

# **Caerphilly County Borough Council**

## **Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School**



## **Governors Annual Report to Parents 2022-2023**

Chairperson: Mr Gareth Jones  
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School  
Maes Y Garn Road  
Oakdale  
Blackwood  
NP12 0NA

Clerk to Governors: Glenda Genner  
Education Achievement Services  
The Gateway  
Tredomen Park  
Hengoed  
CF82 7EH

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a happy and productive community of learners who are:

- R**espectful of everybody and everything,
- S**haring our knowledge and understanding,
- D**etermined to make a difference,
- P**assionate about lifelong learning.

## Foreword by Chair of Governors

Dear Parent/Guardian

After what has been a disruptive couple of years owing to the Pandemic, I am sure you share my enthusiasm for an exciting and hopeful un-interrupted academic year ahead.



Without dwelling too much on the past, I am keen and eager to offer my thanks and admiration to the whole school environment of Rhiw Syr Dafydd for the way in which our pupils and families showed such resilience. Our teaching staff were at the forefront of that and I know like many others, they made personal sacrifice throughout. As a regional Hub within Caerphilly Borough our school hosted pupils throughout the pandemic to help support key workers whilst they had to attend work. Teachers from our school and also neighbouring schools working together in such difficult times.

But alas we are now looking forward to a busy and exciting academic year with many new and exciting plans ahead.

Least of all the new Curriculum for Wales. Under the new curriculum, our school has created and developed new and exciting learning experiences for our pupils with four principal aims:

- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

Teachers have now been given flexibility in how subject matter is taught and delivered as part of 6 Wider Areas of Learning:

1. Expressive Arts
2. Health and Well-being
3. Humanities
4. Languages, Literacy and Communication
5. Mathematics and Numeracy
6. Science and Technology

Having seen and previewed the way that our teachers plan to implement this is both exciting and challenging. I am proud that we have been asked to present our ideas at regional and national level, which shows just how good our plans and ideas are. My thanks again to all staff within our school on their contributions to this.

Our parent app Seesaw is now fully operational and you will have a regular insight into your child's learning throughout the year along with key information notifications of school messages. We also have a new and updated website with key information along with our School's very own You Tube channel, not to forget our active Twitter account.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RhiwSyrDafyddPrimarySchool>

Our school continues to grow and is ever increasingly a cornerstone of the community of Oakdale and surrounding areas. Least of all with the state-of-the-art athletics facility constructed within the grounds of the school. I have no doubt that in time to come we will see sporting success as a direct result of such investment in facilities.

Our Governing Body is almost at full compliment. We have regular formal meetings to discuss the school and challenge/scrutinise decisions made. As Chair of the Governing Body I am proud and in awe of all the hard work that goes on around the school, not just by staff but also by my fellow Governors.

So, get ready for a fun and exciting year ahead for our learners and you their families. From concerts to books, sports clubs to after forest school, there is always something going on with so much to look forward to and enjoy.

I for one cannot wait and I look forward to meeting some or even all of you around the school and throughout the year ahead.

Gareth Jones  
Chair of Governors

### The Governing Body 2022-2023

The governing body is responsible for effective management of the school. We have fifteen governors and the Headteacher. Terms of office are normally 4 years. The full governing body is constituted as follows:

| Representative      | Name                            | Elected/Appointed by           | Term of Office Ends |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Parents             | Victoria Franklin               | Parents                        | 2026                |
|                     | Emma Broderick                  | Parents                        | 2026                |
|                     | Elizabeth Lowther               | Parents                        | 2024                |
|                     | Vacant                          | Parents                        |                     |
|                     | Vacant                          | Parents                        |                     |
| Teachers            | Claire Long                     | Teachers                       | 2026                |
|                     | Nick Bungaroo                   | Teachers                       | 2026                |
|                     | Robert Smith<br>(Observer)      | N/A                            | N/A                 |
| Non-Teaching Staff  | Angeline Griffiths              | Non-Teaching Staff             | 2025                |
| LEA                 | Gareth Jones (Chair)            | Caerphilly Education Authority |                     |
|                     | Samantha Davies<br>(Vice Chair) | Caerphilly Education Authority |                     |
|                     | Nick Rutter                     | Caerphilly Education Authority |                     |
|                     | Roy Saralis (Cllr)              | Caerphilly Education Authority |                     |
| Community Governors | Jim Diack                       | Governing Body                 | 2026                |
|                     | Wayne Jones                     | Governing Body                 | 2024                |
|                     | Leanne Langley                  | Governing Body                 | 2023                |
|                     | Sarah Windsor                   | Governing Body                 | 2027                |
|                     | Natalie Morris                  | Governing Body                 | 2027                |

All governors meet regularly, twice per term, with additional meetings as and when necessary.

As of the final governing body meeting of the academic year, there are two parent governor vacancies that will be advertised in the new academic year.

