

Ysgol Bryn Gwalia



Governing Body Annual Report to Parents/Carers 2024/2025

Last review date	September 2024
Date to be reviewed by Senior Management Team	Summer Term 2025
Date Adopted by Governing Body	Autumn Term 2025
Head Teacher – Mrs Lorraine Dalton	
Chair of Governors – Mrs Janiene Davies	

Dear Parents and carers,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the annual report of the Governing Body of our school for the 2024/2025 academic year. We were very proud this year to be awarded 'Primary School of the Year' by the Evening Leader.

The report gives you a flavour of the work of the school and of the many people who contribute to it's success. The school continues to move forward both in terms of the standards achieved and in the fabric of the building and wider campus and we look forward to the continuing future developments.

I would like to record my thanks to my fellow Governors who give freely of their time and talents to the school, and also sincere thanks to the staff of the school who provide such high-quality care, support and guidance to enhance the wellbeing and education of your children.

Thank you too, to you, the parents and carers of our pupils for your ongoing partnership with us which benefits your children, the whole school and wider community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janiene Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mrs Janiene Davies
Chair of Governors

Meetings with Parents/Carers

Statutory guidance to the governing bodies of maintained schools in Wales regarding the duty to hold meetings with parents. (Guidance document no: 104/2013) The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school Governing Bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents.

Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with a governing body, on matters which are of concern to them. At Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, the Governing Body will continue to produce an annual written report to parents/carers and provide an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with Governors to present the report on request.

The Governing Body will also continue to communicate and engage with parents over the school year via newsletters, Twitter notices or surveys as necessary. Governors may call an extra parent/carers' meeting if they believe that an issue which affects the school needs to be discussed. The school currently offers parents/carers the opportunity of three meetings per year to discuss pupil progress.

Periodically there are parent workshops offered or meetings called to share new initiatives and give parents ideas on how best to support their child's learning at home. In addition, we operate an Open-Door policy and parents are encouraged to come into school or make an appointment with the class teacher or Headteacher to discuss any issues.

Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, has a complaints policy and procedure in place; copies can be obtained from the school office or our school website. Further advice on how parents may go about requesting a meeting with a Governing Body is available on the Welsh Government's website at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/parents-meetingsstatutoryguidance/?lang=en>

Estyn

The School was inspected during 2023/24. The report was highly complimentary about nearly all aspects of the school. The link to the parent report is:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2024-02/Parents%20and%20carers%20-%20Inspection%20Report%20-%20Ysgol%20Bryn%20Gwalia%20C.P.%202023.pdf>

School Development Plan

The School Development for 2024/25 focused on the following priorities:

Priority 1 Refine provision to ensure that there are consistent opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital skills in relevant, real-life situations

Priority 2 Develop music provision and outcomes for pupils across the school

Priority 3 To improve reading and spelling, particularly in year 3 & 4, as well as comprehension across school

Priority 4 Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils and the wider community

The Governing Body 2025/2026

Office Held until	Title	Name & Address	Tel Number
	Head teacher	Mrs Lorraine Dalton	01352 752659
September 2027	Teacher Governor	Mrs Alice Garland	
November 2026	Staff Governor	Mrs Maria Kennedy	
September 2027	L.A. Governor CHAIR	Janiene Davies	Contactable via school 01352 752659
October 2027	L.A Governor Vice chair	Ms Kate Glover-Jones	
September 2026	L.A. Governor	Jennie Downs	
November 2024	Community Governor	Anne Hill	
July 2026	Community Governor	Heather Foulkes	
February 2028	Community Governor	Jayne Williams	

February 2028	Parent Governor	Amie Morris	
February 2028	Parent Governor	Jane Roberts	
February 2028	Parent Governor	Luke Bond	
February 2028	Parent Governor	Sara Burrows	

Clerk to the Governing Body – Mrs Caroline Jones
Chair of Governing Body – Mrs Janiene Davies
C/O – Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, Clayton Road, Mold, CH7 1SU

The Governing Body under the chair of Janiene Davies continues to work closely with the school in a range of strategic and supportive ways. There have been 3 full meetings of the Governing Body and 2 committee meetings during the academic Year 2024/2025.

