



YSGOL BRYN DERW GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2024-25 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:
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Dear Parents and Carers

The Governing Body have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report for parents and carers of the learners at Ysgol Bryn Derw. We are proud to be able to present another very positive report.

The Governing Body have again been delighted to welcome more new pupils and their parents and carers to the school with the further expansion of the school in Caerleon. It has been both an exciting and busy time for staff to expand the excellent facilities and opportunities for more children across Newport. The Governing Body are proud to have such a dedicated and hardworking staff across all three sites in addition to the continuation of their offer of support and advice to all schools across the city and region. Ysgol Bryn Derw continues to be held up as a centre of excellence and the Governing Body thank Mr Drew and all staff for their continuing dedication and support for the children and their families.

As Chair of the Governing Body I would like to thank all Governor colleagues who have been part of the Governing Body this year. All Governors are volunteers and I thank them for their time and commitment throughout the year. Our meetings are always productive, having appropriate and effective scrutiny and challenge in both full and sub-committee meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents, carers and family members for your continued support and input. I hope the following report gives you a useful summary showcasing the successes and highlights of the past school year in Ysgol Bryn Derw.

Best wishes

Paula Halsall

Chair of Governors

YSGOL BRYN DERW – GOVERNORS ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2024-25

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	14/07/29
Chris May	Local Authority	27/01/26
Andi O'Brien	Local Authority	21/11/26
Estelle Cartlidge	Community	28/03/27
Kate Drew	Community	01/02/26
Sally Purchase	Parent (Elected)	29/11/25
Esther Nicolaou	Parent (Elected)	23/01/29
Matt Jennings	Parent (Elected)	14/11/27
Michelle Barrett	Community	28/11/27
Louise Booth	Teacher	26/09/28
Clair Cockerill	Staff	09/02/29
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

Donna Gilbert

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

Ysgol Bryn Derw

Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2025

2023/24 Outturn		2024/25 Outturn
£	Employees	£
1,236,695	Teachers	1,562,626
1,612,980	Support Staff	1,680,104
86,187	Caretakers	90,361
0	Midday Supervisors	388
0	Cleaners	0
Other Employee Costs		
703	Supply Insurance Premium	729
277,380	Agency Staff	307,143
0	Lunch Time Meal Entitlement	0
0	Foreign Language Assistants	0
0	Exam Invigilators	0
1,850	Advertising	2,035
166	Interview Expenses	0
2,270	Misc Employee Costs	1,922
Energy		
23,301	Gas	17,992
37,647	Electricity	29,832
0	Oil	0
39,087	Capitation and ICT	53,156
0	SCC, EIG and PDG Expenditure	0
Premises Related		
673	Hire of Facilities	1,774
3,329	Rates	4,159
19,203	Building Maintenance and Alarm Lines	28,986
4,637	Grounds Maintenance	7,358
5,050	Water	5,254
44,962	Building Cleaning Contract	46,750
4,553	Refuse Collection	5,750
17,030	Miscellaneous Premises	14,775
Communications		
86	Postage/Fax/Telex	37
4,439	Telephones	4,684

Transport		
75	Vehicle Maintenance	1,468
0	Purchase of Vehicles	0
0	Vehicle Hire	0
899	Car Allowance	1,521
102	Travel Expenses	31

189	Exam Fees	137
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External Courses		
10,955	School Funded Training	9,680
86	Alternative Curriculum Provision	0
0	Sixth Form	0

37,571	Central Services	46,789
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Income		
0	Lettings	0
-9,930	Sales Income	-14,683
0	Music Service Income	0
-3,774	Donations	-4,223
0	Miscellaneous	0
-7,450	Supply	-10,557
0	Exam Fees	0
-5,685	Interest	-8,385
0	Rental Income	0
0	EIG	0
0	PDG/EYPDG	0
0	Energy Compensation	0
0	Coaching Fees	0
-308,164	Other Grant and Contributions	-604,962
0	Reserve Transfer	0
0	After Schools Club	0

