

DINAS POWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents
This report relates to academic year 2023-2024



I stood down from the position as Chair of Governors at the end of this academic year having served in this role for the past thirty years. I have enjoyed every day and it has been a joy and a privilege to play a role in the development of the school. My proudest achievements were being involved in the appointment of Mrs. Julie Thompson and Mr. Jon-Paul Guy as Headteachers. We built a good rapport and I am proud to call them friends. We all know that Dinas Powys Primary is a good school and this was verified by the Estyn Inspection report published in August. I commend this report to you and wish my successor as Chair, Mr. Brett Andrewartha every success in the role.

Mrs. Jill Davies

Dinas Powys Primary School is a County Primary Day School for 3 - 11 year olds maintained by The Vale of Glamorgan Council. The school is on two sites.

The Infant Site is a re-modelled traditional building with a large award-winning 'seamless addition' extension. It is on one level with easy access for all children and is surrounded by a large playground and school fields, with benches, a Forest School, a wildlife area, a wooden play trail, willow structures, a storytelling circle, an outdoor classroom and a vegetable plot. The Junior site is set in five acres of land, with a woodland/wildlife area and vegetable garden. This site has eight classrooms and a number of specialist teaching rooms, including an ICT suite and Library, and separate rooms for Music, Art/Design Technology and Additional Learning Needs. It is surrounded by two large playgrounds and extensive school fields, with pond, willow structure, a storytelling circle, outdoor classroom areas and traversing walls. This year saw the installation of a new modular building to replace the school's older modular classrooms. The new building houses the Year 6 classrooms and an independently run Flying Start provision.

Governing Body Composition (as of July 2024)

Local Authority Representatives:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs Jill Davies | <i>Serving until 2027 (Chair)</i> |
| Councillor Mr. Keith Hatton | <i>Serving until 2024</i> |
| Mr Matthew McDonald | <i>Serving until 2027</i> |
| Councillor Mrs. Ann Asbrey | <i>Serving until 2025</i> |

Parent Representatives:

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|----------------------|--|
| Mrs Clare Tomlinson | <i>Serving until 2024</i> |
| Mr Brett Andrewartha | <i>Serving until 2026 (Vice Chair)</i> |
| Mr Stian Kjellstadli | <i>Serving until 2027</i> |
| Mrs Joanne Watkins | <i>Serving until 2027</i> |
| Mr William Batten | <i>Serving until 2027</i> |

Headteacher

Mr Jon-Paul Guy

Teacher Representative:

Mrs Suzanne Davies *Serving until 2024*
Mrs Hannah Jones *Serving until 2027*

Non-Teaching Representative:

Mrs Vicky Evans *Serving until 2027*

Community Council Representative:

Councillor Mrs. Debbie Evans *Serving until 2026*

Community Members:

Mrs Sally Blake *Serving until 2028*

Mr Mark Hodgkinson *Serving until 2028*

Miss Usha Hirani *Serving until 2027*

Vacancy

Observer:

Mrs Emma Messer *Deputy Headteacher*

Clerk to the Governors:

Mrs. Amy Gathergood

The Governing Body meets twice termly.

Both the Chair of Governors and the Clerk can be contacted using the school's address.

No parents' meeting was held last year.

The next scheduled election for a parent governor will be during the Autumn Term, 2024.

Estyn Inspection

The school received a very successful Estyn inspection in June 2024. The inspection team highlighted that 'Dinas Powys Primary School is a welcoming, inclusive school where leaders and staff are committed to providing effective care and support for all pupils'. The report also noted that 'Provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills including literacy, numeracy and digital skills is strong and pupils make good progress in these areas'. The team identified two recommendations which will form the basis of school improvement work in the next year. These are:

R1 Address inconsistencies in teaching to ensure all pupils make the progress they should

R2 Ensure that all pupils have effective opportunities to influence what and how they learn

School Development Plan

The school has worked on the following priorities in its school development plan for 2023-2024.

