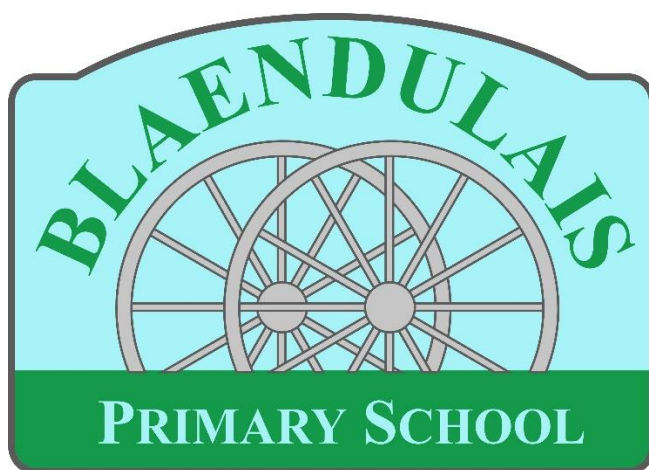


# Blaendulais Primary School Annual Report to Parents 2023/24



## **Governors Annual Report to Parents**

All parents/carers of pupils registered at the school are eligible to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the opportunity for raising questions with reference to the report.

If you wish this meeting to be held please inform the school in writing.

A full copy of the report will be available from the school upon request:

### **Chair of Governors:**

c/o Blaendulais Primary School

Standert Terrace

Seven Sisters

### **Clerk to Governors:**

Mrs Karen Cross

c/o Blaendulais Primary School

Standert Terrace

Seven Sisters

They may both also be contacted via the school.

**The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Governors annual report and to discuss any issues wish parents wish to raise.**

**Agenda:****To receive apologies****To receive the annual governors' report to parents****To receive any questions or resolutions**

It is the duty of the Governing Body to make decisions about how the school is run. Governors have legal duties, powers and responsibilities as a body but cannot act individually.

The Governing Body believes the aims of the school, as set out in the School Prospectus, should continue to be pursued. Underpinning these aims is Blaendulais Primary School's philosophy, that all our pupils are entitled to the very best education possible, which the school endeavours to provide, in close partnership with parents.

Each term the following sub-committees meet and report back to the main Governing Body meeting:

\*Finance

\*Buildings, Premises and Health & Safety

\*Curriculum & Standards

Other issues relating to the budget, pupil activities, school performance, the curriculum and Special Educational Needs are discussed. This meeting is viewed as an opportunity to celebrate our success as well as plan for the future.

**Blaendulais Primary School**  
**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The Governing Body members serve for a period of four years.

NAME	GOVERNOR CATEGORY
Mrs Cathryn Wheadon	Headteacher
Mr Emyr Lewis	LA Governor
Mr Stephen Hunt	LA Governor
Mrs Gaynor Smith	LA Governor
Ms Teresa James	Community Governor
Mr David John	Community Governor
Mr Carl Hamer	Community Governor
Mr Stephen Thomas	Community Governor
Mr Peter Totterdale	Parent Governor
Mrs Rebekah Davies	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Mrs Hayley Jones	Teacher Governor
Vacancy	Non-Teaching staff Governor

**Blaendulais Primary School Staff**

**HEADTEACHER:**

Mrs Cathryn Wheadon

**DEPUTY HEADTEACHER:**

Mr Craig Fulford-Astley

**TEACHING STAFF:**

Mrs L Rudge

Mrs H Jones

Mr W Curtis

Mr I Clark

Mrs A Totterdale

**NON-TEACHING STAFF:**

Mrs K Cross - Administrative Officer

Mrs D Hattab - Teaching Assistant

Mrs S Isaac	- Teaching Assistant
Mrs K Matts	- Teaching Assistant
Ms A. George	- Teaching Assistant
Mrs H Richards	- Teaching Assistant
Miss R Pugh	- Teaching Assistant
Mrs K Evans	- Teaching Assistant
Miss A Atkins	- Teaching Assistant
Miss C Williams	- Teaching Assistant
Miss S Richards	- Teaching Assistant
Mr K Roberts	- Caretaker
Ms A Phillips	- Cook

Kitchen Assistants	- Mrs G Roberts Mrs C Elkins Miss L Collins
--------------------	---

Lunchtime Supervisors	- Mrs T Evans Mrs H Richards Mrs D Daniels Miss S Richards
-----------------------	---

Breakfast Club Staff	- Mrs G Roberts
----------------------	-----------------

Cleaning Staff	- Mrs N Richards Mrs D Daniel Ms V Griffiths Ms S Hunter
----------------	---

### **Resolutions Passed at Last Meeting**

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

### **Election of Parent Governors**

At the current time, there are two Parent Governor vacancy – please contact the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Karen Cross, if interested. All parents with pupils in the school have been notified and ballot forms issued.

