



Blaen y Maes Primary School

Report to Parents/Carers

The Governing Body is pleased to be able to offer this report to parents/carers. 2024/2025 is proving to be a busy but very positive year for Blaen y Maes, and we wanted to bring to the attention of parents/carers key information.

Before we share information, the Governing Body would like to thank parents/carers for working with the Headteacher, teaching and other staff in the school. We are very much a partnership in Blaen y Maes, and your continued contribution to the life of the school is appreciated. We would like to also encourage any parents/carers who might need support in terms of attendance-related matters to please contact our Family Inclusion Officer, Mrs Spencer: dedicated help is available from the school for a variety of issues.

As a Governing Body, we want to pay tribute too to Mrs Lecrass and the Senior Leadership Team. Much work has been progressed this year to realise our aspiration to improve the school, enhance our local curriculum and to create opportunities for pupils to learn and be the very best that they can. Our vision for Blaen y Maes is that it should be place where all pupils are nurtured, grow, feel safe and understand that they are the citizens, entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow.

As well as this report being in paper form, it will be placed on our website. Should parents/carers wish to discuss any aspect of the report, the Chair of Governors and the Head teacher will offer a drop-in on the 13th of November at 2:30p.m. If parents/carers could give notice that they are attending, this will be appreciated. We are happy to discuss any part of this report.

Constitution of the Governing Body

For 2024/2025, Dr Charles (who was chair for the previous year) has been re-elected as Chair of the Governing Body. Ms Eldridge (one of our community governors) has become the Vice-Chair of Governors, taking over from Mrs Seaton. Governing Body would like to thank Mrs Seaton for her sterling work as Vice-Chair and for all that she does to support the work of the school.

We have a new Clerk to the Governors, Miss Thomas (who takes over from Mrs Amirat) and she is the 'go to' if parents/carers would like more information about the Governing Body. We would like to record our thanks at this point to Mrs Amirat for the sterling work that she did as Clerk to the Governors.

Mrs. Lecrass has recently advertised for nominations for Parent Governors. It really is important that parents/carers are represented on the Governing Body, since it

makes a number of important decisions regarding the school. To help individuals understand what it means to be a Parent Governor, Dr Charles will be hosting an information session on Wednesday the 13th of November at 1:30p.m. All parents/carers are invited to this session and in the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the process of election for a Parent Governor, could you contact the Clerk to the Governors, Miss Thomas.

The Governing Body remains active, and we regularly review our procedures and structure to ensure that they meet the needs of the school. This year, we have updated our committee structure and core committees exist which are dedicated to finance, human resources, estates, research and performance, teaching and learning and wellbeing. Our committees are designed to enable Governors to work closely with pupils, teachers and the Senior Leadership Team, so that a process of scrutiny, encouragement and support is offered across the school's broad array of activities.

As well as having a Governing Body, we are very pleased that we also have a Parents Council and a School Council. Each of these councils helps to advise the Governing Body. Thanks are offered to those parents/carers who give of their time to make the Parents Council work and also, we are so pleased that our pupils have enthusiastically put themselves forward to be members of the School Council.

Updates on key decisions made by the Governing Body will be published on the school website.

Term Dates for 2024/25

The term dates for 2024/25 are:

School term and holiday dates 2024 / 2025

Term	Term begins		Mid-term holiday begins	Mid-term holiday ends	Terms ends		Total days
Autumn 2024	Monday 2 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024	Monday 28 October 2024	Friday 1 November 2024	Monday 4 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024	75
Spring 2025	Monday 6 January 2025	Friday 21 February 2025	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 28 February 2025	Monday 3 March 2025	Friday 11 April 2025	65
Summer 2025	Monday 28 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025	Monday 26 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025	Monday 2 June 2025	Monday 21 July 2025	55
Total							195

Details of inset days will be shared with pupils and information sent home to ensure that parents/carers have time to prepare for these: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/29961/INSET-days-2024--2025>

Attendance

In Blaen y Maes, as elsewhere, attendance remains a priority. Good attendance is essential for both academic development and the well-being of the children. This is a key priority moving forward as our annual attendance figure last year was 88.8%.

Attendance figures are monitored weekly and work is being undertaken not only in our school, but across our cluster to understand attendance and how we can improve it. Mrs.Spencer is working hard with our communication/well-being ambassadors to promote good attendance across the school and Governing Body has recently agreed a new Attendance Policy. Additionally, work is on-going with Swansea University to explore how we can improve attendance. The research being undertake with the University will be published during this academic year and will be placed on our website. Should you have any queries concerning your child's attendance at school, please reach out to her for support.

Financial Statement

The effective management of the school's finances remains a core priority of the Governing Body. During the past year, we have had a particularly challenging time finance-wise, with the Welsh Government cutting school budgets. Working closely with the council we have though been able to keep our finances stable, update parts of our estate (to maintain safety and undertake repairs) and maintain a strong staff team. The Chair of Governors and the Headteacher regularly review the budget and we are committed to ensuring that services and support for pupils and parents/carers is provided, whilst staying within our allocated budget.

