. Rooted in our shared vision, it aims to equip pupils with the skills, knowledge, and experiences needed for lifelong learning, work, and active citizenship.

Our curriculum supports learners in achieving the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, fostering ambition, creativity, ethical understanding, and healthy well-being. It offers a broad and balanced experience across all Areas of Learning, encouraging pupils to make meaningful connections and apply their learning in real-world contexts.

We prioritise progression, ensuring each child moves forward along a continuum of learning, while recognising and supporting individual identities, languages, and backgrounds. Our curriculum reflects the

diversity of our locality and Wales, helping learners understand their place in a changing world.

Relationships, health and well-being, including mental health, are central to our approach, alongside developing informed, critical thinkers who understand their rights and responsibilities. Our curriculum is dynamic, inclusive, and co-constructed with stakeholders to ensure it remains relevant and impactful.

Further details can be found in our Curriculum Policy, available on our school website in; our curriculum policy and overview documents.

Sporting Aims

The school takes part in numerous sporting activities throughout the year. We engage with the Young Ambassadors scheme with RCT Sport.

During 2023-24 we participated in swimming, as well as football, rugby, cross country and netball team events. We are proud of all our players and achievements both inside and out of school.

Pupils enjoy sporting lessons from Play Sports too, as well as a range of clubs, including multi-sports and football.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

At Caradog Primary, we actively promote healthy eating and drinking as part of our commitment to Phase 5 of the Healthy Schools initiative. Our dedicated Eco and Healthy Schools Team works across the school to raise awareness and encourage positive choices. We've introduced new, nutritionally balanced menus and held parent tasting sessions to engage families in exploring healthy options. Families are supported in preparing healthy lunch boxes, and pupils have access to water fountains throughout the day to stay hydrated. We also celebrate local produce by cooking with locally sourced ingredients and linking our outdoor learning to food through our "Playground to Plate" initiative. Our Market Ambassadors help promote fresh, seasonal produce within the school community, reinforcing the importance of healthy, sustainable eating habits.

Use of the Welsh Language – Communication

This school is an English medium school, lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of English. The use of the Welsh language is promoted by the use of incidental Welsh and direct teaching with all pupils throughout the school day.

Children are taught Welsh as a Second Language, from Nursery – Year 6. They develop skills of Oracy, Reading and Writing.

The school continues to work towards the Bronze Award for Cymraeg Campus.

English as a Second Language (EAL)

Should parents / carers request that their child is taught at this school in a language other than English this request will be given due consideration.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are supported appropriately according to their needs.

APPENDIX A**Caradog Primary School**

PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2024/2025






<u>EMPLOYEE COSTS</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>
STAFFING COSTS INCLUDING SUPPLY	£868,275
<u>PREMISES RELATED COSTS</u>	
INCLUDES ENERGY, REPAIRS, CLEANING, BUILDING RELATED SLA's	£88,767
<u>TRANSPORT</u>	
INCLUDES INSURANCE, PETROL, TRAVEL CLAIMS	£0
<u>SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</u>	
INCLUDES CAPITATION, ICT, COURSES, PHOTOCOPYING, STAFF INSURANCE, SERVICE SLA's	£125,376
<u>GRANTS</u>	
EIG, PDG, EYPDG, PDGCLA	£204,403

APPENDIX B

“At a Glance”- Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms 2024-2025

Autumn Term at a Glance



September	October	November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Wed 11th- Parents e safety meeting 2pm. ♦ Fri 13th- Home reading launch ♦ Mon 16th- Read, write, inc parents training. ♦ Fri 20th- Head boy/girl and school council elections. ♦ Thurs 26th (9weeks)- Healthy Lifestyle FREE course for parents. ♦ Fri 27th- Macmillan Coffee morning ♦ Fri 27th- Interschools cross country, Ynys. ♦ Mon 30th- Flu Immunisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mon 7th, PTA Meeting 2:30pm, All welcome ♦ Mon 14th- Harvest Celebration ♦ Tues 15th and Wed 16th- Parents Evenings ♦ Black History month ♦ Friday 18th- Show racism the red card day. ♦ Wed 23rd- Halloween Disco (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mon 11th- Anti-bullying week ♦ Fri 15th Nov- Children in Need ♦ Mon 25th- Enterprise week, Xmas Fete theme 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mon 2nd- Nursery “Carols by Candlelight” ♦ Wed 4th- Christmas Fayre, 3-5pm ♦ Tues 10th- Christmas Concert, R-Y3, AM Y4-6, evening performance ♦ Wed 11th, Christmas Concert, Y4-6 Day, R-Y3, Evening ♦ Thurs 12th- Christmas Concert, YR-Y3, AM and Y4-6 evening performances ♦ Thurs 12th Christmas Jumper Day ♦ Wed 18th, Christmas Party Day ♦ Thurs 19th, Last day ♦ Friday 20th, INSET Day 	<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mon 6th- INSET Day ♦ Tues 7th- Children to return to school 	<p style="text-align: center;">Term Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Available on RCT website ♦ https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/SchoolsandLearning/ ♦ Schooltermdatesinsetdaysandemergencies/Schooltermdates.aspx <p style="text-align: center;">To be confirmed...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Individual Class Trips ♦ Panto Y3-Y6 ♦ Santa Trip for N-Y2 ♦ Christmas Dinner 



