

Governors Annual Report to Parents 2022-2023



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Chair of Governors: Mr Andrew Collins

Work Together, Play Together, Succeed Together
Gweithio gyda'n gilydd, Chwarae gyda'n gilydd, Llwyddo gyda'n gilydd

November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Blaenhonddan Primary School Governing Body Annual Report to Parents 2022-2023

This is the full Governing Body annual report to parents for the academic year 2022-2023 which has been made available to all parents and is available in paper format on request by email request to the school.

Under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) the Governing Body is no longer required to hold a meeting for the purpose of discussing the attached report. However, under this legislation, if a Governing Body receives a petition from parents of registered pupils at the school requesting that a meeting takes place this request must be acceded to if the following conditions are met;

- The petition contains the signatures of (either) ten percent of the parents of registered pupils or thirty of the parents of registered pupils at the school (whichever is the lower number).
- The meeting must be for the purpose of discussing a matter relating to the school.
- Should meetings be requested/held there will be no more than three meetings held during the school year in which the (initial) petition is received.
- There are enough school days remaining in the school year for the meeting to be held in line with the requirements of the Act.

Should a meeting be held it will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, the Headteacher and other persons invited by the Governing Body.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Collins
Chair of Governors

Composition of the Governing Body:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Chair (LA)	Andrew Collins
Vice-Chair (Community)	Angela Gill
Headteacher	Gayle Major
Teaching Staff	Matthew Owens
Non-Teaching Staff	Michelle Brinkworth-Jones
LEA	Cllr Wyndham Griffiths
LEA	Paul Gwilliam
Community	Lucy Powell-Morley
Community	Ceri Evans
Minor Authority	Amanda Burton
Parent	Kristian Jordan
Parent	Ceri Evans
Parent	Kiera Lee
Parent	Jess Bowring
Parent	Kate Cresswell
Link Governor	TBC
Bursar	Bethany Radcliffe
Clerk to Governors	Mrs A Clarkson

Clerk to Governors - Mrs. Annette Clarkson
Blaenhonddan Primary School
Main Road
Bryncoch
Neath
SA10 7PE

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS' ADDRESS

I am delighted to be able to take this opportunity to express the Governing Body's pleasure in reporting to you another highly successful year at Blaenhonddan Primary School. This would obviously be referring to the pupil's achievements across all aspects of school life including behaviour, learning, sporting activities and other areas of the curriculum in general.

The children arrive at Blaenhonddan every day with a big smile on their faces. The way in which the school operates ensures all children and staff are cared for, supported and that their mental health and well-being is a priority for everyone at school.

The school is making good progress with the implementation of Curriculum for Wales and teaching is evolving to enable the pupils of Blaenhonddan to develop their integral skills of, Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Personal Effectiveness and Planning and Organisation. We are encouraging the pupils to 'think' for themselves in all situations and areas across the school.

Pupil voice is very active across the school and the children play a significant role in shaping the 'how and what' we do in terms of curriculum design.

Standards in literacy, numeracy, digital competence and Welsh are good.

I would like to thank you for the continued support that as parents/carers, you provide to the school. The school is successful because we all have a shared vision and commitment to ensuring the pupils at Blaenhonddan have access to very good learning provision.

On behalf of the Governing Body I give you a firm pledge that we intend to do everything in our power to ensure that Blaenhonddan Primary School maintains its position at the very front of education in, not only Neath, but across the whole of Wales.

Once again, I thank you all for your, much appreciated, and continuing support.

Andrew Collins

Attendance Information Academic Year 2022 /2023

At Blaenhonddan, we are still working really hard on returning to pre-Covid attendance of 95%. In 2021/2022 we achieved 92.98% and in 2022/2023 we achieved 93.16%. Although, this is not 95% we are gradually increasing attendance across the school. For the academic year of 2022-2023, we had the highest attendance across the whole of NPT LA.

Every class within the school achieved attendance over 92% and 50% of classes achieved 93%. The highest average for class attendance in all other schools across NPT was 90%.

