



Penygaer Primary School

Bryndulais Avenue, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA14 8RS

☎ 01554 750900

e-mail: admin@penygaer.ysgolccc.cymru

www.penygaerschool.co.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mr Alun Stephens



Dear Parent/Carer,

THE ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS 2024

The report is about life in Penygaer Primary School in the last school year. There is a lot to read in the report, as many of the items are required by law, but it's also because a lot happens in Penygaer School! We'd be grateful if you took a few minutes to read the parts that interest you. I hope you find that our report gives you a clear picture of Penygaer School and an understanding of what we hope you will regard as a secure, enjoyable and inspiring place for your child to develop.

What is in the Report?

It tells you who is on the Governing Body. It also has information about:

- Any resolutions passed at the last AGM
- The school prospectus
- The school standard admission number
- School session times
- The school's links with the community
- School strategies
- School policies
- Special Educational Needs
- Provision for disabled pupils
- Sporting aims and successes at Penygaer
- Financial details
- School term and holiday dates.

It is no longer necessary for the Governing Body to hold a General Meeting for Parents. However, parents may request a meeting providing parents of at least 10% of the school's registered pupils sign the petition.

On behalf of the Governing Body of Penygaer School I hope that you will find the attached Annual Report of interest. Please feel welcome to contact me or the headteacher if you would like any further details.

Richard Samuel

CHAIRPERSON, GOVERNING BODY FOR PENYGAER SCHOOL

THE GOVERNING BODY

As at 1st September 2024, the members of the Governing Body are:

Chair of Governors 2024/25: Mr. Richard Samuel

Vice-Chair of Governors 2024/25: Mrs. Gaynor Price

The full Governing Body is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Governor Status</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Mrs J. Isaac	LEA	05.02.25
Cllr. A Bragoli	LEA	28.03.28
Cllr. Rob James	LEA	31.03.27
Cllr. P. Warlow	Additional Community	18.05.26
Mr A. Stephens	Acting Headteacher	
Mrs H. Conway	Teacher Rep. Acting DHT	03.02.27
Ms Colette Abdelkader	Staff	22.10.27
Mr N. Roberts	Parent	26.11.25
Miss Natalie Jones	Parent	19.06.27
Mrs N. Prideaux Collins	Parent	20.03.25
Ms Jodie Evans	Parent	18.06.28
Mrs G. Price	Community	06.11.27
Mr R. Samuel	Community	20.03.25
Mr B. Hodgetts	Community	22.10.24

Clerk to the Governors: Mr R. Williams
Penygaer Primary School
Bryndulais Avenue
Llanelli
Carmarthenshire
SA14 8RS

The full Governing Body met on three occasions during the 2023-24 school year; once per term as follows:-

- Autumn Term Governing Body Meeting – Tuesday, 7th November 2023
- Spring Term Governing Body Meeting – Tuesday, 6th February 2024
- Summer Term Governing Body Meeting – Tuesday, 21st May 2024

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2024

GENERAL MEETING 2024

As a result of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, which came into force on 4th May 2013, a school governing body is no longer required to hold an annual parents meeting. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 now enables parents of registered pupils at the school to request up to three meetings per year with the governing body via a petition. A brief summary is provided below.

The governing body must hold a meeting within 25 school days of receiving the petition, providing that:

1. the petition contains the signatures of the required minimum number of parents of registered pupils at the school, which is the lower of the following:
 - (a) the parents of 10% of registered pupils, or
 - (b) the parents of 30 registered pupils
2. the meeting requested by parents must be to discuss a matter relating to the school.
3. there will be no more than three meetings held during the year in which the first petition is received.
4. there are sufficient school days left in the school year for the meeting to be held.

The meeting is open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, the headteacher and any other persons invited by the governing body. As soon as reasonably practicable, the governing body must notify all parents of registered pupils at the school in writing, the date of the meeting and the matter to be discussed.

No meetings were held during 2023/24 as no parents petitioned for a meeting.

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

An updated School Prospectus was uploaded to the school website in Autumn 2023. Copies have been given to the parents of all children who have been admitted to the school since that date.

STANDARD ADMISSION NUMBER

The Standard Admission Number for 2023 is 29. The pre-Reception admissions number is 26. The capacity of the school is 233 pupils. There are 187 pupils on the school register.

