



YSGOL BRYN DERW GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2023-24 FULL REPORT



**YSGOL BRYN DERW,
MELFORT ROAD, NEWPORT, NP20 3FQ
BLAEN-Y-PANT CRESCENT, NEWPORT, NP20 5QB
and
FOR 2024-25 WITHIN NEWPORT NURSERY SCHOOL:
CHURCH ROAD, NEWPORT, NP19 7EJ
01633 414988
ysgol.brynderw@newportschools.wales
@YsgolBrynDerw17**



Dear Parents/Carers

The Governing Body have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report for parents and carers of the learners of Ysgol Bryn Derw. We are proud to present another very positive report and are pleased to be able to report on many successes from across the school community.

Ysgol Bryn Derw continues to welcome new children and staff as the school grows, with further exciting new developments and facilities at both sites again during the year.

The Governing Body are pleased to report again this year that many hardworking and talented staff have been appointed to the school. Many very knowledgeable and skilled staff have joined the already excellent staff, enabling the school to continue as a centre of excellence and provide support and advice to many schools across the city and region. The Governing Body would like to thank Mr Drew for his excellent leadership and the staff for their work and dedication to supporting the children and their families.

The Governing Body continues to meet as a full Governing Body and two sub-committees, meeting on a Wednesday evening every half term. Some meetings are now held in person and some are still virtual meetings as introduced in COVID lockdown. The Governing Body continues to engage committed and supportive members who will always challenge constructively and appropriately and provide effective scrutiny in every meeting. All Governors are volunteers and I appreciate the time and support given by them throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my Governor colleagues for everything they have given to the school again this year.

I would like to thank all parents, grandparents, family and carers for your continued support and involvement with the school and I hope you will enjoy reading the following report.

Best Wishes,

Paula Halsall
Chair of Governors

YSGOL BRYN DERW – GOVERNORS ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2023-24

This is the seventh Governors Annual Report to Parents. No petition for an annual parents' meeting with Governors was received during the year, and so no meeting was held under Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The Governing Body consisted of:

Name	Category of Governor	End of term of office
Paula Halsall	Local Authority	26/09/25
Chris May	Local Authority	27/01/26
Andi O'Brien	Local Authority	21/11/26
Estelle Cartlidge	Community	28/03/27
Kate Drew	Community	01/02/25
Sally Purchase	Parent (Elected)	29/11/25
David Rendell	Parent (Elected)	05/07/27
Matt Jennings	Parent (Elected)	14/11/27
Adam Willis	Parent (Elected)	04/06/28
Michelle Barrett	Community	28/11/27
Rebecca Forward	Teacher (Elected)	24/09/24
Antonia Jeavons	Staff (Elected)	23/09/25
Richard Drew	Head Teacher	n/a

If you wish to contact the Governing Body, the relevant contact details are:

Chair of Governors

Paula Halsall

C/o Ysgol Bryn Derw, Melfort Road, Newport, NP20 3FQ

Clerk to the Governing Body

Clare Williams

C/o Ysgol Bryn Derw, Melfort Road, Newport, NP20 3FQ

Ysgol Bryn Derw

Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2024

2022/23 Outturn		2023/24 Outturn
£	Employees	£
962,505	Teachers	1,236,695
1,393,028	Support Staff	1,612,980
68,899	Caretakers	86,187
0	Midday Supervisors	0
0	Cleaners	0

Other Employee Costs		
641	Supply Insurance Premium	703
218,405	Agency Staff	277,380
0	Lunch Time Meal Entitlement	0
0	Foreign Language Assistants	0
0	Exam Invigilators	0
1,850	Advertising	1,850
0	Interview Expenses	166
1,730	Misc Employee Costs	2,270

Energy		
9,679	Gas	23,301
25,545	Electricity	37,647
0	Oil	0

49,322	Capitation and ICT	39,087
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0	SCC, EIG and PDG Expenditure	0
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Premises Related		
673	Hire of Facilities	673
2,028	Rates	3,329
49,571	Building Maintenance and Alarm Lines	19,203
4,496	Grounds Maintenance	4,637
4,387	Water	5,050
32,594	Building Cleaning Contract	44,962
3,698	Refuse Collection	4,553
16,269	Miscellaneous Premises	17,030

