

# DINAS POWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents  
This report relates to academic year 2024-2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the Annual Report to Parents and Carers for the 2024-25 school year. It is a statutory requirement that this report is published and made available to all parents and carers of pupils at the school.

I took up the role of Chair of the Governing Body in September 2024. I firstly wish to say a huge thank you to the outgoing Chair, Jill Davies, for her dedication to the school as Chair over a period of thirty years.

This report gives me the opportunity to thank all school staff for their unfailing dedication to children, recognised by Estyn in the inspection report in August 2024 which describes the school as

“a welcoming, inclusive school where leaders and staff are committed to providing effective care and support for all pupils. Staff nurture positive relationships with pupils, which ensures that most feel safe and happy in school. Leaders focus their work firmly on improving outcomes for pupils’ learning and well-being. As a result, most pupils, including those eligible for free school meals and those with additional learning needs (ALN), make good progress.”

The 2024-25 school year saw the school continuing to build on its strengths, working with other local schools to embed consistency in teaching practice and to further develop how pupils influence their learning throughout the school.

I would also like to thank the Friends and Family of Dinas Powys Primary School for all their fundraising activities in 2024/25, having a significant positive impact on the school and raising a staggering £12,237.25 with the support of parents and staff to provide numerous extra-curricular activities and investment to develop the school’s sites.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, parents and carers - your continued to support and cooperation is greatly appreciated by all in the school community and this continues to be a strength of the school.

Brett Andrewartha

Chair, Dinas Powys Primary School Governing Body

**Dinas Powys Primary School is a County Primary Day School for children aged 3–11, maintained by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The school operates across two sites.**

The **Infant Site** is a remodelled traditional building that incorporates a large, award-winning seamless extension. It is fully accessible on one level and is surrounded by generous outdoor spaces, including a large playground, school fields, benches, a Forest School area, a wildlife zone, a wooden play trail, willow structures, a storytelling circle, an outdoor classroom, and a vegetable plot.

The **Junior Site** sits within five acres of land and includes a woodland and wildlife area as well as a vegetable garden. It contains eight classrooms and a range of specialist teaching rooms, such as an ICT suite, a library, dedicated rooms for Music and

Art/Design Technology, and facilities that support Additional Learning Needs. The site is further enhanced by two large playgrounds, extensive school fields, a pond, willow structures, storytelling circles, outdoor classroom spaces, and traversing walls. This year, the school installed a new modular building to replace its older modular classrooms. The new facility accommodates the Year 6 classes and is also home to an independently run Flying Start provision.

### **Governing Body Composition (as of July 2025)**

#### **Local Authority Representatives:**

Mrs Jill Davies	Serving until 2027
Mr Matthew McDonald	Serving until 2027
Councillor Mrs. Ann Asbrey	Serving until 2026
Vacancy	

#### **Parent Representatives:**

Mrs Helen Cook	Serving until 2028
Mr Brett Andrewartha	Serving until 2026 (Chair of Governors)
Mr Stian Kjellstadli	Serving until 2027
Mrs Joanne Watkins	Serving until 2027 (Vice Chair of Governors)
Mr William Batten	Serving until 2027

#### **Headteacher**

Mr Jon-Paul Guy

#### **Teacher Representative:**

Mrs Sarah Williams	Serving until 2028
Mrs Hannah Jones	Serving until 2027

#### **Non-Teaching Representative:**

Mrs Vicky Evans	Serving until 2027
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#### **Community Council Representative:**

Councillor Mrs. Debbie Evans	Serving until 2026
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#### **Community Members:**

Mrs Sally Blake	Serving until 2028
Mr Mark Hodgkinson	Serving until 2028
Miss Usha Hirani	Serving until 2027
Miss Nabeala Fiaz	Serving until 2029

#### **Observer:**

Mrs Emma Messer	Deputy Headteacher
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#### **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 Spring Term 2026.**

### **School Improvement Priorities**

The first two priorities were developed in direct response to the school's Estyn recommendations. Priorities three and four are based on the school's own identified areas for development as well as national priorities for all schools in Wales.

#### **Priority 1: Address inconsistencies in teaching so all pupils make good progress**

Staff engaged in a wide range of professional learning, including training on effective questioning and digital skills. Monitoring such as learning walks, book reviews and observations helped identify strengths and next steps. Approaches to writing and numeracy were refined to ensure greater consistency, "Target Time" was refreshed with new resources, and staff moving to new age groups were supported through opportunities to observe established practice.