Our pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals had 91% attendance in comparison to NPT at 86%.

Illness Absence equated to 2778 sessions - 4.4%

Holiday Absence equated to 1330 sessions - 2.1%

Governors would like to set a target of 95% attendance.

School Terms and Holiday Dates

2023 - 2024 Academic Year

Period	Dates
Autumn Term 1	Friday, 1 September to Friday, 27 October
Autumn Half Term	Monday, 30 October to Friday, 3 November
Autumn Term 2	Monday, 6 November to Friday, 22 December
Christmas Holiday	Monday, 25 December to Friday, 5 January
Spring Term 1	Monday, 8 January to Friday, 9 February
Spring Half Term	Monday, 12 February to Friday, 16 February
Spring Term 2	Monday, 19 February to Friday, 22 March
Easter Holiday	Monday, 25 March to Friday, 5 April
Summer Term 1	Monday, 8 April to Friday, 24 May
Summer Half Term	Monday, 27 May to Friday, 31 May
Summer Term 2	Monday, 3 June to Friday, 19 July

Schools will be closed to pupils for [INSET/Staff Preparation \(2023\)](#) on up to six days between Friday, 1 September 2023 and Friday, 19 July 2024.

Day 1 – Friday 1st September – School Preparation – Safeguarding Training / Vision / Aims of the Year

Day 2 – Friday 27th October – Cluster INSET

Day 3 - Monday 8th January – Professional Learning on Curriculum Design

Day 4 – Monday 8th April – Professional Learning on Progression, Assessment and Report Writing

Day 5 – Friday 24th May – Content to be decided

Day 6 - Friday 19th July – Evaluation of 2023-2024 and Curriculum Design

The school day begins at 9.00a.m. and ends at 3.20 p.m. Lunch is 12.00 for

There is a twenty minute break during the morning and a ten minute break for FP during the afternoon.

Changes to School Prospectus:

The Prospectus has been updated and includes all statutory requirements. It is available on request from the office and is on the school website.

Action Plan:

The School Improvement Plan (SIP), which has been agreed upon by Governing Body and Staff is a plan which is evaluated and updated annually. The plan seeks to improve issues involved in curriculum and the targets can be found on the Notice Board at the entrance to the building and also along the corridors throughout the school.

School Improvement Plan Targets 2023-2024

1. To improve the learning environment to support the development of pupils independent skills
2. To further develop pupils thinking skills.
3. To improve feedback to accelerate learning.
4. To further improve pupils' Welsh Oracy skills.
5. To improve the standard of handwriting across the school.

Curriculum Development

Teaching and Learning

In order to evolve our teaching methods at Blaenhonddan, we have made changes to how we teach and what we teach. We have designed a brand new planning model and teachers are working collaboratively on the same topics. The planning model provides opportunities for learners to gain greater knowledge and apply their literacy, numeracy, integral and digital skills across the curriculum with greater accuracy and sophistication.

The curriculum that we are offering enables the children to work towards the realisation of the four purposes.

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Ethically informed citizens
- Healthy, confident individuals
- Enterprising, creative contributors

The school prides itself on the progress children make in terms of reading and spelling. We are very pro-active and identify and target children very early on, to ensure that gaps in learning are addressed.

Staff Development

Professional learning is a priority within the school and all staff have access to opportunities both inside and outside of school to further develop their skills. Training is planned and responds to the needs of the school and the individual. We have spent a lot of time during the last year implementing Curriculum for Wales focusing on Curriculum Design and Progression and Assessment. Health & Wellbeing professional learning has also taken place and staff feel more confident to discuss concerns with children, since the implementation of the Zones of Regulation. Training has also upskilled staff with the new ALN Reform and how to meet the needs of our pupils with additional learning needs.

Welsh language

Welsh continues to be an area of improvement this year. The school made significant progress in the use of the Welsh language last year and the Teacher Development Officer (TDO) from the local authority was so pleased with the progress, that she invited the Head of Welsh to visit the school to talk to staff and pupils. All teachers have increased their use of Welsh around the school and pupils have enhanced access to high quality provision, through effective teaching via Drilio and through daily and continuous use of incidental Welsh.