Spring Term at a Glance

Message from the Mrs Derricks and Caradog Staff

We have had a wonderful Autumn Term at Caradog which has included all of the fun of the festive season. Your children have engaged in a range of wonderful learning experiences including finding out about; the Food we eat and grow, Egyptians, Romans, Titanic and healthy bodies.

We have elected a new school council and pupil groups. The children have attended clubs, swimming and sports competitions. We've been to the cinema and put on our own wonderful Nativity "A Miracle in Town" and Joseph performances. We continue to be proud of each and every child as they learn and grow together.

Please see our "Spring Term at a Glance". Here you will find details about some of the learning experiences that are planned for the new term. This information is non-exhaustive and will be updated regularly on Dojo as it grows. We have arranged a free trip for every class and will be looking for at least ten adults to volunteer per trip. Nursery to Year 3 will be attending a Forest School session at Ignite. Years 4-6 will be attending the Royal Mint Experience.

Our PTA continues to grow and support us and our parents hub is now an official warm space. Please remember to access the food, clothes and sanitary products as you need them and always come and ask us for help if you need it.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at Team Caradog.

Inset Dates - Dec 20th, Jan 6th, May 2nd and May 6th, July 21st.

February

Mon 3rd- Y3-6 Urdd Jambori, Ynys

Wed 5th- Techniquet Trip Yr4

Fri 14th- Valentines Disco

Fri 21st- Break up half term. Half term St David's Day task for ALL classes.



January

Mon 6th- Inset Day

Tuesday 7th- Return to School

Fri 10th- Ignite Forest School Nursery & parent.

Mon 13th- Fire Service in classes

Tues 14th and Wed 15th- R-Y6 Planetarium St Elvan's

Fri 17th- Ignite Forest School, Parrots and some parents.

Fri 24th- Ignite Forest School, Zebras and some parents.

Fri 31st- Ignite Forest School Iguanas and some parents.



April

Thurs 10th- Easter Bonnet Parade around Aberdare Park 9:15am, N- Y2 parents to attend.

Fri 11th- Break up for Easter. Easter egg rolling and decorating, N-Y6.

Mon 28th- Return to school following Easter break.



March

Mon 3rd- Return to school. Bring in half term task.

Wed 5th- Year 4 Royal Mint Visit

Wed 12th- Year 5/6 Royal Mint Visit

Fri 7th- School Eisteddfod







Summer Term 1 & 2 "At a Glance"

Message from the Mrs Derrick and Caradog Staff

Please find the updated Summer Term 1 and 2 "At a Glance" for your calendar, this takes us up to July and the end of the school year. Please see upcoming INSET dates and bank holidays, the school is closed for pupils on these days.

April	May	June	July
<p>Mon 28th- Return to school following Easter break.</p> 	<p>Fri 2nd- Inset Day, school closed for children.</p> <p>Mon 5th- Bank Holiday, school closed to all.</p> <p>Tues 6th- Inset Day, school closed for children.</p> <p>Wed 7th to Fri 9th- Year 6 Manor Adventure</p> <p>Fri 9th- Sun 11th- Year 5 Llangrannog</p> <p>Tues 13th- VE Celebrations</p> <p>Wed 14th- Cricket Festival, Y3-6</p> <p>Fri 23rd- Break up for Whit-sun half term for 1 week.</p>	<p>Mon 2nd- return to school</p> <p>Wed 25th- West Midlands Safari park.</p> <p>Fri 27th- Caradog Fest</p> <p>WB 30th- Wimbledon tennis at tennis courts.</p> 	<p>Thurs 3rd- Year 6 Prom</p> <p>Thurs 10th- Summer Fete, 3-5pm</p> <p>Fri 11th- Reports sent home</p> <p>Tues 15th- School sports, all classes</p> <p>Wed 16th- Leavers assembly</p> <p>Friday 18th- Last day before Summer holidays.</p> 