Communications		
66	Postage/Fax/Telex	86
3,166	Telephones	4,439

Transport

389	Vehicle Maintenance	75
0	Purchase of Vehicles	0
0	Vehicle Hire	0
530	Car Allowance	899
19	Travel Expenses	102

0	Exam Fees	189
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External Courses		
11,479	School Funded Training	10,955
0	Alternative Curriculum Provision	86
0	Sixth Form	0

30,231	Central Services	37,571
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Income		
0	Lettings	0
-4,348	Sales Income	-9,930
0	Music Service Income	0
-1,840	Donations	-3,774
0	Miscellaneous	0
-5,268	Supply	-7,450
0	Exam Fees	0
-716	Interest	-5,685
0	Rental Income	0
0	EIG	0
0	PDG/EYPDG	0
0	Energy Compensation	0
0	Coaching Fees	0
-316,878	Other Grant and Contributions	-308,164
0	Reserve Transfer	0
0	After Schools Club	0

2,562,151	Total Net Expenditure	3,137,104
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2,500,583	Total Funding	3,078,537
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-61,569	In Year Surplus / Deficit	-58,567
292,670	Prior Year Surplus / Deficit	231,101

231,101	Accumulated Surplus / Deficit c/fwd	172,534
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9.24%	Balance as % of Funding	5.60%
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The total funding received in 2023-24 was £3,413,536, made up of a £3,078,537 budget share allocated by NCC, and £335,002 in additional Newport City Council (NCC) funding for increased pupil numbers, Welsh Government grants, donations from parents and businesses, and income from lettings.

The budget was spent as follows:

- Approximately 86% of the budget was spent on staffing costs.
- Approximately 8.13% of the budget was spent on supply staff to cover long-term vacancies, ad hoc staff sickness, and planned staff absences due to training courses.
- Approximately 1.15% of the budget was spent on supplying the school with the required furniture and equipment, general classroom and stationery supplies, ICT equipment (such as laptops, iPads, iPods and some required ICT licences), and photocopier charges.
- Approximately 2.91% of the budget was spent on premises related costs, including: installation of new equipment and resources; repairs and general maintenance; insurance and required licences; cleaning and hygiene supplies; improvements to the security system; work carried out by Newport Norse to improve our environment.
- Approximately 1.79% of the budget was spent on energy costs.
- Approximately 0.32% of the budget was spent on staff training (e.g. Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Intensive Interaction).
- Approximately 1.1% of the budget was allocated to required Service Level Agreements with Newport City Council (e.g. Finance, HR, Legal Services, and Health and Safety).

A 5.6% surplus of the budget share (£172,534) was carried forward to undertake improvement projects to accommodate rising pupil numbers and associated staffing and equipment costs in 2024-25.

In 2023-24, we received a £100 Amazon voucher from one of the staffing agencies we use, as a gesture of goodwill following an invoicing error. This was spent on resources for the sensory rooms at both Melfort Road and Kimberley Park.

No travel and subsistence claims were made by members of the Governing Body in 2023-24.



There were five Year 11 pupils in 2023-24, and all pupils stayed on roll at Ysgol Bryn Derw for Sixth Form learning.

The school has links with the Community which have brought considerable benefits to pupils and helped them to develop their communication, interaction and independence. Links in 2023-24 included:

- Visits from professional partners including Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Learning Disability Nurses, Educational Psychologists, Counsellors and Music Therapists.
- Visits from a range of work experience providers.
- Shopping at local shops and supermarkets.
- Visits to Stelvio Park Tredegar Park & Serennu Park.
- Swimming sessions for all classes at Newport Active Living Centre.
- Sports Week activities co-ordinated by Newport Live.
- Raising funds for charities including Children in Need.
- Regular sessions with Heart with Yoga and Key Create.
- Visit to Barry Island as part of the Rotary Club 'Kids Out' event.
- Train journeys to Bristol and Cardiff, funded by Great Western Railways.
- Participation in the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative.