#### **Priority 2: Ensure pupils have meaningful opportunities to influence what and how they learn**

Work continued to strengthen pupil voice within the curriculum. Staff revisited the school's curriculum model and undertook training focused on learner choice. Monitoring confirmed that pupils can describe how they make decisions in their learning, and additional planning time was provided to embed this further. Classroom environments and resources were reviewed and improved, and collaboration with other schools supported ongoing development. Pupil questionnaires showed that most pupils feel they have genuine choice in their learning.

#### **Priority 3: Strengthen provision for wellbeing, inclusivity and diversity**

Staff received training on behaviour approaches, sensory needs and supporting pupils with additional needs. Behaviour expectations were clarified, and attendance work continued, celebrating high attendance. Improvements were made to indoor and outdoor learning spaces, including new covered areas and a stage. Updated policies and training supported staff in addressing discriminatory language effectively. Pupil voice suggests that most pupils feel behaviour around the school is positive.

#### **Priority 4: Refine the school's evaluation and improvement procedures**

Leaders took part in professional learning on self-evaluation and collaborated with other schools to share approaches. Curriculum leads continued gathering evidence to support improvement, and learning walks and book reviews informed planning. The Governing Body completed development activities, including a learning walk and discussions with pupil voice groups. The school also contributed to local authority work on developing future school-to-school support models.

### **School Leavers**

Of the Year 6 pupils, 53 moved to St Cyres, and a further five transitioned to other secondary schools, including Stanwell, St Richard Gwyn, or Pencoedtre. The school holds a transition plan with St Cyres, which is reviewed annually. Meetings were held with secondary staff to share information supporting pupils' transition, and pupils were able to visit their receiving secondary schools prior to moving up in September.

### **School Budget and Financial Statement (2024/2025)**

School budgets continue to face increasing pressures, as has been widely reported. The majority of the school's funding is provided by the local authority, with additional income received through grants from the Welsh Government. The school receives support through the Pupil Development Grant, which is allocated based on historical free-school-meal data. This funding is used to run targeted support programmes, such as Catch Up Literacy, to help improve outcomes for identified learners.

Budget monitoring is undertaken by the local authority's finance monitoring officer and reviewed by the Governing Body's Operational Committee to ensure financial stability and accountability.

The Governing Body extends its heartfelt thanks to the Friends and Family Association, as well as all parents who attend and support our events, for their invaluable financial contributions which make a significant difference to our pupils and school community.

Description	Detail Description	Budget	Actual
<b>Employees</b>		2,012,930.00	2,037,745.16
Premises	Repairs & Maintenance - Internal Contracts	6,000.00	18,210.02
Premises	Repairs & Maintenance - External Contracts	29,281.00	31,487.96
Premises	Security Measures - Internal Contracts	1,390.00	1,306.83
Premises	Fire Alarms	500.00	0.00
Premises	Burglar Alarms	3,030.00	271.39
Premises	Responsive Maintenance	0.00	385.00
Premises	Electricity	27,062.00	35,936.34
Premises	Gas	13,868.00	14,884.26
Premises	Rates	31,753.00	31,753.00
Premises	Water - Metered Supplies	7,045.00	7,605.18
Premises	Window & Flue Cleaning	1,600.00	1,600.00
Premises	Refuse Collection/Bulk Containers	6,430.00	6,118.02
Premises	Household & Toilet Requisites	8,413.00	4,166.55
Premises	Contract Cleaning	52,473.00	52,099.72
Premises	Grounds Maintenance External Contracts	4,207.00	0.00
<b>Premises</b>		193,052.00	205,824.27
<b>Transport</b>		300.00	0.00
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>		223,848.00	117,808.16
<b>Transfers To/From Reserves</b>		0.00	0.00
<b>Cont to Capital Outturn</b>		0.00	381.90
<b>Internal Recharges Expenditure</b>		111,713.00	104,385.82
<b>Government Grants</b>		-442,158.00	-464,489.86
<b>Customer Receipts</b>		-2,625.00	-22,747.63
<b>Internal Recharges Income</b>		-32,355.00	-41,860.71
<b>BFCC Income</b>		-12,428.00	-12,428.00
		<b>2,052,277.00</b>	<b>1,924,663.28</b>

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<b>Closing balance</b>			<b>127,395.33</b>

No Governor claimed travel or subsistence allowances.

