

Rhayader Church In Wales Primary School

Ysgol Gynradd Yr
Eglwys Yng
Nghymru Rhaeadr
Gwy



Annual Report
to Parents

2022 - 2023

Dear Parent,

2022 – 2023 has been another good year for the school. This report sets out achievements over the year and demonstrates the excellent work going on in school. The children have continued to thrive as a result of the efforts made by everyone working at the school and the support provided by parents. It is very much a team effort.

We have had some turnover in membership of the Governing Body and thanks must go to all those who have left us in the last year. They have all contributed to the work of the Governing Body and it would be remiss of me not to mention one person in particular – John Buchan. He has made a significant contribution to the work off the school over decades. In addition to undertaking many roles on the Governing Body, he has been a regular visitor in the school helping multi able and talented children to excel in maths. He has also taken a special interest in getting the resources we need to properly provide for our children with additional learning needs. He will be missed.

The section in this report about the budget shows the intense financial pressure the school is under. This is going to continue and we will be working hard to make sure we balance the budget over the medium term. Others schools are under similar pressure.

We are very much looking forward to the academic year 2023 – 2024.

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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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	Mrs Veronica Jones Davies
LEA Representative Governors	Cllr Angela Davies Mrs Katy Cronin Dr John Buchan (resigned June 2023)
Foundation Governors	Rev'd Lance Sharpe (resigned June 2023) Mrs Lisa Lloyd Mrs Alys Stuart
Parent Governors	Mr Guto Carrod Miss Shelby Parker Mrs Anneka Price Mrs Suzanne Owen
Teacher Governor	Mrs Julie Rimmer
Non teaching staff governor	Miss Carys Jones
Headteacher	Mrs Linda Crockett
Clerk to the Governing Body	Miss Jade Land – Powys Governor Support

The next parent election will take place in November 2024 following the end of term for Mrs Anneka Price.



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In 2022 – 2023, 239 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. The number of classrooms and the desire to keep classes below 30 means that the school often has to split year groups between classes. This is done based on age. The school created a guide to splitting years in the Summer Term when the year 2 and 3 cohorts needed to be split. The year 2 cohort for 2023 – 2024 is particularly large with 49 pupils on roll.

Rhayader School is oversubscribed in all year groups and many parents wishing to move their child to the school has to go through admission appeals with Powys County Council. The school does not have any decision in the admission of pupils to the school. The local authority admissions arrangements can be viewed on their website.

In 2022 – 2023 the class size average remains at 26.

The school category has changed and dual stream schools are not categorised by the Welsh Government. Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School is a Transitioning T3 school, where both English and Welsh are used in the day-to-day business of the school. The governing body is currently seeking further information to decide the category the school will be grouped long term.

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



In October 2022 the school welcomed Estyn Inspectors to the school and reported positively on the school's work, including an effective practice report showcasing the school's outdoor learning to promote pupil well-being. In November 2022, the school became the first school in Powys to be a Nurture School UK awarded school to recognise the care, support and guidance given at Rhayader School. This success was followed by a Church in Wales Inspection in December. The inspector again reported on the positive experiences provided for the pupils at Rhayader School.

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During the academic year 2022 - 2023, 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 2022 – 2023 was 91.43%. In the Autumn term there were 53 pupils classed as 'persistent absentees', the school worked with families and outside agencies and reduced this to 25 pupils in the Summer term.

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 and holidays.

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 was the school's ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator) for 2022 – 2023, she has reduced her working days in September 2023 and is succeeded by Wendy Thompson as ALNCo for the school. Dr John Buchan was the Governor with responsibility for ALN (Additional Learning Needs) provision at the school, following his retirement Mrs Lisa Lloyd has taken on the role as ALN Governor from September 2023.

The school works collaboratively with children, parents and carers and outside agencies to prepare and review IDPs for children with ALN. Using the Tyfu system, we can celebrate strengths and can identify and outline what additional learning provision can be put in place to best support the needs of the learner.

We use a person-centred approach to support the needs of all learners. We work with a wide variety of outside agencies, such as: educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and play therapists, to name a few.

Parents and carers are part of the IDP building process. They then review and feedback on a draft IDP before the final IDP is issued. We are here at each stage to guide the family through the process. If you have concerns around your child's ALN, please contact Wendy Thompson.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS

The school takes positive actions to promote healthy eating and drinking. The School achieves and maintains the Healthy Schools Award, 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 school has taken part in a WG Health and Wellbeing audit in Autumn 2022 and The Pupil Voice committee took Kate Griffiths from The Health Board/ Healthy Schools Leader on a tour of the school and grounds to show how we have developed a whole school approach to Health and Wellbeing. Kate was very pleased with what she saw and the pupils did a super job of pointing out how consistent our approach is throughout school.

We have a little more work to do to complete this process and should be well on our way to achieve the next level of the Healthy Schools award. The Jigsaw Scheme is used in school to deliver PSHE and covers feelings, friendship, relationships as well as healthy eating. We are fortunate to have amazing grounds which of course allows us to benefit from green space which is particularly important to wellbeing.