### **Financial Statement**

There were no payments to Governing Body members for travel or subsistence expenses.

### **School Categorisation**

Schools are no longer categorized however as of the last year of categorisation Blaendulais Primary School was a 'Green' school.

### **School Improvement Priorities for 2023-2024**

1. To improve the health and well-being of pupils, staff and the wider community including attendance of all pupils.
2. To develop pupil progress throughout the school including higher order thinking skills.
3. To develop the pupils ability to use the language of numeracy throughout the curriculum.
4. To develop pupils' higher order reading skills throughout the school.

Full details of priorities can be found in the School Improvement Plan which is available to parents upon request.

### **Attendance**

As you are aware, regular attendance and punctuality play a vital part in a child's education. It is essential that pupils attend regularly if they are to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. The Educational Welfare Officer works closely with the Headteacher to promote good attendance and to support families with difficulties.

School liaises closely with the Local Authority to monitor attendance and punctuality. We have close contact with the Education Welfare Officer whereby home visits, telephone calls and follow up visits are carried out to reduce absences in named pupils / families. All

families are urged to contact the school on the first day of a pupil's absence and every day thereafter.

### **Exclusions**

There has been one permanent exclusion in the school over the past 3 years.

### **Links with the Community**

Our school enjoys the increasing support of an active Friends of Blaendulais Association which regularly holds events. The association is open to everyone in the village who wishes to help to raise funds and support school activities. The Friends Association organised a number of events and raised funds for the benefit of our pupils, such as Halloween discos, Christmas/Summer Fetes, film nights, supper with Santa and Raffles.

As a school we support the local food bank at harvest time, decorate Christmas Trees and join the Carol Service, all in the Community Centre

The Learning Support Class has written to the council to ask for recycling bins to be placed in the village and are carrying out village walks. We welcome and provide placements for students at school and college, to enable them to gain valuable experiences to equip them for the world of work.

The school values its links with local religious groups and regularly welcomes Captain Andy from the Centre or Mission, Neath.

Links with the police remain strong. Local police officers and PCSOs visit school on a regular basis. PCSO Siwan Davies regularly attends the school to support initiatives and maintain a link with pupils.

In addition visits are made from community dentists, the fire service, the health visitor, the school nurse etc.

### **Sport**

All pupils take part in weekly physical education and games lessons as part of the National Curriculum during which pupils have access to gymnastics, dance, games, athletics and outdoor adventure lessons. In addition, all pupils in Key Stage 2 have access to swimming lessons in block sessions at Glynneath Swimming Pool.

After school sports clubs are available for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 on a weekly basis. The school's Sports Ambassadors and Playheroes play a vital role in the organisation and delivery of these clubs alongside staff.

Older pupils continue to participate in competitions and festivals organised by the Dragon Sport. Sports include rugby, football and netball.

### **Healthy School**

Blaendulais Primary has achieved Healthy School Status Phase 5 and is currently working towards Phase 6 which it hopes to achieve soon. Pupils are encouraged to bring healthy packed lunches and have the option to purchase or bring fruit for break-time. All pupils have access to water throughout the day.

### **Session Times**

Morning session begins at 8.50am and ends at 12.20 pm in Reception & Years 1-6.

Morning session begins at 8.45am and ends at 11.45am in Nursery.

Afternoon sessions begins at 1:10 p.m. and ends at 3.15pm



**School Leavers**

Year 6 pupils who left the school at the end of the academic Year 2023/24

16 transferred to Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School and Ysgol Hendrefelin and Ysgol Bae Baglan.

**2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The Education Committee has approved the following school terms and holiday dates for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Term	Term Begins	Mid Term Holiday		Term Ends	Days
		Begins	Ends		
Autumn 2023	Friday 1st September	Monday 30th October	Friday 3rd November	Friday 22nd December	76
Spring 2024	Monday 8th January	Monday 12th February	Friday 16th February	Friday 22nd March	50
Summer 2024	Monday 8th April	Monday 27th May	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Friday 19th July	69
<b>Total:</b>					<b>195</b>

Schools will be closed to pupils for INSET/Staff Preparation on six days between Friday 1st September 2023 and Monday 24th July 2023.