At these meetings Governors have considered issues relating to: the upkeep of the building, accommodation, staffing, allocation of allowances to teachers, finance, curriculum matters including data, Governor training, and Admissions. All statutory committees have met each term to discuss relevant matters and reported back to the full Governing Body.

Governors have taken responsibility for areas of whole school policies and subject areas. Mrs Janiene Davies is the Governor responsible for Safeguarding; Mrs Lorraine Dalton (Headteacher) Ms Kate Sturdy (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Alice Garland (ALNCo) are the members of staff who also have responsibility for Child Protection.

Curriculum

The school curriculum is the culmination of all pupils' learning experiences. It is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experience of the children. Our Curriculum rationale, which outlines how our curriculum is organised and the approaches we use, was adopted by the Governors and is published on the website. At Ysgol Bryn Gwalia we adopt Inquiry-based learning, This is a student-centered teaching method that encourages students to ask questions and investigate real-world problems. In this type of learning environment, students are actively engaged in the learning process and are given the opportunity to explore their natural curiosities. This addresses the recommendation from our Estyn report in December 2023:

R1 'Refine provision to ensure that there are consistent opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital skills in relevant, real-life situations'

We aim to enrich the curriculum with as many experiences as possible so that the pupils of Bryn Gwalia grow in each of the four purposes of the curriculum for Wales.

These include the Urdd, visits to the hospital, creative lead school projects and enterprise work within the community.

Curriculum also includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. At Bryn Gwalia we celebrate kindness and respect for others. Our aim is for pupils to be Bryn Gwalia GEMS –

- Gentle and Kind,
- Excellent in Attitude
- Mindful of Others
- Supportive and Nurturing

We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their true potential.

'The school curriculum is broad and balanced and teachers provide a progressive range of activities to develop pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills. However, across the school, opportunities for pupils to apply their skills in relevant, real-life situations are inconsistent. Teachers support pupils to develop their sense of 'cynefin' (belonging) and their understanding of life as modern-day citizens in Wales effectively' Estyn 2023

School Data Report

With the introduction of the New Curriculum, there is currently no requirement for reporting on data.

Class Organisation

At the end of the school year July 2025 we have six classes, Reception/nursery, Year 1 & 2 class, year 2/3 class, Year 4, Year 6 and Year 6. The breakdown of pupils can be found as follows:

Year	Males	Females	Total
Year 1	7	13	20
Year 2	9	6	15
Year 3	6	8	14
Year 4	15	13	28
Year 5	10	9	19
Year 6	8	11	19
Year NB	6	5	11
Year R	13	5	18
Year N1 (ee)	5	5	10
Totals	79	75	154

School Hours

Nursery Sessions

8.50am – 11.30 5 mornings per week

Up to Year 2

8.50 am. – 12 noon 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m

Year 3 - 6

8.50 am. – 12.00 pm. 12.50 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

Foundation Phase – 4.50 hours per day (24 hours per week)

Key Stage 2 – 5.00 hours per day (25 hours per week)

Attendance

Our current attendance status for the 2024/2025 school year can be found below:

	Sessions %
Attendances	91.3%
Authorised absences	7.5%
Unauthorised absences	1.2%
Possible Attendance	100%

We continue to engage with the Education Welfare Service with regard to supporting and managing attendance and punctuality. We follow a graduated response with regard to pupils who have persistent absence or lateness, which includes welfare support and use of Fixed Penalty Notices as a last resort.

They promote daily attendance at school effectively and work with a range of agencies to provide beneficial support to families. This has helped to improve the attendance of pupils, particularly those who are eligible for free school meals. Estyn 2023

Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion

Our Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Coordinator (ALNCo) manages provision and support for those who are identified as having an Additional Learning Need (ALN). The school engages with schools across the cluster to prepare for the Additional Learning Needs Code and to support the implementation of Individual Development Plans.