SCHOOL SESSION TIMES

	<u>Morning session</u>	<u>Afternoon session</u>
Nursery:	9.05a.m. – 11.35p.m.	1.05p.m. – 3.20p.m.
Reception:	9.05a.m. – 11.45a.m.	1.05p.m. – 3.20p.m.
Year 1 and Year 2:	9.05a.m. - 11.45a.m.	1.05p.m. - 3.25p.m.
Years 3 to 6:	9.05a.m. - 12.15p.m.	1.10p.m. - 3.30p.m.

LANGUAGE CATEGORY AND USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Penygaer Primary School is an English Medium school where the main language of learning is English. Welsh is taught as a second language.

The school is progressing with its Welsh in Education Plan

Linguistic provision is closely coupled with:

- the County's statutory Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP),
- contributes to the aim of nurturing a million Welsh speakers by 2050;
- incorporates proposals to teach the Languages and Communications Area of Learning and Experience of the new Curriculum for Wales as well as the promotion of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

For your information Penygaer is currently a Category 1 - English Medium School

This means that English is the main language for internal communication as well as communication with parents and carers. We recognise that creating a Welsh ethos within the school will support and encourage positive attitudes towards the use of Welsh. A learner will be able to read, write, speak and listen in English according to their age and ability, and will have some understanding of the Welsh language. The Welsh language is taught and assessed as part of the Area of Learning and Experience for languages, literacy and communication. At least 15% of learners' school activities (curricular and extra-curricular) will be in Welsh.

TOILET FACILITIES

The provision for toilets for use by pupils is outlined below.

- Nursery – two cubicles and two sinks in the Nursery
- Reception and Year 1 – four cubicles and four sinks
- Year 2, 3 and 4 – separate gender rooms.
 - Boys - one cubicle, an urinal and two sinks
 - Girls - two cubicles and two sinks
- Year 5 and 6 - separate gender rooms
 - Boys - two cubicles, a urinal and four sinks
 - Girls - four cubicles and four sinks
- Disabled - one toilet and sink

All of the toilet facilities are cleaned daily by the school cleaners.

INTERNAL BUILDING WORK

Starting on Monday 15th July 2024 work will begin on a new social communication class and will continue over the Summer holidays to be ready for the beginning of September 2024. The classroom will facilitate a small group of children that have specific learning needs.

The current year 1/2 class will be converted into the classroom. New toilet and changing facilities will replace the current toilets between the Early Years Class and the foyer.

The new class will have a new door to the outside quad area.

The foyer area will have an enclosed entrance with a hatch to the office. This improves security as no visitors will have access to the corridors and classrooms.

New drains will be laid between Early Years and the entrance by the Kitchen.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Visitors to School, Community Links, visits, events (September 2023 onwards)

Penygaer School remains proud of its links with the community. These links include educational visits, a range of visitors to school and a whole series of other activities.

- Assemblies
Anthony Stevenson (previous HT)
Pastor Ben Hodgetts.
Deacon Cathy Hall Street Methodist.
Delyth Richards Felinfoel church.
- Ryan Stanton – Stellar Energy
- Governors at World Cup Presentation Day
- Ffion Morgan URDD
- Janet Hawkins and Richard Morton – Bible Explorer
- Shannon Travellers LA Link
- Phillip Warlow (Deputy Mayor)
- Eleanor Goldsmith Fire Safety
- PC Ruth Courtney
- Richard Thair Arts Council
- Parc Howard Community Garden
- 2B Enterprising Workshop – Bumbles of Hollywood – Year 5
- Carmarthenshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championship, Pembrey
- Variety of Rugby Festivals for years 2 to 6
- Cricket festival – Llanelli Cricket Club
- Hockey festival St John Lloyds
- Swimming lessons – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
- St Fagan's Trip – Year 3&4
- Pembroke Castle Trip – Years 5&6
- Scarlets Rugby sessions – Jonathon Griffiths
- Chance to Shine Cricket Sessions - Jeremy Dawe
- Flu Immunisation – Reception – Year 6
- Llanelli Primary Schools Football Festival Years 5&6
- Sophie Maunder PCSO Operation Bang Assembly – Year 5 & 6
- World Cup Presentation Day
- Sports ambassadors training day at Llanelli Leisure Centre
- Multi skills festival at Llanelli Leisure Centre- Year 3
- Give Racism the Red Card
- Ju Jitsu Club
- Delyth Jones and Paulo – Llanelli Town Council
- Year 5 Bowls
- URDD Netball Tournament
- Scooter club visit - Years 5&6 - Mods and Rockers theme
- Llanelli Green Spaces
- Dydd Mwsig Cymru and Dydd Gwyl Dewi
- Kerb Craft Year 2
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Hall Street Methodist Church Visit – Years 1/2 and 2/3
- Designed to Smile – Foundation learning
- Year 5&6 visit Llanelli Town council and Mayor 18.04.24