**Bank Holidays**

- Good Friday, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Easter Monday, Monday 1st April 2024
- May Bank Holiday, Monday 6th May 2024
- Spring Bank Holiday, Monday 27th May 2024

**School Prospectus**

The school prospectus has been reviewed and amended since the last meeting. Amendments to the Prospectus include:

\*School aspects of curriculum, teaching methods and organisation in school have been amended and are included within this report

A copy of the School Prospectus is issued to all new starters to school and a copy can be found on the school website.

### **Disability / Equality Policy**

The School has a comprehensive Policy for Equal Opportunities which has been adopted by the school's Governing Body. The Governing Body, Head Teacher and all staff, seek to promote equal opportunities and good relations between persons of different racial groups, able bodied and disabled persons and between males and females. Equal opportunity is promoted for everyone and throughout all aspects of school life at Blaendulais Primary School. Governors also follow legal requirements in making appointments and receive advice from the Local Authority's Human Resource Department.

At Blaendulais Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to close their disability and to participate fully in school life.

### **The Curriculum, Teaching Methods and Organisation at School**

#### **LEARNING AND TEACHING IN OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

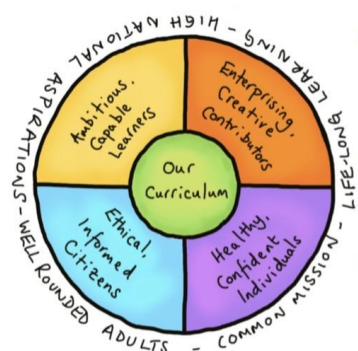
**At Blaendulais Primary, we will aim to ensure our school is a safe, fun and happy learning environment.**

From September 2023 the Welsh Government requires all Primary Schools to design their own curriculum. This means that we will use the new national framework called "[A Curriculum for Wales](#)" to support the needs of each child in the context of Blaendulais Primary School. The framework consists of six [Areas of Learning and Experiences \(AoLEs\)](#) as well as the cross-curricular themes of literacy, numeracy and digital-competency.



@impactwales

All learning and teaching throughout the school, will be underpinned by '[The Four Purposes](#)'. These four purposes will be taught implicitly and explicitly throughout each stage of your child's education. There will be a driving concept behind each term of planning, although topics can be different. Your child will be taught that learning starts with them and their family and moves through into their community, their Wales and onto their view of the wider world, therefore developing their sense of belonging (CYNEFIN). They will learn about their effect on these and the affect they have on them. Learning and teaching across each stage will change and be adapted over time as the world we live evolves at a rapid pace.



@impactwales

The progression of your child will now be measured through [progression steps](#). These steps will be based on a continuum of learning from ages 3-16, with learners being taught at their appropriate level of challenge along the continuum. At each progression step there will be descriptions of learning, differentiated to the needs of your child based on their personal development. We will no longer make one off judgements on the overall

achievement of your child or undertake specific assessment activities to make a judgement about their progression at a set age. Instead, we will now monitor and assess your child throughout their learning, in order to create a rounded judgement on their progression.

Our goal at Blaendulais Primary School is to nurture, inspire, support and challenge all of our children. We will achieve this through enjoyable, meaningful and diverse learning experiences in a supportive environment, which places wellbeing and self-esteem at its heart – enabling our pupils to become lifelong learners who aspire to be the best that they can be.

**This will ensure our pupils at Blaendulais Primary become happy, confident and proud members of their community.**



Learning and teaching time during a normal school week comprises of:

- Early Years – 22 hours 5 minutes
- Year 1/2 – 22 hours 55 minutes
- Year 3-6 – 24 hours 10 minutes

Any complaints about the curriculum should be made in the same way as general complaints detailed further in this booklet.

### **Teaching Methods**

Throughout the school, a variety of teaching methods are employed in various lessons. Whole class teaching takes place as well as group, paired, peer supported and individual work. Work is also differentiated to suit the needs of individual pupils.

Teaching assistants are employed in the school and work with individuals and groups of children under the direction of the class teacher.

## **Organisation**

The organisation of classes throughout the school is governed by pupil numbers and staffing restrictions. At the present time, there are 6 classes.