During the 2024/2025 school year, the teaching staff continued to implement the 'Universal Provision' of the school, and 'Targeted Universal Provision' of the school through tracking progress and regular pupil progress meetings. Those children who require 'targeted interventions' are identified quickly, and trained staff deliver these across the school day.

ALP has been provided by staff in 'Dosbarth Derwen' This resource is for children who have IDP's or whose needs are not currently being met in the classroom. The morning sessions focus on core subjects and in the afternoon the children have access to experiences which teach empathy and responsibility

'Dosbath Derwen, ensures that pupils, with a high level of need, receive exceptional care and support. This helps pupils to regulate their emotions, manage their behaviour effectively and to engage well with their learning...

pupils in Dosbarth Derwen benefit from the opportunity to receive small group activities. This enables them to make strong progress in their curriculum work'

Estyn 2023

There is an extensive range of interventions in place to support a range of ALN, including Literacy and Numeracy, social communication and emotional, social and behavioural needs. Provision Mapping for pupils who have ALN is in place and the school uses a robust tracking system to track pupil progress as they move through school both through year groups and through subjects.

The school also provides support for Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs through small group and individual provision and outreach services from the Local Authority. Social and Communication Needs are supported by the school being an Autism Friendly School. Staff have been trained in delivering interventions such as Drawing and Talking therapy, Lego therapy with resources purchased, trauma informed practices, and Nurture International.

'Provision for pupils with ALN is strong. Teachers build positive relationships with pupils and their families, enabling staff to identify pupils' strengths and potential barriers to learning. This supports staff well to provide a bespoke range of interventions to meet pupils' needs. Leaders monitor the impact of interventions vigilantly and adjust provision when appropriate. As a result, A report on Ysgol Bryn Gwalia C.P. December 2023 8 most pupils identified with ALN, make strong progress from their individual starting points' -Estyn 2023

Accessibility

Accessibility Ramps are situated in various parts of the school to allow access for all pupils; there is also accessible toilet provision for both adults and pupils who require this. There is complete access at ground floor level for all pupils and adults. The school has established an Accessibility Plan and Strategic Equality Action Plan. The school engages with Children's Services as required for support/guidance relating to safeguarding and child protection. The school holds regular fire drills (at least half termly).

Health & Safety

We continue to subscribe to Compliance Health and Safety who oversee all aspects of Health and Safety in all aspects of school life. They regularly audit the school and provide us with targets to complete. The Health and Safety Committee meet regularly to ensure that such targets are met.

School Toilets

The school has several toilets for pupils and staff. Nursery/ Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils have access to toilets within their classrooms. These are all self-contained cubicles and these are mixed toilets for boys and girls. Junior pupils have boys and girls toilets located close to their classrooms. The school also has an accessible toilet

which also contains shower facilities. All toilets are cleaned daily. There is an additional accessible toilet now in the Dosbarth Derwen.

Welsh Government Language Category

Ysgol Bryn Gwalia is currently in Language Category 5 as classified by the Welsh Government. This category means that the school is a 'predominantly English medium school'. Although English is the main language of daily teaching and learning, there is a significant focus on the use of the Welsh language.

The school is actively engaged in the Cymraeg Campus Scheme and has gained the Silver Award and we are working towards the Gold Award. The School promotes the language to be learnt on the Newsletter weekly and the 'Cryw Cymraeg' deliver tokens to pupils who speak Welsh regularly. Helpwr Heddiw sessions take place daily in class and there is a service once per week, which is led by the Cryw Cymraeg.

The School enters pupils into the Urdd to promote the use of Welsh. We were delighted to have reached National Finals, for our Welsh recital as well as entering in the art and crafts category.

Extra-curricular Activities

The school enjoys a very broad offering of extracurricular activities, both during lunch times and after school. Clubs have included Cheerleading, gardening, choir, netball, football, science and homework club.

This year we won the Chance to Shine Cricket Award for our commitment to cricket.