| Priority | Progress |
|--|---|
| Developing provision for Languages, | The school worked with the regional improvement consortia to implement the Get Writing approach. Staff were all trained on Comparative Judgement marking. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Literacy and Communication (LLC)</p> | <p>This combined with other work on writing resulted in improved standards of writing as noted in the inspection report; <i>This has had a beneficial impact on improving pupils' writing skills.</i></p> <p>School has also developed its International Language provision, focussing on French as well as continuing its work on Welsh language.</p> |
| <p>Develop the school's assessment approaches and provision of challenge for all</p> | <p>School implemented a planning and tracking system across the school known as Taith 360. Mrs. Messer, Deputy Headteacher, adapted the school's end of year written reports to parents in collaboration with Parent Forum.</p> <p>The school also continued developing its practice to ensure high levels of challenge for all pupils and ensuring that teachers' feedback to pupils helps them know what they are doing well and what they need to improve. The school also continued its work on the curriculum.</p> |
| <p>Develop school's provision for wellbeing, inclusivity and diversity</p> | <p>The school developed a robust approach to tracking pupils' attendance and overall attendance improved. Estyn noted - <i>The school monitors pupils' attendance closely and has clear policies and procedures in place for staff and parents to follow regarding pupil absence. A detailed tracking system is having a positive impact and pupil attendance is improving.</i></p> <p>Anti-bullying workshops were delivered to all junior year groups and assemblies were used to share definitions with pupils. Two members of staff completed an Anti-Racist action research project. The school's Eco leads and Eco-committee completed the Active Travel plan. As a result new scooter and bike storage was installed at both sites.</p> <p>The School's behaviour and relationships policy was re-written to reflect trauma informed and relational practice. to re-inforce the rules for using the provision. Estyn noted <i>'Across the school, staff apply the recently amended behaviour policy successfully to promote positive behaviour. Pupils respond well to these new approaches'.</i></p> |
| <p>Refine the school's evaluation and improvement procedures</p> | <p>School continued its work on developing effective systems to evaluate its work and bring around improvements. A school improvement summary was created and shared with parents. The school's Governing Body completed the regional consortia's Governing Body Toolkit audit.</p> <p>School staff, pupil groups and the Governing Body have completed a range of activities to gather information on what is working well in school and where we could improve.</p> |

Estyn noted 'In general, processes support leaders to evaluate the school's work accurately and bring about improvements at a brisk pace. Leaders know the school's strengths, aspects of its work that need to be embedded and areas that require improvement'.

School Leavers

Of the Year 6 pupils, 58 moved to St Cyres while a remaining three went to Whitmore or Stanwell. School held meetings with secondary staff to provide information to support pupils' transition. Pupils were able to visit their receiving secondary school prior to moving up in September.

School Budget

As widely reported, school budgets are becoming increasingly challenging. Most of the school's budget is allocated from the local authority with supplementary income in the form of grants from Welsh Government.

School receives additional funding through the Pupil Development Grant which is allocated on historical free school meal data. School uses this money to implement support programmes such as Catch Up literacy.

Budget monitoring is carried out by the local authority's finance monitoring officer and the governing body's Operational Committee.

Financial Statement (Year 2023/2024)

| DETAIL | ANNUAL BUDGET | TOTAL ACTUAL |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| CONT. TO FUNDS | 0.00 | 7,387.84 |
| CONT TO CAPITAL OUTTURN | 0.00 | 7,387.84 |
| EMPLOYEES | 1,881,393.00 | 1,918,106.59 |
| TEACHING EMPLOYEES | 1,308,964.00 | 1,318,295.27 |
| NON TEACHING EMPLOYEES | 275,645.00 | 290,968.04 |
| GRANT EMPLOYEES | 296,784.00 | 308,593.28 |
| INDIRECT EMPLOYEE EXPENSES | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| INTERNAL RECHARGES EXPEND | 171,416.00 | 172,658.46 |
| INTERNAL RECHARGES EXPEND | 171,416.00 | 172,658.46 |
| PREMISES | 160,852.00 | 211,740.89 |
| CLEANING AND DOMESTIC SUPPLIES | 56,818.00 | 64,200.62 |
| ENERGY | 33,007.00 | 62,968.15 |
| GROUNDS MAINTENANCE | 4,207.00 | 0.00 |
| RATES | 30,228.00 | 30,228.00 |
| REPAIRS & MAINT OF BUILDING | 29,547.00 | 46,556.99 |
| WATER SERVICES | 7,045.00 | 7,787.13 |
| SUPPLIES AND SERVICES | 149,571.00 | 96,516.31 |
| COMMS AND COMPUTING | 36,096.00 | 21,070.23 |
| EQUIP, FURNITURE & MATERIALS | 56,035.00 | 66,214.40 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| EXPENSES | 150.00 | -440.00 |
| GRANTS & SUBSCRIPTIONS | 8,263.00 | 0.00 |
| MISC EXPENSES | 35,037.00 | 206.99 |
| PRINTING STATIONERY & OFFICE EXPS | 10,500.00 | 8,660.46 |
| SERVICES | 3,490.00 | 804.23 |
| TRANSPORT | 300.00 | 0.00 |
| CAR ALLOWANCES | 300.00 | 0.00 |
| CUSTOMER RECEIPTS | -25,747.00 | -60,709.03 |
| CHARGE FOR SERVICE | 0.00 | -14,679.65 |
| DONATIONS | -350.00 | -16,946.73 |
| SALE OF PRODUCTS | 0.00 | -2,449.12 |
| SECONDMENT INCOME | -25,397.00 | -26,633.53 |
| GOVERNMENT GRANT | -296,675.00 | -321,527.83 |
| OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS | -8,263.00 | -8,263.00 |
| WG GRANTS | -288,412.00 | -313,264.83 |
| INTERNAL RECHARGES INCOME | -60,353.00 | -136,278.98 |
| INTERNAL RECHARGES INCOME | -60,353.00 | -136,278.98 |
| Total 101006 | 1,980,757.00 | 1,887,894.25 |

No Governor claimed travel or subsistence allowances.