#### 2025/2026 Term Dates

**Mon 1 Sept 2025** and **\*Monday 20 July 2026** 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 20 July 2026 or at an alternative time for example in the form of twilight sessions.**

All schools will be closed on **Monday 4 May 2026** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

#### Significant dates:

**Christmas:** Thursday 25 December 2025

**Good Friday:** 3 April 2026

**Easter Monday:** 6 April 2026

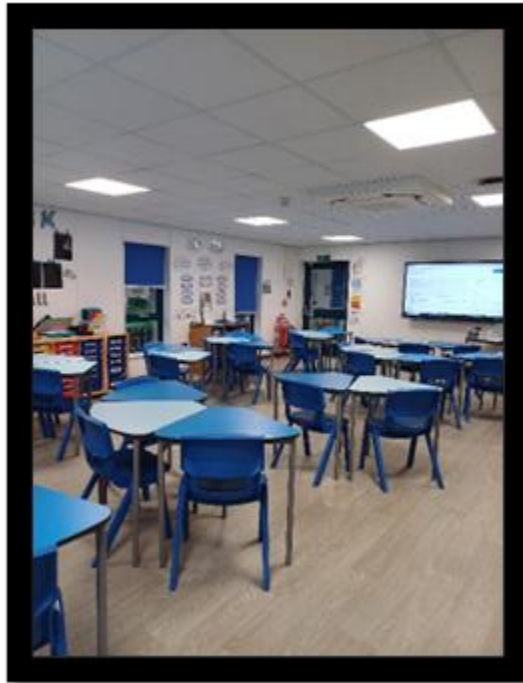
**May Bank Holidays:** Monday 4 May 2026 and Monday 25 May 2026

<b>Autumn 2025</b>	<b>Spring 2026</b>	<b>Summer 2026</b>
<b>Start:</b> Monday 1 September 2025	<b>Start:</b> Monday 5 January 2026	<b>Start:</b> Monday 13 April 2026
<b>Half Term:</b> Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October 2025	<b>Half Term:</b> Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026	<b>Half Term:</b> Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2026
<b>End:</b> Friday 19 December 2025	<b>End:</b> Friday 27 March 2026	<b>End:</b> *Monday 20 July 2026
<b>No. of School Days:</b> 75	<b>No. of School Days:</b> 55	<b>No. of School Days:</b> 65

### School Toilets

All school toilets are cleaned daily. In the Nursery and Reception year groups, each class has its own dedicated set of toilets. A shared set is available for pupils in Years 1 and 2. At the junior site, each year group has its own designated toilet facilities.

Cleaning services are provided by the local authority. The school also maintains contracts to supply foaming soap and modern hand dryers, ensuring that all facilities meet the requirements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. In addition, both school sites are equipped with designated disabled toilet facilities.



**New Year 6 classrooms**

### Curriculum

Our school is proud to deliver the Curriculum for Wales—a purpose-led, modern curriculum designed to inspire curious, confident learners. We have spent considerable time shaping our provision so that it reflects the needs, interests, and identities of our pupils, as well as the diversity of modern Wales.

This year, staff worked closely with neighbouring schools during a February INSET day to strengthen consistency in expectations and learning experiences across the local area. Teaching at our school is flexible and dynamic, using a blend of whole-class teaching, small-group activities and individual support to help every child thrive.

Learning is enriched through contributions from a range of external providers, bringing additional expertise and experiences into the classroom. Educational visits also play a key role in deepening pupils' understanding of the world around them, and we offered a wide variety of trips throughout the year. A particular highlight was the Year 6 outdoor pursuits residential, where pupils developed teamwork, resilience and independence.

Our curriculum is also brought to life through themed days and focus weeks—such as World Book Day and Anti-Bullying Week—which create memorable learning opportunities and help strengthen the values at the heart of our school community.

### **Welsh Language**

The school actively promotes the Welsh language in a variety of engaging and meaningful ways. We are proud to have achieved the Siarter Iaith Silver Award through the *Cymraeg Campus* scheme, recognising our strong and continued progress in developing the use of Welsh across the school community.