This year we ran a hugely successful double cohort of Food & Fitness programme for three weeks of the Summer Holidays. This allowed 40 pupils a place for free, 4 days per week.

Pupils have had the opportunity to experience residential visits. Year 5 & 6 visited Cardiff for a 3 day trip. Year 3 & 4 had a 2 day residential at Glan Llyn. Year 6 visited Cyprus which was fully funded.

Pupils also benefitted from attending trips over the year:

Theatre Clwyd for the Pantomime, Buckingham Palace, Jambori

Playscheme visited school to work with pupils

Promotion of healthy eating and drinking by pupils

The school catering team, follow Welsh Government guidelines regarding providing a healthy menu. All school meals (hot and cold) are prepared on site by Newydd. There is a salad bar and fruit option for pupils daily. Foundation Phase pupils have a daily fresh fruit snack and access to water throughout the day. School Meals were free for all pupils up to Year 4 from September. Year 5 & 6 from April.

Key Stage Two pupils are encouraged to eat healthily and also have free access to water throughout the school day as well as fruit snack. The school communicates the importance of healthy eating and drinking to pupils as part of the school curriculum.

School Achievements 2024/2025

Attended The Royal School of Medicine to present about our use of KiVa in school. We were asked by Bangor University to present. This was a global events, with members from Japan present.

STEM science project – MIT. Working with a student from the US

Awarded the cymraeg campus silver award. One of the few schools in the cluster to have gained this.

Awarded 'Primary School of the Year' Leader Awards

School was awarded 'Primary School of the Year' by Chance to Shine Cricket at Lord's cricket ground in London

Presented at The Young Enterprise financial education conference on our initiative to improve budgeting and saving as well as behaviour and attendance.

Presented at a school in Hackney for Ashoko Changemakers in Education.

Attended the Pearson Teaching Awards, where Mrs Wyatt was awarded TA of the Year

We attended the Urdd cooking finals with a pupil from Year 6

Headteacher has began as an associate of the National Academy of Educational Leadership, attending the first leadership experience in September. LD continues to be a part of the Academy's ministerial group for Education.

Headteacher presented to Flintshire Primary and secondary Headteachers on Belonging

Community Links / Visitors to school

The school enjoys strong links with the wider community. Visitors are regularly welcomed to the school to enrich and enhance both the curricular and extra-curricular offering. The Police School Liaison Officer, PC Mark Jones also visits the school regularly and delivers sessions with pupils in all year groups.

The valuable work with Mold Community Hospital has continued and grown over the past year. Pupils have written cards, sang carols outside and a group of pupils visit

every week to work with the patients on arts and crafts. Year 1 & 2 pupils developed their fine and gross motor skills while patients improve their physical health.

The School Council attended the youth council meetings along with Bryn Coch and Glanrafon.

Lego sessions by Steve Guinness, with parents.
Year 5 & 6 listened to a presentation by a refugee to the UK

Chance to Shine Cricket

Reverend Batchelor and Esther attended to deliver an assembly and work on Prayer Spaces.

Heidi from EAL service visits weekly to see the EAL children.

Seiclo Cymru attended school to deliver cycling proficiency for Year 6 pupils.

Sian from Spectrum Wales has delivered relationship education and peer education for year 6 to deliver to year 2

BSL team completed their block of teaching in Y5 every Friday. They have asked if we will be interviewed to feedback.

Jane trained the children to be Dementia friendly

Groundworks to deliver Parent groups

Jan Meaden, Welsh language provision to teach Welsh to Yr 5 & 6

Ysgol Min Y Ddol visited as a staff as they had heard of all the good things we are doing – particularly around the savings initiative

MIT student from USA to work with the children on STEM projects

Don't touch tell – John Piper

Flying Seagull performance for years 4,5 & 6 and LAC/EAL pupils from other Flintshire schools. They also performed in the evening for parents.

Kerry Nash (North Wales Police) visited school to present award to winning poster

Ruth Price Roberts visited from GwE

Kelly Davies Ashoko/FAW visited

Bright Sparks in to deliver STEM project

Playscheme have delivered sessions this year.