3,137,104	Total Net Expenditure	3,282,631
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3,078,537	Total Funding	3,360,730
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-58,567	In Year Surplus / Deficit	78,099
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231,101	Prior Year Surplus / Deficit	172,534
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172,534	Accumulated Surplus / Deficit c/fwd	250,633
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5.60%	Balance as % of Funding	7.46%
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The total funding received in 2024-25 was £4,003,540, made up of a £3,360,730 budget share allocated by NCC, and £642,810 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 83% of the budget was spent on staffing costs.
- Approximately 7.7% 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 1.3% 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 2.9% 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 1.2% of the budget was spent on energy costs.
- Approximately 0.2% of the budget was spent on staff training (e.g. Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Intensive Interaction).
- Approximately 1.2% 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 7.46% surplus of the budget share (£250,633) was carried forward to undertake improvement projects to accommodate rising pupil numbers and associated staffing and equipment costs in 2025-26.

We did not receive any gifts in 2024-25 (aside from monetary donations listed above).

No travel and subsistence claims were made by members of the Governing Body in 2024-25.



There were nine Year 11 pupils in 2024-25, 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 2024-25 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.
- Work experience at local coffee shops and Civic Offices.
- Shopping at local shops and supermarkets.
- Visits to Stelvio Park, Tredegar Park, Pontypool Park, Rogerstone Welfare Grounds, Cwmbran Boating Lake & 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.
- Travel Training journeys to Bristol, Bath, Cardiff and London, funded by Great Western Railways.
- Participation in the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative.



Attendance in 2024-25 as 93.7%, up from 91.4% 2023-24.

Targets for attendance for 2025-26 have been set:

	2025-6 targets
Overall	93.2%
Primary	93.2%
Secondary	93.2%

Five priorities in the 2024-25 School Development Plan (SDP) were met in full, with one met in part. 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 2025-26 have been agreed and are:

1a. Pupils will make greater academic progress through consistent application of the 'Understanding by Design' model

1b. Enhanced pupil application of skills in work settings through continued expansion of work experience offer internally and externally

1c. Increased pupil independence and creativity through cascading the Froebel approach to learning to all classes

2a. Greater pupil emotional regulation through consistent application of the newly devised Functions of Behaviour Toolkit

2b. Increased pupil sensory regulation through further expanding our expertise in OT related skills and establishing suitable links with new outside provider

2c. Ensure pupils make greater communication progress through applying the newly devised Communication Pathways model

3a. Enhance the aspect of AHT & TLR roles focusing on skills development and pupil progression across ages and sites

3b. Embed the new SLT and Admin team structures across new multi-site set up 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 2025 at Newport Active Living Centre.



The following policies were adopted/updated by the Governing Body in 2024-25, and are available on the school website (www.ysgolbrynderw.co.uk):

- Safeguarding
- Anti-bullying
- Complaints
- e-Safety
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Menopause
- Health and 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 1 September 2025	Monday 27 October 2025	Friday 31 October 2025	Friday 19 December 2025
Spring	Monday 5 January 2026	Monday 16 February 2026	Friday 20 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026
Summer	Monday 13 April 2026	Monday 25 May 2026	Friday 29 May 2026	Monday 20 July 2026

May Bank Holiday will be on Monday 4th May 2026

Additional school closure dates:

Autumn term INSET days:

Monday 1st September 2025 - Team Teach & Safeguarding (Whole School Training)

Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - Team Teach & Safeguarding (Whole School Training)

Spring term INSET days:

Monday 5th January 2026 – Wellbeing/Skills

Monday 23rd February 2026 – Froebel Approach

Summer term INSET days:

Monday 13th April 2026 – Cluster joint training day

Monday 20th July 2026 – 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 2024-25 pupil numbers decreased from 112 to 111.

At the end of July 2025, there were 4 pupils who left Ysgol Bryn Derw. Two pupils who decided that they wished to complete their education with us before Year 14 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 the each. The remaining two pupils were supported to access Day provision at two local organisations offering an ILS curriculum along with community access.

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 2024-25, all 16 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.

Qualifications/Accreditations achieved are:

Awarding Body / Qualification	Qualification	Pupils	Units/Grades
AQA	Unit Award Scheme	18	59 units
WJEC	Entry Pathways	6	12 units
WJEC	GCSE English	2	B, C grade
WJEC	GCSE Mathematics	2	B, C grades
WJEC	GCSE Numeracy	1	B grade

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.