Attendance in 2023-24 was 91.4%, slightly down from 91.8% 2022-23.

Targets for attendance for 2024-25 have been set:

	2024-5 targets
Overall	93%
Primary	93%
Secondary	93%

Particularly notable successes in 2023-24 included:

Our Deputy Headteacher, Laura Foley, and the whole school won an award: The South Wales Argus Education Awards 'Special Educational Needs Award'. Rebecca Forward was a finalist in the Professional Teaching Awards Cymru in the category of 'Secondary Teacher of the Year'.

The five priorities in the 2023-24 School Development Plan (SDP) were all met in full, with the sole exception of the priority to raise pupil attendance to 93%. The reasons for this exception have been analysed in detail and are informing our next planning for this year.

The key foci of the School Development Plan for 2024-25 have been agreed and are:

- 1a. Quality of pupil learning in experiences other than 'teacher led classroom sessions' will consistently have secure or high impact.
- 1b. Planning and teaching for progress will be refined and remodelled around the 'Understanding by Design' model.
- 2a. Classroom staff understanding of the functions behind behaviours will be enhanced, consistent and influencing daily provision.
- 2b. Classroom staff understanding of communication development in children with ASD and the most suitable approaches at each stage of development for each child will be enhanced and influencing daily provision.
- 3a. New proposed Caerleon site will be suitably developed and resourced for a September 2025 start.
- 3b. New permanent leadership, administration, site and intervention structures will be in place and effectively support the proposed expanded provision of school.

Physical Education is an important aspect of the curriculum and experience for all pupils. PE and sporting activities are designed to develop the following:

- Improved Fine and Gross Motor Skills.
- Increased self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Improved skills in listening and following instructions.
- Positive attitudes to health and exercise.
- Mature approaches to competition and to winning and losing.

All pupils participate in specially designed PE lessons every week. Relevant pupils have access to Rebound Therapy with specially trained staff each week. We held our annual school Sports Week in the Summer Term. All classes attended a 3-week intensive swimming block in June/July 2024 at Newport Active Living Centre.



The following policies were adopted/updated by the Governing Body in 2023-24, and are available on the school website (www.ysgolbrynderw.co.uk):

- Supporting Pupils with Healthcare Needs
- Anti-Bullying
- Teaching & Learning Policy
- Complaints
- Positive Touch
- Traffic Management
- Safeguarding
- Charging
- Relationships
- Health & Safety



The pupils arrive at Ysgol Bryn Derw, either with families or on Local Authority Transport accompanied by escorts, by 8.55am. They proceed, or are taken by school staff to their classrooms where their teachers are in the classrooms ready to receive them. After the pupils have all been taken to their classrooms, the structure for each school day is as follows:

9.00	Registration
9.05	Lessons commence
10.30	Break
10.45	Lessons continue
12.00	Lunch
1.00	Lessons continue
3.15	End of School Day

(Pupils transported home – families or Local Authority Transport)

The term dates set by Newport City Council are as follows:

Term	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 2 September 2024	Monday 28 October 2024	Friday 1 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Spring	Monday 6 January 2025	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 28 February 2025	Friday 11 April 2025
Summer	Monday 28 April 2025	Monday 26 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025	Monday 21 July 2025

May Bank Holiday will be on Monday 5 May 2025

Additional school closure dates:

Autumn term INSET days:

Monday 2nd September 2024 - Core Safeguarding

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 - Core Safeguarding

Spring term INSET days:

Monday 6th January 2025 - Understanding by Design pedagogy & child led learning

Monday 3rd March 2025 - Functions of behaviour and communication/sensory needs

Summer term INSET days:

Monday 28th April 2025 - Curriculum for Wales: Joint training day with the Cluster of Special Schools in Gwent

Monday 21st July 2025 - School Development Plan priorities (organised as Twilights)

The school prospectus can be found in the following location

<http://ysgolbrynderw.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Prospectus-August-2019.pdf>