Wood Memorial visited as a staff as they had heard of all the good things we are doing – particularly around the KiVa initiative

Xplore Science

Claire Homard an Councillor Mared Eastwood and Theresa Carberry

Sarah, school counselling service

Anthony Oldfield nurture support

Bangor University – Rill project

Term Dates 2024/2025 were:

Autumn Term: 2 September 2024 - 20 December 2024

- Half Term: 28 October 2024 - 1 November 2024

Spring Term: 6 January 2025 - 11 April 2025

- Half Term: 24 February 2025 - 28 February 2025

Summer Term: 28 April 2025 - 21 July 2025

- Half Term: 26 May 2025 - 30 May 2025

Training Dates:

- Monday 2/9/24
- Tuesday 3/9/24
- Monday 4/11/24
- Monday 6/1/25
- Monday 28/4/25
- Monday 21/7/25

Term dates 25/26

Autumn Term:

- **Start:** 1 September 2025
- **Half Term:** 27 October 2025 - 31 October 2025
- **Finish:** 19 December 2025

Spring Term:

- **Start:** 5 January 2026
- **Half Term:** 16 February 2026 - 20 February 2026
- **Finish:** 27 March 2026

Summer Term:

- **Start:** 13 April 2026
- **Half Term:** 25 May 2026 - 29 May 2026
- **Finish:** 20 July 2026

Training dates:

1st September 2025
2nd September 2025
3rd November 2025
5th December 2026
12th June 2026
20th July 2026

*All training dates are subjects to change

School Prospectus

The school prospectus, containing information relating to staffing, classroom organisation, the curriculum, provision for Additional Learning Needs and enrichment activities have been updated. Copies of the prospectus are available on request from the school office or can be found on the school website. (The school prospectus is compliant with the Welsh Assembly Circular 22/96 – School Prospectus – checklist of contents.)

Policies

During the current academic year, the following school policies have been amended and updated as per the school policy review schedule:

Policy
Professional Development Policy
Safeguarding
Health and safety
VAWDASV
Menopause
Drinking water
Managing Parents/carers
Professional Development
Capability
Grievance
Disciplinary
Accessibility

Freedom of info
Govs allowance e for payment
Suspension RA
School recruitment
Instrument of Governance
Attendance
Gov deployment
Managing staff attendance
Toilet policy
Uniform policy
Substance misuse
ESDGC
Dignity at work
Food and fitness
Redunancy
Pay

The majority of amendments relate to the development of the new Curriculum for Wales and the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act in addition to changes in language to ensure they are as accessible as possible. Copies of all school policies will be available on the school website and are also available from the school office upon request.

2024/25 School Financial Statement:

School Development Plan

Three Year Strategic Plan

2024 – 2025	2025 – 2026	2026 - 2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine provision to ensure that there are consistent opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital skills in relevant, real life situations. • Develop music provision and outcomes for pupils across the school. • To improve reading comprehension. • Continue to narrow the gap for disadvantaged and vulnerable learners incorporating Trauma informed approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor narrowing the gap • Continued replacement of the ICT hardware of the school utilising Hwb funding. • Curriculum review as the Curriculum for Wales is further implemented. • To review outdoor learning opportunities for Nursery – Year 2. • Revisit cluster transition arrangements and the cluster transition plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equity for all learners • Continued replacement of the ICT hardware of the school utilising Hwb funding • Work with other providers to ensure all learners have the best possible learning experiences • Achievement of the Cymraeg Campus Gold Award.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve Welsh language across the school and gain Silver award. • Review the use of the Religion, Values and Ethics Framework and the consistency across the school using this has created. • To review independent learning • Maintain and improve attendance levels 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Priorities: Promotion of Welsh language skills across the school – to achieve the Silver award in Campus Cymraeg. • Strengthening collaborative working with other schools, settings and wider partners. • Narrowing the Gap for learners who are efsm 		