Pupils from Nursery to Year 6 follow discreet Welsh lessons based on the Central South Consortium's language continuum, ensuring Welsh skills develop progressively as children move through the school. In the infants, pupils take part in Helpwr Heddiw sessions each day, reinforcing familiar language patterns. In the juniors, pupils participate in Deg Y Dydd, which builds vocabulary and sentence structures on themes such as food, weather and travel. Teachers regularly give instructions in Welsh, and pupils are encouraged to use Welsh naturally throughout the school day to build confidence and fluency.

Across the wider curriculum, pupils also explore Welsh culture, including the work of Welsh artists and composers and key historical events that have shaped Wales. A highlight of the year continues to be the school's annual Eisteddfod, held at both sites, where pupils celebrate Welsh language, creativity and heritage.

Alongside our Welsh language provision, the school also holds half termly French Language Weeks.

### **Sport, Cultural Events and Community Links**

The school continues to offer a rich programme of extra-curricular clubs. At the infant site, lunchtime clubs included dance and book clubs, while at the junior site a variety of after-school opportunities were available, such as running club, football and choir. Our choir represented the school beautifully during performances at Youldon House and the local library. We were also delighted to welcome Father Andrew, Matt Lewis and Jonathan Davis, who each led whole-school assemblies during the year.

School hosted football matches against other local schools during the spring and summer.

Our Christmas celebrations were particularly joyful. The concerts were a delight, with children performing superbly. We held a lovely Christmas service at Bethesda Chapel, and pupils at the infant site were thrilled to receive a festive visit from Santa.

Cultural enrichment continued throughout the year. Year 6 pupils performed their Shakespeare production with great confidence at the Newport Riverfront Theatre, and the Year 6 dance group gave a fantastic performance at The Tramshed. Our junior classes also continued regular visits to the community library, helping to strengthen pupils' love of reading and their links with the local area.

### **Improvements to the learning environment**

During the year, Year 6 lockers were relocated to the new building, and two interactive whiteboards were installed to enhance classroom learning. A new shed

and associated groundworks were completed at the rear of the junior building by an external contractor, funded through a catering-related grant.

At the infant site, new wooden shelters were installed, and at the junior site a new outdoor stage was constructed to support outdoor learning and performances. Work was also carried out along the junior site boundary, where a damaged fencing slat was replaced and overgrown shrubbery was cut back by Network Rail.

Updated fire risk assessments for both sites have been completed and the fire-fighting equipment and fire alarms across both sites have also been fully serviced.

The Flying Start provision has now opened and is operating under the name *Dragonflies*. Air conditioning has been installed in the Year 4 classrooms, creating a more comfortable learning environment. In addition, fob-controlled access has been added to the door leading to the Year 3 classrooms to strengthen site security.

The school is pleased to report that the kitchen team at the infant site achieved the highest possible rating during their recent food hygiene inspection, reflecting their continued commitment and high standards.

Unfortunately, the junior site experienced an incident of vandalism over the final weekend of the Christmas break. Damage was caused to a skylight above the changing area in the junior kitchen, which resulted in further damage to the suspended ceiling below.

The school has also been able to fund improvements to the Year 3 outdoor space, including the installation of a low-level wall and a new patio surface. In addition, flood-prevention plans for the junior site have been developed by contractors on behalf of the Local Authority as part of a wider community scheme.



**We received a grant from Big Fresh Catering to fund most of the work. The rest of the work was funded by the Friends and Family Association.**

### **Healthy Eating and Living**

The school actively promotes healthy lifestyles and encourages pupils to make positive choices about food and wellbeing. Children are supported to bring healthy snacks, and all pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Each child is provided with their own water bottle, and water fountains are located around the school so bottles can be easily refilled.

School meals are provided by the Big Fresh Catering Company, an independent trading arm of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. All meals fully comply with Welsh Government nutritional guidelines, ensuring that pupils enjoy balanced, nutritious lunches.

Physical activity continues to play an important role in school life. Pupils take part in a wide range of sporting activities during their PE sessions, helping to develop fitness, teamwork and confidence. In addition, Year 3 pupils received dedicated lessons on making healthy lunchbox choices, supporting them in developing lifelong healthy habits.

### **Revisions and reviews**

The governing body reviewed or adopted the following policies; Safer Recruitment, Education, Redundancy, DBS, Transition plan, Safeguarding, Anti-Racism, School Uniform and Breakfast Provision. The school prospectus with updated with amendments to costs of school meals etc. Key school policies are available on the school's website or by contacting the offices.

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.