

Rhayader Church In Wales Primary School

Ysgol Gynradd Yr
Eglwys Yng
Nghymru Rhaeadr
Gwy



Annual Report
to Parents

2021 - 2022

Dear Parent,

2021 – 2022 continued to create many challenges for the school although it was good to see some ‘normality’ return to school life with some whole school events returning in Spring 2022. The work of the staff to care for the children throughout the last 2 years under Covid restrictions should be noted, as throughout the time when governors have had the opportunity to speak to children online, the children have spoken enthusiastically about their time in school and that they feel valued and safe.

The promotion of Mr David Lewis was sad news for the school community but shows the ongoing commitment to professional development and the high quality of staff at Rhayader School. The appointment of Mrs Wendy Thompson as the new deputy headteacher for September 2022 is exciting and I am sure she will strengthen the ongoing school improvement and work to provide the best opportunities of each child attending Rhayader School.

During the year, we said farewell to Cllr Kelvyn Curry from our governing body. Kelvyn has worked tirelessly for the school and Rhayader community and he will be sadly missed. A legacy will be the new purpose built Cylch Rhaeadr and Rhayader Under 5s pre-school buildings. We also said goodbye to Rhys Thomas due to work commitments resigned as parent governor. Rhys has been a dedicated parent representative for over six years and his sensible comments, queries and challenges has helped the school make tough decisions and improve activities for the children.

The school has continued to be a School Learning Organisation during the pandemic by providing training places for Teaching Assistants through apprenticeships, voluntary placements and teacher training in partnership with Aberystwyth University, Open University and University of Wales, Trinity St David’s.

We look forward to the next academic year 2022 – 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Taylor

About the Annual Report

The Annual Report to Parents is a document that Governors provide to parents each year outlining events and developments at the school over the last 12 months. There are a number of statutory elements included. This is a summary version of the report, if you would like a full report please contact the school office.

To contact the Chair of Governor please address all correspondence FAO Mr Graham Taylor, c/o Rhayader Primary School, Bryntirion, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5LT or via email on office@rhayader.powys.sch.uk

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Everyone Matters—Mae Pawb yn Cyfri

Who is who on the Governing Body?

Chairperson	Mr Graham Taylor (Community Co-opted Governor)
Vice Chairperson	Mr Guto Carrod (Parent Governor)
Community Governors	Mr Christian Ritson- Walton – resigned July 2022 <i>Vacancy Sept 2022</i>
LEA Representative Governors	Mrs Angela Davies Cllr Kelvyn Curry – resigned May 2022, <i>Katy Cronin appointed for Autumn Term 2022</i> Dr John Buchan
Foundation Governors	Rev'd Lance Sharpe Mrs Lisa Lloyd <i>Vacancy for 2021 – 2022, Mrs Alys Stuart – to start Autumn Term 2022</i>
Parent Governors	Mr Guto Carrod Miss Rebecca Unsworth Mrs Anneka Price <i>Mr Rhys Thomas – resigned July 2022 – Suze Owens appointed October 2022</i>
Teacher Governor	Mrs Julie Rimmer
Non teaching staff governor	Miss Carys Jones
Headteacher	Mrs Linda Crockett
Clerk to the Governing Body	<i>Vacancy September 2021 to August 2022</i> <i>Miss Jade Land – Powys Governor Support from October 2022</i>

The next parent election will take place in November 2023 following the end of term of office for Rebecca Unsworth and Anneka Price.



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In 2021 – 2022, 235 pupils attended the school.

As numbers on roll change each year and the choice between Welsh and English also differs, the class structure in the school changes annually to try and keep cohorts together where possible and to maximise learning.

During the Summer Term the governors met and discussed the class structure for September 2021 and made the difficult decision to split some year groups. A parent consultation was held to see how this could be done fairly and some of the Key Stage 2 children were involved in this. The pupils and parents voted to split the year groups based on age; the older children in a year group would work with the year group above and the younger children would work with the year group below. This structure meant all classes were kept under 30 and numbers across the classes were generally balanced. The average class size for 2020 – 2021 was 26. In 2021 – 2022 the class size average remains at 26.

Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School is a category 2 dual stream school. Both English and Welsh are used in the day to day business of the school. The Welsh Government has changed how schools are described and the governing body is currently seeking further information to decide the category the school will be grouped.

The school governors continue to work closely with Powys Education Department as they carry out consultations on Welsh Medium education provided in the local area, such as the creation of a Welsh Medium primary School at Llanfihangel Rhydithon, Dolau and the establishment of an all through school (3 – 19) at Ysgol Calon Cymru Builth Wells site. Both of these proposals would have an impact on the Welsh provision at Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School

The majority of the communication with parents is through the medium of English, however Welsh copies and translations are available if requested. Parents can choose Welsh medium or English medium education for their child.



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During the academic year 2021 - 2022, the children were assessed by teachers for internal use but pupil performance was not externally collated and therefore there are no performance indicators for this year and target setting for the next 3 years does not need to be reported. Governors and staff will continue to assess and target set each pupil for the school's own purpose and ensure support and challenge is provided appropriately. The information will not be shared publicly in this report.

PUPIL ATTENDANCE

The percentage of attendance at Rhayader Primary School for 2021 – 2022 was 94.7%. The percentage of unauthorised absences was 0.68%.

The full year's attendance cannot be compared to other schools due to the school closures and Covid remote learning periods.

Without notification of absence from parents a child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Parents can email, text or ring the school to inform of a child's absence.

The governors have a target of 95.0% attendance for the pupils at Rhayader Primary School.

To achieve this target it requires that pupils must not have more 10 days absence from school in total inclusive of sickness and medical appointments.

The governors are keen that all parents follow this as high absenteeism impacts significantly on the school and pupils.

We would like to remind you about the importance of good attendance and punctuality, which as a school we take very seriously.

Days off school soon add up and missing lessons makes it hard to catch up, resulting in children having to work harder when they come back and missing vital information that will prevent their progress. Teachers are unable to spend time individually teaching skills missed during days off as this impacts on the rest of the class.

Research shows socially children struggle when they have a high level of absenteeism.



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ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Sian Protheroe is the school's ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator). Dr John Buchan is the Governor with responsibility for ALN (Additional Learning Needs) provision at the school.

In 2021 – 2022, the school started work on the new ALN legislation, called the [Additional Learning Needs \(Wales\) Act 2018](#), and [Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\) Code 2021](#), which will replace all of the existing legislation and guidance about special educational needs.

Over a three year period, the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system will begin to replace the previous Special Educational Needs (SEN) system. As well as the name change, responsibilities towards children and young people with ALN is changing too.

All children with Additional Learning Needs will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which will replace the current SEN Statement, Individual Education Plan or Learning and Skills Plan.

Learners with any level of Additional Learning Need who require 'Additional Learning Provision' (ALP) to be made for them, will be entitled to an IDP outlining their support needs. This new system will protect the rights of all children, regardless of the extent of their additional learning needs.

When the school is 'made aware' that a child or young person may have additional learning needs [ALN], it **MUST** decide whether that child or young person does have additional learning needs through issuing an IDP notice.

The school is working in partnership with parents, carers, children and young people to prepare an IDP for children and young people with ALN.

The new system puts the learner at the heart of everything that happens and the Welsh Government expect schools to take a person-centred approach to planning for, and supporting children and young people.

Parents can request that a school consider their child's needs and request that a decision regarding ALN and IDPs are made.

A template letter [requesting an IDP notification](#) is used to request your child is moved to the new system.

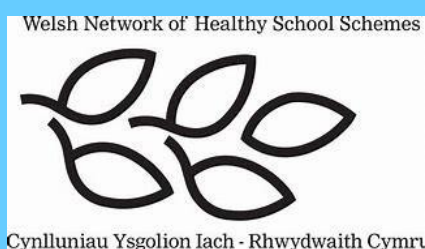
The proposed mandatory IDP template will include a one-page profile to ensure that IDPs reflect the child's or young person's needs and personality, including what is 'important to' and 'important for them'.

