



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Governing Body of Caradog Primary School

Annual Report to Parents / Carers, 2023 – 2024.

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.

1. Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Mrs Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

2. Chairperson of the Governing Body

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

3. 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	18-10-24
Mrs Jean Lewis			19/06/2024
Mrs Valda Barnsley			18-06-2024
Miss Rebecca Buckley	Parent	Parents	03-10-27
Miss Chloe Evans			13/05/2024
Mrs Lyndsey Paxton			27/09/2024

Mr Mark Strong (Chair of Governors)	Community Governor	Governing Body	13-11-23
Mrs Ailsa Reynolds			10-03-26
Miss Rhian Evans	Teacher	Teaching Staff	16-09-2028
Miss Donna James	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

4. **Resolutions**

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

5. **Election of Parent Governors**

The next election of parent governors is due to take place in the Spring term, 2026.

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.

6. **School Performance Data**

Personalised Assessments (which have replaced National Tests) are undertaken by pupils in Year 2 - Year 6.

Data of 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, teaching and learning of reasoning has been a SIP target this year and White Rose Maths will be introduced from Reception to Year 6.

7. Financial Statement

Enclosed, as Appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2023/24. Further breakdown of the information is available upon request

8. 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:

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

9. School Development Plan

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 2023-2024 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, 2023-2024 were as follows:

Priority 1:

Develop teaching and learning practices to advance positive attitudes to learning, improve behaviour for learning and nurture resilience.

Headline Summary

- Nearly all Achieved

Priority 2:

Improve attendance and punctuality to maximise opportunities for all pupils to regularly access their learning and make progress.

Headline Summary

- Mostly Achieved

Priority 3:

To raise standards and improve pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in Mathematics and Numeracy to support progress.

Headline Summary

- Nearly all achieved

Priority 4:

Raise standards, and improve pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in Language, Literacy and Communication to support progress.

Headline Summary

- Nearly All achieved

A Summary of our School Development Plan is available on our school website.

10. 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 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.

11. 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.

13. School Holiday Dates 2024-2025

School term times 2024/2025

Term	From	To
Autumn 2024	Monday, September 2 2024	Friday, October 25 2024
Half Term	Monday, October 28 2024	Friday, November 1 2024
Autumn 2024	Monday, November 4 2024	Friday, December 20 2024
Christmas Holidays	Monday, December 23 2024	Friday, January 3 2025
Spring 2025	Monday, January 6 2025	Friday, February 21 2025
Half Term	Monday, February 24 2025	Friday, February 28 2025
Spring 2025	Monday, March 3 2025	Friday, April 11 2025
Easter Holidays	Monday, April 14 2025	Friday, April 25 2025
Summer 2025	Monday, April 28 2025	Friday, May 23 2025
Half term	Monday, May 26 2025	Friday, May 30 2025
Summer 2025	Monday, June 2 2025	Monday, July 21 2025

Mon 2 Sept 2024 and *Monday 21 July 2025 will be designated INSET days for all LEA Maintained Schools. The remaining four 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 21 July 2025 or at an alternative time for example in the form of twilight sessions.**

All schools will be closed on **Monday 5 May 2025** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates:

- Christmas - Wednesday 25 December 2024
- Easter - Good Friday 18 April 2025
- Easter Monday - 21 April 2025
- May Bank Holidays:
 - Monday 5 May 2025
 - Monday 26 May 2025

14. 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 2023-24 Caradog has continued to develop links with all of our families and the community.

Our Uniform Shop and Hygiene Bank support families regularly or when they are new to the school.

The School continues to engage in various fund-raising events, led by our School Council. 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.

Children were involved in a Lead Creative Project, celebrating the Eisteddfod and the children performed a "rap" on the BBC Wales News.

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 fourth 'Caradog Fest' for our school, linking in with businesses to support, as well as for our Year 6 Leavers' Prom.

15. 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.

16. Additional Learning Needs

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 2023/2024 8 pupils were in receipt of an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

17. 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 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.

18. 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.

- Two interior classrooms and staff room painted.
- New flooring in Nursery and Year 3.
- Year 4 class has been moved back into the main building.
- A gross motor room has been set up in our previously Year 1 class.
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The school has adequate toilet facilities for pupils and staff. They are cleaned daily.

19. Target Setting

Targets for the school 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.

- Basic Number Maths Assessment.
- Maths CLIC Level.
- Maths Learn Its Level.
- Personalised Assessment Data for Reading, Numeracy Procedural and Numeracy Reasoning.
- PASS Survey.

20. Attendance Information

Our overall whole school attendance for 2023/24 was 91.9%, which unfortunately meant that we did not 'hit' our 93% target by 0.1%. Nevertheless, our target for 2024/25 remains at 93%.

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

21. Admission/Transition Arrangements

The County Borough Council 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 School. However, pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose, subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy.

22. School Leavers

During 2023-24, our pupils left our school at the end of Year 6, to transfer to Secondary School. These schools included Aberdare Community School and St. John the Baptist School.

23. Sporting Aims and Achievements

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.

24. Healthy Eating

We are continuing to work on Phase 5 Healthy Schools. Our Eco and Healthy Schools Team work hard to develop the knowledge and understanding of our whole school.

Caradog Primary School

PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2023/2024

<u>EMPLOYEE COSTS</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>
STAFFING COSTS INCLUDING SUPPLY	£962140
<u>PREMISES RELATED COSTS</u>	
INCLUDES ENERGY, REPAIRS, CLEANING, BUILDING RELATED SLA's	£98105
<u>TRANSPORT</u>	
INCLUDES INSURANCE, PETROL, TRAVEL CLAIMS	£0
<u>SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</u>	
INCLUDES CAPITATION, ICT, COURSES, PHOTOCOPYING, STAFF INSURANCE, SERVICE SLA's	£96491
<u>GRANTS</u>	
EIG, PDG, EYPDG, PDGCLA	£195370