- Tata Steel- Eleanor Shorland Years 5&6
- Junior Market Traders Year 6 and 5 - 16.05.24
- Pyjamarama Reading Day – 17.05.24
- Community Sensory Garden-Penygaer field visit-Year 6 Connect
- Parc Howard Community Garden– Year 5
- Cochyn Scarlets visiting Library reading Winner pupil.
- Alun Stephens attended Bryngwyn Prizegiving Evening
- Autumn Disco and Christmas Fayre organised by Parents Association
- Harvest Assembly
- School Council took harvest gifts to Llanelli Food Bank, Myrtle House
- Year 1&2 and 2&3 Fire Station
- Christmas Exhibition at St Elli’s Church – years 4,5 and 6
- PTA Christmas Fayre
- Christmas Concerts – Lights, Camel, Action - 13.12.23
- School Christmas dinner – 20.12.23
- School Family Afternoon – 28.02.24
- Purple Day for Epilepsy – 12.04.24
- Children in Need Day
- London Trip Years 5&6 – 16 and 17th April 24
- Llanelli Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre Yrs 1, 2, 3 and 4 - 21st and 24th May 24
- Connect 22 (a project facilitated by Llanelli Town Council).
- Wheelie Wednesdays
- Bike Doctor
- Winning with numbers Parents Evening
- Sports Day
- Year 6 Zoom call with the author Matt Goodfellow
- Finesse Class Photos
- Transition visits to Secondary Schools
- Garden Volunteer days with Llanelli Council and Parents
- Year 5 at Parc Howard
- NFU life event - The Great Welsh Ice Cream Adventure
- Orchestral Music Event at Ty Gwyn Community Church.
- Year 3/4 visit to Llanelli Library
- NSPCC Assembly
- Sports Ambassador Event at Pembrey Country Park
- Year 6 Adventure Day at Swiss Valley reservoir
- Early Years Minibeast Party
- ESTYN Visits
- Year 5 at Bryngwyn Sports Festival
- Years 1 to 5 visit Pembrey Country Park
- Year 6 leavers Assembly
- Year 6 at Leisure Centre

All the above listed experiences are part of preparing our children for an active, healthy life and a contributory role in our community.

Home-School links

Perhaps our most important links remain those between the school and the parents of the children at Penygaer. Please remember that parents are welcome to contact the school at any time to discuss any issues or concerns.

The school website, school Facebook account, school Twitter account, texting, email, Class Dojo and ParentPay continue to support improved home-school links. Parents can access the website to view a calendar of events, download letters to parents, read various school documents and be kept informed about the activities in which their children are involved. Twitter, Facebook and Class Dojo are used to publicise the children's learning activities.

Our thematic teaching programme, continues to provide many extra opportunities to engage parents/carers in their children's learning. Increasingly, learners are expected to continue learning at home by completing tasks online at home using the Hwb platform.

The Parents Association helps to raise funds for the school and during the year organised the following events: Autumn Disco, Christmas Fayre, Sports Day raffle and refreshments. They are hoping to have an Autumn Fair in September.

Grants, Funding and other items

1. We acquired a Keep Wales Tidy Grant which will probably amount to approximately £4000. It is being used for a new garden area to replace the tyres. A poly tunnel, raised beds, wild flowers, tools and materials have been purchased
2. We have acquired an Arts Council Grant of £10,000. Initially a musician and recording company will support the children in writing a song.
3. As part of a scheme with Morgan and Morgan office supplies, they will fully refurbish the old year 5 classroom. It's part of a recycling scheme of desks, chairs and bookshelves that they hope to use in other schools. We are having it for free because we'll be the 'showroom' school for others to see. They will redecorate the room, refurbish the furniture and insert new lighting. It will be ready before the end of term.

SCHOOL STRATEGIES and ESTYN

During March 2023 after the school was inspected by ESTYN it was placed in Special Measures. The school then had to draw up a Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) that was approved in August 2023.

In September 2023 the work began on the 5 recommendations.

Members of the school leadership Team and Governors were assigned to each recommendation as seen below.

Recommendation 1: Develop leadership at all levels so that all leaders have the necessary skills to secure improvement.

Staff Member - Alun Stephens

Governor - Richard Samuel

Recommendation 2: Ensure that evaluation processes clearly focus on the quality of teaching and pupils' standards.

Staff Member - Alun Stephens

Governor - Gaynor Price

Recommendation 3: To improve teaching and assessment across the school.