### **Classes consist of:**

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12 pupils</b>
<b>Reception</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9 pupils</b>
<b>LSC 1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7 pupils</b>
<b>LSC 2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10 pupils</b>
<b>Year 1 / 2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23 pupils</b>
<b>Year 3/4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18 pupils</b>
<b>Year 5/6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31 pupils</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>110 pupils</b>

### **Curriculum Arrangements for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs**

The school enters into regular consultation with representatives of the LA in order to support pupils with additional learning needs.

We want all pupils to feel equally valued at Blaendulais Primary School and so pupils with additional educational needs are integrated into mainstream classes. Reverse integration takes place as and when it is deemed appropriate. When necessary, pupils may be withdrawn from class to work in a small group or on an individual basis with a teaching assistant.

The school also makes use of LA support staff to provide additional, specialised, teaching resources and advice.

Staff are in regular receipt of up to date training which is appropriate to the needs of pupils in our school.

The LA has a policy for inclusion of all pupils including disabled pupils, which the school has adopted. The Additional Learning Needs Policy has been reviewed during the last year and The Code of Practice is adhered to stringently. The school's policy for Additional Learning Needs can be viewed at school.

The school's ALN Governor is: Mr Emyr Lewis. He visits the school's ALN Coordinator every half term to discuss provision and arrangements for pupils with ALN.

At the present time we have a total of 24.8% of pupils on the ALN register (21 pupils have a statement or an LA maintained IDP) and 30% receive an inclusive provision addressing a variety of additional needs. A range of appropriate intervention strategies and support is given to these pupils on a daily basis.

### **Language Category**

Blaendulais Primary is an English Medium School.

### **Welsh Second Language**

Welsh is introduced as a second language in short, mainly oral lessons from the time the child enters school. Enjoyment in learning the language is incorporated in a variety of situations: incidental, conversational, display and in singing. Welsh is used in most areas of the curriculum and is an integral part of classroom life.

As pupils progress, they develop reading and writing skills in Welsh in addition to oral skills.

We receive support and relevant teaching materials from peripatetic Welsh teacher visits, delivering lessons and providing support to all staff throughout the school.

We aim to promote bilingualism across the curriculum and aim to enable pupils to communicate effectively in English and Welsh at a level appropriate to their age and ability. Bilingual development is on-going within the school and is often apparent in most areas of the curriculum.

CYNEFIN is also important in our pupils' development and understanding of their Welsh heritage, culture and passion is reflected throughout the year in arrange of activities.

### **Security Arrangements**

The condition and state of repair of the buildings have been monitored by the Governing Body. All external doors are fitted with turn-buckle locks. Day time security locks are in use from 9.00 a.m. All children or visitors who arrive after this time must use the main entrance, and access into the building is controlled by an electronic intercom system. All security locks can be opened from inside the building. Regulation fire doors have been fitted to all classrooms, hall & cloakroom entrances. All visitors to the school are asked to sign the Visitors' Book and wear lanyards so they can be easily identified. There are CCTV cameras installed in school.

There are 8 qualified first aiders in school.

**Toilet Facilities**

There are separate and adequate toilet facilities for boys and girls in all parts of the school building. All toilets are cleaned daily. The school also has a unisex disabled toilet located near the entrance to both the Foundation Phase building and Key Stage 2 building.



Neath Port Talbot CBCPeriod: Apr 22 - Mar 23

Blaendulais Primary School	
<u>DELEGATED COSTS 2021/22</u>	
	<i>YTD-Actual</i>
TEACHERS SALARIES	456,383.71
SALARIES	254,082.45
WAGES	0.00
OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	0.00
PREMISES	36,386.59
TRANSPORTATION	608.00
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	26,781.74
TRANSFER PAYMENTS	549.84
SUPPORT SERVICES	74,826.84
GOVERNEMENT GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	164,063.57
SALES	0.00
FEES AND CHARGES INCOME	0.00
INTERNAL RECHARGES	11,017.10
RENTS	
INTEREST RECEIVED	320.00
TRANSFERS	41,268.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>631,853.00</u></b>

<u>NON-DELEGATED COSTS 2021/22</u>	
	<i>YTD-Actual</i>
TEACHERS SALARIES	
OTHER EMPLOYEES	
OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	
MISC INCOME	
CAPITAL CHARGES	51,357.00
CONTRIBUTION FROM RESERVES	41,268.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>10,089.00</u></b>