School Term Dates

[2024/2025 Term Dates](#)

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

Good Friday: 18 April 2025

Easter Monday: 21 April 2025

May Bank Holidays: Monday 5 May 2025 and Monday 26 May 2025

| Autumn 2024 | Spring 2025 | Summer 2025 |
|--|--|--|
| Start: Monday 2 September 2024 | Start: Monday 6 January 2025 | Start: Monday 28 April 2025 |
| Half Term: | Half Term: Monday 24 February - Friday 28 February 2025 | Half Term: Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May 2025 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024 End: Friday 20 December 2024 | End: Friday 11 April 2025 | End: *Monday 21 July 2025 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

School Toilets

All school toilets are cleaned daily. Nursery and Reception year groups have a set of toilets each. A further set are shared between Year 1 and 2. At the juniors each year group has its own set of toilets. Cleaning is provided by the local authority. The School has contracts that provide foaming soap and modern hand driers. They meet compliance with the Education (School) Regulations 1999. There are designated disabled toilets on both sites.

Curriculum

School delivers the Curriculum for Wales. This is a purpose driven curriculum and school has spent time tailoring its provision so that the curriculum meets the needs of the pupils and better reflects a modern Wales. School worked with other local schools to develop consistency in expectations and experiences for the pupils during an INSET day in February. School uses a variety of teaching approaches to deliver its curriculum including whole class, groups and individual pupil support. A range of outside providers supplement the learning. Educational visits also benefit the pupils' learning and there were a wide range of these provided. Pupils in Year 6 attended an outdoor pursuit residential. Further enrichment is provided through themed days and weeks such as World Book Day and Anti-bullying week. The Estyn inspection report notes *'The school has developed a purposeful curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils'*.

Welsh Language

School promotes Welsh language development in a variety of ways and has achieved the Siarter Iaith Silver Award for the Cymraeg Campus scheme, recognising school's progress in developing Welsh language. Discreet lessons based on the Central South Consortium's language continuum ensure children from nursery to Year 6 develop their language in a progressive way. In the infants, language patterns are reinforced during daily sessions known as Helpwr Heddiw. In the juniors these sessions are known as Deg Y Dydd. These sessions cover vocabulary and sentence patterns on a variety of topics including food, weather and travel. Teachers often provide commands in Welsh and pupils are encouraged to use Welsh language patterns incidentally throughout the school day. Learning across the curriculum develops children's understanding of Welsh culture including the study of Welsh artists and composers as well as studying events that have shaped Welsh history. The school held its annual Eisteddfod at both sites.

Additional Learning Needs

School implements the ALN act by developing Individual Development Plans from Person Centred Planning meetings. A wide range of interventions are used to support pupils on the ALN register and those pupils that need some additional support. These interventions cover a broad spectrum of areas from academic to personal and social development, delivered by school staff. School engages with a wide range of specialists to support pupils including speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, medical teams and local authority specialist teachers.

Sport, Cultural Events and Community Links

A range of extra-curricular clubs are provided, during lunch at the infants and after school in the juniors. These include dance club, Book club, running club, football and choir. Choir performed at Youldon House and the library. Father Andrew, Matt Lewis and Jonathan Davis led whole school assemblies.

Former Wales footballer, Joe Ledley joined Year 2 for the daily mile. Year 5 and 6 pupils received two weeks of swimming lessons. Our girls' football team took part in a tournament at the House of Sport and were lucky to meet Rhea Oakley, Cardiff City footballer.

Our Christmas celebrations were delightful. The Concerts were wonderful and the children performed superbly well. We also held a lovely Christmas service in Bethesda chapel and had a visit from Santa at the infants.

Year 6 pupils performed their Shakespeare play wonderfully at the Newport Riverfront Theatre. The Year 6 dance group performed at Barry Memorial Hall.

Junior class visits to the community library continued.

Improvements to the learning environment

During the academic year there were numerous improvements made to the school learning environment. The new modular building was completed and handed over to the school. As part of the work, a new tarmacked space was installed, extending the junior playground. New external fencing was installed at the infants. Ongoing maintenance and compliance costs continue to have a significant impact on the school budget.

**Healthy Eating and Living**

The school promotes healthy living and encourages healthy snacks. Pupils are encouraged to drink water and are provided with a water bottle. Water fountains are located around school to replenish bottles.

School dinners are provided by the Big Fresh Catering Company an independent trading arm of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and adhere to Welsh Government nutritional guidelines.

Pupils across school have engaged in a variety of sporting activities during PE sessions. Pupils in Year 3 received lessons on Healthy Lunchboxes.

Revisions and reviews

The governing body adopted the following policies; Redundancy, Dignity at Work, Recruitment and Selection, Social Networking, Special Leave, Behaviour Management, School Uniform, E-Safety, MAT policy, Food and Fitness, LA Attendance Policy, School Attendance. The governing body reviewed the school prospectus with updates to costs of school meals etc.

This Governors' Annual Report is written in accordance with the Department for Education and Skills Welsh Government - The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011.