Staff Member - Mandy Williams

Governor – Phil Warlow & Joanna Isaacs

Recommendation 4: Improve the curriculum and provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills.

Staff Members - Helen Conway and Victoria Hinsley

Governors - Natalie Lewis, Gaynor Price and Ben Hodgetts

Recommendation 5: Address the safeguarding issue that was identified during the inspection.

Staff Members – Alun Stephens, Ann Clwyd-Davies (Headteacher of Dewi Sant , Eddie Cummings (Carms. Health and Safety)

Governors – Richard Samuel

ESTYN returned for 3-day visits on 28th to 30th Nov. 23 and 18th to 20th March 24. They return on the 9th and 10th July 2024

Here are the **main extracts** from the report from March 24:

A culture of evaluation and improvement is developing positively across the school and is beginning to lead to beneficial discussions between staff and governors about the quality of teaching and learning. Senior leaders have established a suitable programme of activities to monitor and evaluate the work of the school.

Leaders have an improved understanding of the need to evaluate the impact of actions. They are beginning to use evidence from monitoring activities to evaluate progress. However, leaders do not focus enough on the standards and progress being achieved by the pupils in lessons.

Recently, senior leaders have begun to ensure that performance management processes are more robust and staff development activities link suitably to school improvement priorities. Opportunities for staff to observe and share good practice within the school and in other schools are in the early stages. Overall, leaders do not use the evidence from self-evaluation activities well enough to address underperformance or to improve the quality of teaching consistently across the school.

Governors are supportive of the school. They have a suitable awareness of school based and national priorities. They now have a good understanding of how leaders use the pupil development grant to support vulnerable pupils to develop their wellbeing and literacy skills. Governors are developing their skills and understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development well. They engage positively in self-evaluation activities, including learning walks and listening to pupils. This provides valuable first-hand information and makes them less reliant on leaders' views and information. However, governors are in the early stages of using this information effectively to challenge the school robustly about the quality of teaching and learning.

The school has worked well with stakeholders to establish a vision for Curriculum for Wales. Each area of learning is led by a specific teacher and linked to a member of the governing body. As a result, governors are beginning to understand how the school's curriculum is developing over time. The leaders with overall responsibility for curriculum development are clear about their roles, have a good understanding of curriculum design and are enthusiastic about improving the quality of learning experiences of pupils.

Leaders have worked collaboratively with staff to create detailed progression maps for each of the areas of learning. These outline the skills, knowledge and understanding that staff will teach pupils in each year group. This supports teachers to provide the opportunity for pupils to build their skills systematically and progressively over time. However, the school recognises that this new approach is at the very early stages of implementation and is not yet reflected sufficiently in pupils' work and in the delivery of lessons and activities. Whilst the progress that pupils make during lessons and over time is improving, a minority of pupils continue to make insufficient progress, particularly with their writing and the application of their numeracy skills across the curriculum.

Increasingly, teachers plan purposeful opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy skills in other areas of learning. However, overall, the quality of written work by a minority of pupils is variable and teachers' expectations of the standard of pupils' writing are not consistently high enough. The school has worked well to improve the quality and range of opportunities for pupils to develop their digital skills. They now engage in a good range of activities that cover the requirements of the curriculum. The school recognises a need to improve the reading skills of pupils across all year groups and is employing a published reading and phonics programme to support pupil progress. This is beginning to result in increased progress with the basic skills of reading, such as pupils' knowledge of letter sounds and their comprehension of texts. A few pupils express enjoyment in reading but there is not yet a strong 'reading culture' and an enthusiasm for books and authors amongst pupils.

Staff in nursery and reception are beginning to use the curriculum for funded non maintained nursery settings as the basis of pupils' learning. 'Friday enrichment afternoons' provide an opportunity for pupils to work collaboratively across year groups to apply their skills, but it is too early to gauge the impact of this work and its effectiveness in ensuring that pupils have useful opportunities to apply their skills at a suitably challenging level.

Recommendation 5

The school, supported by the local authority, have improved the safety for pedestrians at the beginning and end of the school day. A trained supervisor ensures that access for pedestrians is restricted, and vehicle access is managed well. A crossing patrol allows all pedestrians to cross the access point to the car park safely.