Policies:

The Governing Body committee can access policies for proposed adoption or review via the Hwb. Priority has been given to all the statutory policies including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Health and Safety, Anti Bullying, Self -Evaluation, Foundation and Curriculum.

Additional Learning Needs:

At Blaenhonddan Primary school every child counts and therefore has individual needs. We plan to ensure that the need of each child is met, whatever their ability and that achievement is celebrated.

Provision for additional learning needs are made in accordance with ALN Reform. This includes the provision for children who hold a Statement for Special Education Needs or an Individual Development Programme, which can be school based or local authority.

We have Learning Support Centre for 9 pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties and the pupils attend from schools all over Neath Port Talbot. Person Centred Reviews are held annually or where there is significant change. Pupils are integrated into the mainstream as often as possible, taking the individuals pupils' views and feelings into account.

At Blaenhonddan, mainstream support is given to children on the register with an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or Individual Development Plan (IDP). Support is provided as per the document and tracking sheets are completed by teaching assistants. Every child identified as having additional needs is assessed and where possible additional support is implemented. The school has an Additional Learning Needs Policy, which incorporates ALN Reform. This policy has been adopted by the school's governing body and is available at the school for parents to see.

Toilet Facilities

We have 17 toilets available to pupils and 3 for adults. They are in good repair and are cleaned daily, there is a deep clean scrub completed in each toilet during each holiday.

School Leavers:

Our Year 6 pupils will take up their places at Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive, Ysgol Bae Baglan and Ysgol Maes-Y-Coed. The governing body and staff wish them well in their continuing education.

Arrangements for Disabled Pupils:

All pupils, regardless of any disability, have equal rights to admission into the school. If a child with a disability, which affects their mobility, requires admission then advice is sought from the LA on how best to meet their needs. This includes discussion on whether the needs are best met at a specialist site. The school does have suitable access, disabled lift and toilet arrangements for wheelchairs.

Activities and Visits

We have tried to vary the children's experiences through a variety of engaging, fun and exciting trips or visits out of the school or even visitors within the school. Some of the activities that we have been involved in are listed below, but this is by no means the complete list.

Community Links & School Trips and Visitors

- * Hosting community groups; Rainbows
- * Transition meetings
- * Visits to local church and visits to school from local vicar
- * Annual Summer Fair for the community
- * Hosting visits and a meeting venue for the WI
- * Parents' involvement in Sporting events
- * School supports work placement students
- * School supports work experience for young people

- * School supports NVQ students
- * Bryncoch Festival at local rugby club
- * Sponsorship from local business for sports kits
- * Link to local Health Club and Llandarcy to promote healthy lifestyle

- * Large involvement with outside agencies e.g. local historians, health professionals
- * Healthy Schools Award
- * Green Flag Award and Eco-Schools' Initiative
- * PSE programme run by South Wales Police
- * Road Safety/Cycling Proficiency course
- * Residential trips for Class 6 - Abernant
- * Regular trips to Margam Park / Swansea Museum for all age groups
- * Year 6 trip to Cardiff
- * Hosting Environmental project
- * Governor visiting days
- * Swansea City Schools Programme
- * NPT Cerdd - Musical Instrument Experiences

Extra curricular activities and achievements outside of school

- World Cup Football Tournament
- Rugby Tournaments
- Gymnastic Competitions
- Pupils selection for Swansea and Cardiff Academies in Football
- Pupil selection for Neath District Rugby
- Pupils selection to represent David Lloyd Centre in Tennis
- Pupil selection for Orchestra
- Pupils attending Drama and Dance classes
- Pupils performing in local pantomime's and shows

Acknowledgements:

The Governing Body wishes to complete its annual report by placing on record its thanks to all stakeholders who contribute positively to help the school achieve its goals.

The school is a community created by the individuals within it and we are all very proud of the continued success.

Andrew Collins
Chair of Governors