The School is committed to providing access to a broad curriculum for all of our pupils. Alongside this, we recognise that the curriculum must be relevant to pupils' individual needs and there must be in-built flexibility in order to ensure continued relevance for all pupils at the various stages of their time at Ysgol Bryn Derw. This will mean that not all of our pupils will experience all aspects of the curriculum all of the time, but rather that a balance in the whole curriculum will be reflected in pupils' individual experiences according to the various age related stages of their school life. Balance across the curriculum will also be dictated by the diverse and complex individual needs of our pupils. We recognise that our pupils benefit from a wide variety of sensory activities and the many forms of therapy which are offered to them and that some of our pupils with very challenging behaviours will need an even greater degree of flexibility in their learning and social programmes.

In 2023-24 pupil numbers grew from 105 to 112.

At the end of July 2024, there were 5 pupils who left Ysgol Bryn Derw. Two pupils completed their education with us and transitioned to Coleg Gwent at Nash and Crosskeys. These pupils were fully supported with their transition to college, with familiarisation and transition visits to each campus and Travel Training provided for a pupil who had to catch two buses from his house to attend Crosskeys Campus. The remaining three pupils have moved out of the area and have begun provisions in their new locations.

All of our pupils, where appropriate, have access to the full range of subjects in the National Curriculum Framework appropriate to their age provided in a way that matches the stage of their development.

The teaching experiences/activities provided and accompanying schemes of work reflect the programmes of study from Foundation Phase, KS2 and 3 of the National Curriculum and for KS4 & 5 accredited units and modules. Community visits remain a key focus for all classes, to support all pupils with an understanding of the world around them. Throughout 2023-24, all 15 classes accessed the community, visiting local shops, parks and cafes. As a school, groups of classes attended sporting events across Newport, Barry Island and the whole school accessed swimming over 3 weeks in the summer term.

The language of the school is designated as English medium.

All pupils experience Welsh as an additional language and have incidental Welsh opportunities throughout the school day. Pupils experience Welsh at a level appropriate to their academic and communication skills, and incidental opportunities include greetings, praise, days of the week, numbers, colours, body parts and weather. These will typically be used alongside the English term for the same word. The school has a number of fluent Welsh speaking staff and so is able to offer more sophisticated Welsh language interaction and learning to those who require it. No pupils are dis-applied from any subjects in the National Curriculum.



The school has 3 hygiene bathrooms (1 per corridor in the main building at Melfort Road and 1 at Kimberley Park) with changing beds, toilets and showers. There are also separate sets of toilet cubicles (2 per corridor in the main building at Melfort Road, 1 in the Annex building and 1 at Kimberley Park). All bathrooms and toilets are cleaned daily by Adapt Commercial Cleaning and checked throughout the day by staff.

Healthy eating and drinking is an important aspect of the curriculum and experience of all pupils. The approach of the school to eating and drinking is designed to develop:

- A broadened diet.
- Increased awareness of the impact of diet on health and the human body.
- Improved decision-making skills.
- Positive attitudes to health and exercise.
- Increased independence in eating and drinking.

The School has achieved Level 3 of the Healthy Schools Award. To achieve progress in healthy eating and drinking, the school take a 'whole school/whole day' approach to the provision of food and drink.

The school provide in partnership:

- Healthy, nutritious, affordable and attractively presented meals in partnership with NCC catering department and Chartwells.
- Breakfast Clubs, as far as possible, in line with Welsh Government guidance.
- Encouragement of healthy snacks at break times.
- An enjoyable eating experience in a quality environment.
- Encouragement for parents to provide healthy lunch boxes.
- Fresh water, available to all staff and pupils in classrooms.
- Display materials within and around the school that promote the positive relationship between food and physical activity.
- Engagement with pupils, where appropriate, on healthy food and fitness activities (e.g. Fruit Tuck, Healthy Lunchbox etc.)

- Procurement and menu planning that recognises the importance of purchasing locally, seasonality and environmental sustainability in partnership with NCC catering department and Chartwells.