The governing body has not received a petition from parents requesting a formal meeting to discuss this report and therefore no meeting will be held (Section 94, School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013).

### Changes to the Governing Body During 2022-2023

Dr Natalie Morris and Mrs Sarah Windsor have completed their terms as parent governors and have been re-elected by the governing body as community governors.

## Financial Statement

Please see attached the financial statement for 2022-2023 (Appendix A).

## School Prospectus

The school prospectus has been updated and a copy is available at reception and electronically on [www.rhiwsyrdafyddschool.co.uk](http://www.rhiwsyrdafyddschool.co.uk).

## Last Inspection

The school was last inspected by ESTYN in 2014. ESTYN suspended inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspection framework has recently been updated and the school team are ensuring continued high standards.

## Targets

Due to the change in Curriculum for Wales, it is no longer a requirement to track outcomes and levels. However, the school is trialling bespoke programmes to track individuals progress across the Areas of Learning and Experience.

## Attendance 2022-23

| <i>Present</i>       | <i>Authorised Absence</i> | <i>Unauthorised Absence</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 91.9% (target 95.7%) | 5.9                       | 2.2%                        |

The headteacher offers weekly attendance updates to parents within the school newsletter and has introduced the new school welfare officer. The school and welfare officer will continue to work with parents to improve whole school attendance.

## School Key Priority Areas

- To continue improve standards of Mathematics and numeracy throughout the school.
- To continue to design and implement the Curriculum for Wales framework and our school level curriculum.
- To identify, celebrate, challenge and develop MAT pupils across the school and across a wide range of disciplines and talents.
- To improve standards of phonics awareness and spelling across the school.

## Review of School Policies

All policies were reviewed by representatives of the Governing Body in September 2022 and accepted going forward.

## Implementation and Review of School Strategies

Two workshops were held by Mr Smith about the implementation of the new sexual and relationships education. It is planned that the WRAP project will attend next year to attend a workshop. Mr Smith has prepared a video parents based on governor's feedback on how children progress in the new curriculum and how we communicate that to parents.

## **Leadership & Management**

Rhiw Syr Dafydd is a Professional Learning Lead for the EAS. Rhiw Syr Dafydd has also been instrumental in collaborative work with the new curriculum and, also led the Ebbw Fawr cluster in devising their curriculum. Mr George is an Executive Board Member at University of South Wales where he is fundamental in shaping the future of future teachers.

## **Additional Learning Needs**

The ALN policy is available at the school for those who wish to view it. It is also available electronically on the school website.

## **Disabled Pupils**

We organise the rights of all disabled pupils and facilitate their integration into the life of the school to the best of our ability.

## **Healthy Eating**

Healthy eating is actively encouraged at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School. We have welcomed the recommencement of the fruit stall at break time. Break time snacks of fruit only are encouraged. We encourage our school to be nut free for the safety of pupils with severe allergies.

## **Sports**

The pupils at Rhiw Syr Dafydd participate in a range of sporting activities, both during and outside the school day.

*Cross Country* Pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 represented RSDP at the Caerphilly schools' event at the Showfields, Blackwood. The year 3/4 boys; year 5/6 boys and girls earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place for Rhiw Syr Dafydd.

*Football* The girls and boys football team participated in multiple tournaments and the boys reached a local semi-final.

*Rugby* A number of students represented the Islwyn District.

*Cricket* The Year 5/6 reached the final stages of a tournament.

A number of past and present pupils have also attained outstanding sporting achievements in clubs outside of school.

## **Other Extra Curricular Activities**

Chaplin's Pantomime company visited the school for performances of Treasure Island.

Minecraft Club attended the national finals in the Principality Stadium. We had a visit from Rhian Passmore MS to talk to the children about leadership and a career in politics. The drama club performed The Lion King to great success.

## **Community Links**

*Harvest* A big thank you to parents, guardians and extended family who supported our Harvest Festival and we donated all proceeds to Blackwood Food Bank.

*Library* We continued to visit Oakdale Library for some year groups.

*KLA* We continue to have good links the KLA Dance school who use our hall for practice after school on a Tuesday.

*Tae kwon Do* Tae kwon Do Wales also use our hall for practice sessions.

### **Trips**

Year 6 enjoyed their PGL trip. Year 5 explored Big Pit. Year 4 attended an overnight trip to Cardiff Bay. Year 3 enjoyed a tour of Cardiff City Stadium and the Roman Baths in Caerleon. Year 2 had a lovely time exploring Barry Island.

### **Parent Teachers Association (PTA)**

The PTA continue to do outstanding fundraising for the school including very successful Christmas and Summer fayres. They have also run many discos and various stalls. We thank them for all their hard work.

### **School Leavers**

The September following their eleventh birthday, pupils move into Secondary Education. The parents of every year 6 child will be required to complete an application with Caerphilly County Council for the provision of secondary education. It needs to be completed early in the academic year of the year 6.

Signed: Mr Gareth Jones

Date: 27/8/23