We have our Pastoral manager Miss Jones who can offer support to any pupil when they need it and have achieved the Nurture Award UK. Further Bach Iach training is available for new staff members, which is a pre-school award scheme which promotes physical activity and healthy eating. During August 2023, the school staff ran the Food and Fun Holiday Club for the second year to help promote physical activity and healthy eating for 12 days in the school holidays.



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GOVERNOR TRAINING

Date	Training	Name
Termly	Chair's Briefing and Meetings with LA	Graham Taylor Guto Carrod
Spring 2023	ESTYN Training	Angela Davies Guto Carrod Graham Taylor
Spring 2023	ALN - New reform	John Buchan
Termly	Governor Briefing	Graham Taylor Guto Carrod Linda Crockett
20.01.23	Governor Induction	Suze Owen
05.02.23	Understanding Data	Suze Owen

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 class teachers, teaching assistants, pastoral manager and a new Clerical Administrator in the Summer Term for September 2023, following Mrs Rhianydd Gardner, Miss Amelia Morgan, Miss Hannah Findley, Miss Rebecca Unsworth, Mrs Nicola Morgan and Mrs Nicola Evans left the school and Mrs Jayne Davies change of job roles to develop her Welsh language.

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. Trees causing concern are removed as necessary. A renewed woodland management survey was arranged for September 2023.
- Flooding / drainage to the playground and internal flooding issues.
- Fire doors installed to meet current fire restrictions.
- Brickwork replacement to the external walls and the front of the school is ongoing.
- Additional sockets have been installed to allow for safe charging of the additional digital devices in the school.

CURRICULUM

The school staff have attended a number of training courses and events for Curriculum for Wales development. The curriculum has been designed to make the most of the local area 'Cynefin' and the school's unique nature. The extensive grounds mean that the curriculum focuses on the outdoors and all classes have weekly sessions of Forest Schools as well as outdoor learning most days. School trips are carefully chosen to enhance the opportunities for every child. The school has completed an audit of the area and the results show that city life and beaches are missing in the area; the residential planned for the children focus on a seaside location and a city break (currently Cardiff for year 4 and Llangrannog for year 5 and/or 6).

The school has worked collaboratively with the cluster to create a shared understanding of expectations for year groups and are working on creating cluster progression maps for the curriculum for Wales what matters statements.

The school received an Estyn and Church Inspection in the Autumn 2022, the inspectors agreed with the school's priorities and we have been focusing on reading and writing standards in Welsh and English, Welsh oracy and consistency in teaching across the school and feedback and marking to ensure children know how to improve their work. This will continue to be the school priority for 2023 - 2024.

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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 21/22		Final 22/23
203	Actual Pupil Numbers	235
INCOME		
834,636	Total Delegated Funds from Powys CC	1,061,218
230,183	Other Income	197,071
EXPENDITURE		
937,224	SALARIES & WAGES	1,061,218
99,176	PREMISES	93,667
77,946	SUPPLIES, OFFICE & OTHER EXPENSES	69,390
1,114,346	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,224,274
(10,026)	Surplus/(deficit)	(64,832)
16,676	Surplus/(deficit B/F)	6,650
6,650	Surplus/(deficit C/F)	(58,182)

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 1.04.22		£ 6,029.43
INCOME		
Total Income		£ 21,405.53
EXPENDITURE		
Total Expenditure		£ 18,206.16
Closing Balance 31.03.23		£ 9,228.80

Both of the school accounts are audited and thoroughly checked annually by an independent auditor to ensure all payments are accounted for and receipted. 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.

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 £1300 for Children with Diabetes 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.

The school worked with Project Touchline to link sports and faith, a prayer club was set up and the pupils designed a prayer area that was created by Elan Valley Lodge volunteers.

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.

Due to the increasing pressure on the school budget, the PTFA provided £5 per pupil towards the cost of the photocopier and school printer.

The school is committed to work towards being paperless and send all school information through Schoop and Facebook. We are committed to providing reports etc via email rather than printed out on paper. Please could all parents and carers help us by signing up to ParentPay, Schoop and the school's Facebook page.

A big fundraiser for the PTFA in 2022 - 2023 was the Pop Up Charity shop in the Old Diary in the October half -term holiday.

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.

The PTFA have a school lottery which generates a regular income. The focus of funds for 2023 - 2024 is the replacement of the school play fort on the wood chip. A local company has been commissioned to design and install the new fort for the children.



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 2023 – 2024

Autumn term:

Monday 4 September 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023
Half Term - Monday 30 October 2023 to Friday 3 November 2023
Monday 6 November 2023 to Thursday 21 December 2023

Spring term:

Tuesday 9 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024
Half Term - Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 22 March 2024

Summer term:

Monday 8 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024
Half Term - Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
Monday 3 June 2024 to Friday 19 July 2024

Non-pupil days:

Friday 1 September 2023
Monday 25th September 2023
Tuesday 26th September 2023
Friday 22 December 2023
Monday 8 January 2024
Monday 1st July 2024

The governors held the last Annual General Meeting reporting to parents in 19th November 2012. 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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