SCHOOL POLICIES

During a school year, the headteacher and teaching staff review school policies, including Health and Safety, Security, Safeguarding, Behaviour, Marking etc. Any that require significant changes are formally reviewed by the Governing Body.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

It is very important to us at Penygaer that all our children are able to reach their potential, and this may sometimes require some extra support for some pupils. We do keep in mind that children develop at different rates - with our Nursery and Reception cohorts, in particular, we take great care not to rush pupils into learning activities before they are ready. However, we do put great emphasis on identifying those who are experiencing difficulties of any sort, (whatever the age of the child) *and it is our policy to provide support as soon as possible* – the greater the delay before giving support, the harder it is for a child to “catch up”.

If, at any time, a child's understanding does not progress at the expected rate, a class teacher will pay closer attention to that child. If, despite this extra attention, progress remains significantly slower than that of classmates, the child may be supported in his or her learning by access to our support programmes (universal provision or additional learning provision).

We want to make sure that:-

- children and their parent's views, wishes and feelings are listened to when decisions are being made about how to help children
- the right support is put in place quickly to help children with ALN
- everyone works together to help children with ALN, including education and health services
- most children with ALN can continue to go to our school if it is right for them
- children and their families can access learning support even before they start school
- children and their parents understand the additional learning provision (ALP) being offered
- if children and their parents are not happy with decisions about ALN, there are rights in law to help them do something about it
- children with ALN get help in Welsh, wherever possible, if they need it

ALN Funding

The school receives funding for Additional Learning Needs from the Education Authority under a grant formula. This is supplemented by funds from the general school budget, and this money is then used to provide an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo), teaching assistants, learning programmes, training and specialised teaching resources.

Mrs M. Williams undertakes the role of ALNCo. The school governors with responsibility for ALN are Cllr. P. Warlow and Mrs G Price. The school has regular termly support from the Educational Psychology Service.

The school is proud of ALN provision at Penygaer – we use our school budget to ensure that we provide appropriate support to those that need it. Children who are supported by teaching assistants make pleasing

progress, gain in self-esteem and achieve or exceed targets set for them. Close liaison concerning ALN exists between Penywaer and partner secondary schools.

PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

We believe in opportunities for all at Penywaer, and the school's admission policy does not differentiate between pupils with Special Needs or disabilities and children who do not experience such difficulties.

Penywaer School has an Equal Opportunities policy which aims to provide every child with the chance to achieve his or her potential. This policy requires all children to have the same curricular opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race or cultural background.

In preparing our children for life in our local and national communities, we encourage children to respect others, and in our assemblies and in our teaching of Personal and Social Education we emphasise the importance of fairness and tolerance.

The school is built on one level and the school building is accessible to disabled pupils or adults. There are no stairs in the school. There is a toilet for disabled pupils/adults. The school grounds are mostly level and all parts are accessible apart from the steeper parts of the grass bank.

SPORTING AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Participating in sport helps personal development, healthy living and promotes a sense of fair competition. We make every effort to try and ensure that children of all ages and abilities benefit from it. Pupils participate in an Actif Carmarthenshire and Llanelli Town Council events. As the academic year progressed pupils were able to participate in indoor P.E. lessons in addition to those held outdoors. During the year, our children participated in football, netball, hockey, Mini Olympics and cross-country events.

USE OF LEA FUNDING

The LEA funds the school according to a formula which is based on pupil numbers. This funding covers employee costs, premises costs and other budget elements such as teaching and learning materials, ALN provision and the cost of LEA support (e.g. for legal and personnel issues).

The governing body is pleased that the school was able to return to a surplus at the end of the 2023-24 financial year.

Please refer to the summary below of the financial performance of the school at the close of the 2023-24 financial year.

Please see below a summary of your school's final outturn position for 2023/24.

£

873,926	Net Expenditure 2023/24
-801,164	Formula Funding Allocation 2023/24
<u>-89,208</u>	Surplus Brought Forward from 2022/23
<u>-16,446</u>	Surplus Carried Forward to 2024/25

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

School term and holiday dates for the academic year 2023-24 and 2024 to 2025

Autumn 2023	Monday 4th September	Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November	Friday 22nd December
Spring 2024	Monday 8th January	Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February	Friday 22nd March
Summer 2024	Monday 8th April	Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May	Friday 19th July
Autumn 2024	Tuesday 3rd September	Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	Friday 20th December
Spring 2025	Monday 6th January	Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February	Friday 11th April
Summer 2025	Monday 28th April	Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	Monday 21st July

IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS FOR TEACHERS

In addition to the listed holiday dates, the school was closed on for six INSET days including:-

- Friday, 1 September 2023
- Monday, 4 September 2023
- Monday, 6 November 2023
- Monday, 8 January 2024
- Monday 19th February 2024
- Monday, 8 April 2024