Parents will be part of developing the IDP and also be given a draft of the IDP to review and feedback any concerns you may have. You can ask the school to make changes to the IDP and hopefully resolve concerns without them escalating.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS

The school takes positive actions to promote healthy eating and drinking. The School achieves and maintains the Healthy Schools Award, WG Teeth Brushing Programme 'Designed to Smile', promotes healthy lunch boxes and complies with the WG requirements for school lunches via the canteen and catering department. Drinking water is freely available during the school day and pupils are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School has achieved Phase 5 of the Healthy Schools Award. The pandemic has prevented the school from progressing further with the Health Schools Award, but will be continuing this in the future. Throughout 2021 – 2022, all staff have been trained using Bach ac Iach which is a pre-school award scheme which promotes physical activity and healthy eating. During August 2022, the school staff ran the Food and Fun Holiday Club to help promote physical activity and healthy eating for 12 days in the school holidays.



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GOVERNOR TRAINING

Name	Training	Date
Guto Carrod	Chair's Briefing	Termly
Graham Taylor	Chair's Briefing and Meetings with LA	Termly
Julie Rimmer	Data and school performance	Summer 2022
Angela Davies John Buchan Graham Taylor	Safer Recruitment	Autumn Term 2021
Guto Carrod Graham Taylor Linda Crockett	Governor Briefing	Termly
DPO and Safeguarding (Data Protection Officer)	Angela Davies	Spring 2022
Kidscape Anti Bullying	Linda Crockett	Spring 2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

The personnel committee met each term to review teacher pay and review Performance Management of the headteacher and for a summary of monitoring of teaching at the school.

The school advertised and interviewed for a Deputy Headteacher in the Summer Term and appointed Mrs Wendy Thompson to take up post in September 2022. This position was created following the promotion of Mr David Lewis to Presteigne County Primary School.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Governors conduct a Health and Safety Audit throughout the year of the school building and school grounds. Areas that were focused on were:

- Woodland Management—external health and safety report. Tress causing concern are removed as necessary.
- Flooding / drainage to the playground and internal flooding issues
- Under 5s pre school setting built to be opened in September 2022
- Covid Risk Assessment – reviewed regularly to follow guidance and keep pupils, parents and staff safe.

CURRICULUM

During the summer term, 3 governors met via TEAMS with a small group of children from Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 to discuss their learning during the year. The governors were able to view samples of work and reported the pupils were aware of feedback from their teacher and how to incorporate the suggestions into the topic. Governors were pleased to hear that the pupils felt safe and happy to be back in school and were able to talk about their learning during lockdown. A limited number of governors were also part of the Local Authority visits to the school in the Spring and Summer Term. During the visits, teaching and learning in all classes were observed and pupil books work looked at to ensure standards of work are appropriate following Covid-19.



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FINANCE

The school had an internal audit in May 2016, the report concluded that Rhayader School has Effective Governance Framework in operation and the Auditor concluded the school has good financial controls in place in the relation to the management and use of the delegated budget.

Each year the school endeavours to improve the school environment, purchase teaching and learning resources and maintain low staff to pupil ratios whilst keeping the school delegated budget in credit. Rising costs and local authority's efficiencies have put an increasing strain on the school budget. The school is becoming more reliant on grant funding and PTFA funding for equipment and resources.

RHAYADER BUDGET 2021 - 2022		-
Final 20/21		Final 21/22
200	Actual Pupil Numbers	203
INCOME		
834,636	Total Delegated Funds from Powys CC	834,636
160,052	Other Income	230,183
EXPENDITURE		
794,386	SALARIES & WAGES	937,224
86,645	PREMISES	99,176
51,121	SUPPLIES, OFFICE & OTHER EXPENSES	77,946
932,151	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,114,346
62,536	Surplus/(deficit)	(10,026)
(45,860)	Surplus/(deficit B/F)	16,676
16,676	Surplus/(deficit C/F)	6,650

The deficit was due to a change in grant funding for Covid hardship which meant income did not meet the school's expenditure for additional staffing and resources.

The school also has a school fund account, which is a current account with a local bank allowing the school to pay in cash and cheques and have a chequebook and bankcard to pay for non-vat resources and equipment to companies not registered on the Powys e-procurement payment site. This fund is often used as a holding account for donations, which are then paid to the Powys account when equipment is purchased.

Opening Balance 1.04.21		£ 6,014.74
INCOME		
Total Income		£ 13,039.52
EXPENDITURE		
Total Expenditure		£ 13,024.83
Closing Balance 31.03.22		£ 6,029.43

Both of the school accounts are audited and thoroughly checked annually by an independent auditor to ensure all payments are accounted for and received. The budget sheets are sent to Powys County Council annually.

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COMMUNITY LINKS

Community links are strong at Rhayader Church in Wales Primary. The school maintains close links with the Church, local Secondary Schools, various local businesses and other primary schools. The school uses the community as an important resource to enrich the curriculum.

PC Viv Ainsworth attends the school regularly to speak to the children about E-Safety, anti-social behaviour, stranger danger and also drug awareness. Laura Saunders, Fire Safety Officer, visited the school to talk to the Year 2 and Year 5 classes.

The school has fundraised for a number of charities. The charities are selected in consultation with the Pupil Voice Committee. The school held a Children in Need Parade, Cancer Research and Year 6 raised £1600 for Children with Cancer UK by walking to the Elan Valley and back to the school.

The school raised for school funds from recycling clothes for the Dragon Bags scheme and the Pupil Voice Committee run the 'Siop Revolve', a stall to sell second hand uniform and clothes and also continue with the scheme to hire out party ware to save wasted paper plates etc.

The Year 6 leavers attended a service in Brecon Cathedral with all of the Diocese Church school Year 6 leavers.

In April, Dosbarth Curyll Coch organised a Hwyl a Gwyl, music festival to fundraise for a trip to the School of Rock as part of their Music topic. Local musicians performed at the event. We are very grateful to Eifion Davies, Voices in Unity and Bronwen Lewis for their support.

PTFA

This year the PTFA have purchased Christmas gifts and paid for the Christmas parties for the children and also purchase a Year 6 Leaver hoodie for every Year 6 child. The PTFA also gave each class £5 per child to buy resources or to help towards the cost of transport for class trips.

The governors are extremely grateful to the PTFA for their support and would like to encourage more parents to become involved in the PTFA. The additional pressures on the school's limited budget makes the fundraising by the PTFA essential for the school to afford basic resources.



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Cyfri**

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The school prospectus for parents has been updated for the Academic Year with the updated classroom structure and staffing. This was distributed to new parents. A copy of the new prospectus can be obtained as a hard copy from the school office on request and can be viewed and downloaded from the school website. The school prospectus meets all requirements of the Welsh Government. A working party of governors meet with the headteacher to review and update the Prospectus and Staff Handbook.

The purpose of the School Prospectus is to provide a comprehensive insight into all aspects of the school and to convey details about current school procedures.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022/2023

2022 – 2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Autumn Term 2022

Monday 5 September to Friday 28 October

Half Term – Monday 31 October to Friday 4 November

Monday 7 November to Wednesday 21 December

Spring Term 2023

Monday 9 January to Friday 17 February

Half Term – Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February

Monday 27 February to Thursday 30 March

Summer Term 2023

Tuesday 18 April to Friday 26 May

Half Term – Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June

Monday 5 June to Friday 21 July

The governors held the last Annual General Meeting reporting to parents in 19th November 2022. Since this there has not been a petition to hold a meeting. There were no issues raised by parents for the governors to address following the 2019-2021 Governors' Report.

We hope you found this report informative and that gives you further insight into the work of the governors within the school. If you have any questions or comments to make after reading this report, please contact Graham Taylor (Chair of Governors).



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