A summary of our financial statement is below:

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

A	B	C	D
SCHOOL: Blaenymaes Primary			
STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR			
	Delegated Expenditure £	Non-Delegated Expenditure £	Total Net Expenditure £
Teachers Salaries	776,836	760	777,596
Salaries	735,549	51,039	786,588
Other Employee Costs	4,309	-239	4,070
Premises	63,048	0	63,048
Transport	2,452	0	2,452
Supplies & Services	321,560	0	321,560
Recharges	0	300	300
Gross Expenditure	1,903,753	51,860	1,955,612
Grant Income	-658,414	0	-658,414
Other Income	-102,003	0	-102,003
Gross Income	-760,417	0	-760,417
Net Expenditure	1,143,336	51,860	1,195,196
RESERVES:			
£			
FINAL FORMULA ALLOCATION:		1,148,421	
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE:		1,143,336	
TRANSFER TO / (FROM) RESERVES:		5,085	
OPENING BALANCE ON RESERVES 01/04/23		296,743	
CLOSING BALANCE ON RESERVES: 31/03/24		301,828	

Our Pupil Deprivation Grant expenditure is also here summarised for parents/carers and a full report is available on the school website:

PUPIL DEVELOPMENT GRANT STRATEGY STATEMENT

This statement details our school's use of the PDG for the 2024 to 2025 academic year. Please see the school website for full details on how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the effect that last year's spending had within our school.

School Overview

Detail	Data
School name	Blaenymaes Primary
Number of pupils in school	199
Proportion (%) of PDG eligible pupils	(PLASC 68.9%) Jan 24 71% July
Date this statement was published	October 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2025
Statement authorised by	GB
PDG Lead	Kathryn Lecrass
Governor Lead	Anthony Charles

Funding Overview

Detail	Amount
PDG funding allocation this academic year	£193,794
eFSM	£140,300
EY	£47150
Total available resources for this academic year	£1,392,563
Total delegated school budget for this academic year	£1,091,642

School prospectus

The current prospectus is available on the school website <https://www.blaenymaesprimary.co.uk/school-prospectus/>

Statement on the use of the Welsh Language

Pupils, staff and the Governors of Blaen y Maes Primary School have a strong sense of pride in our Welsh community. Staff in the school encourage the use of the Welsh language and such is integrated into both classroom and extracurricular activities. Where possible, children are encouraged to be bilingual and Welsh features prominently in school community activities such as assembly. As part of our new curriculum, we remain committed to exploring Welsh history and culture with our pupils and will encourage them to see the Welsh language as something which is positive and celebratory. We have also invested in our Criw Cymraeg at school and have achieved a Bronze award in the Siarter Iaith. The school is now making good progress towards the Silver Award.

Provision of toilet facilities and cleaning arrangements

The school is proactive in terms of seeking to promote hygiene and the well-being of our pupils. A critical aspect of that aspiration is that we provide well maintained toilet facilities for boys and girls at school. We consider that good facilities help to promote health, responsibility and wellbeing and, allied to physical infrastructure, we also:

- Encourage hand washing;
- Responsible use of toilet facilities;
- The reporting of any problems (if pupils encounter them);
- Provide appropriate access to toilets;
- Ensure that statutory standards are met; and
- Have staff members work with pupils to make toilet spaces safe

Regular checks on toilet facilities are undertaken and they are prioritised as part of the frequent cleaning schedule for the school. We also have a Wellbeing ambassador pupil role, and that individual liaises with the Head teacher and other staff, reporting on the cleanliness of our toilets.

Healthy schools

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to promote healthy eating and drinking by pupils in maintained schools. Welsh Government requires local authorities and governing bodies to take action to promote healthy eating and drinking. In discharging this duty, local authorities and governing bodies must have regard to Welsh Guidance. Guidance provides advice on:

- What constitutes healthy eating and drinking;
- Appropriate action to promote healthy eating and drinking; and

- How sustainable development applies in relation to the promotion of healthy eating and drinking

Parents/carers may know that the Welsh Government has now rolled out Universal Primary Free School Meals ([Universal Primary Free School Meals \(UPFSM\) | GOV.WALES](#)). As part of this policy, pupils will benefit from free meals. Some parents/carers may also qualify for a School Essentials Grant. Information on that grant can be found here: [School Essentials Grant: help with school costs | GOV.WALES](#) If you need help with applying for a School Essentials Grant, please contact the school and assistance will be offered.

In addition to universal free school meals, pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day, to stay hydrated and as part of our eco project, we have an allotment area so that fruit and vegetables can be grown.

Improving the school estate

Governing Body has agreed to invest in improving the school estate and we have upgraded:

- Windows;
- Carpets in classrooms (this is a rolling process);
- Fencing;
- Roof repairs;
- New electric and fire alarm system;
- Hand rails;
- Currently looking at tarmac for paved areas

Following a disappointing estate survey, Governing Body will be prioritising a conversation with Swansea Council this year to explore the possibility of a new build. Parents/carers may have noticed that our older building is now, regrettably, being affected more and more by inclement weather. We want pupils to learn in the best facilities possible and will thus be speaking with the council to see what options exist for a new build or upgrade to the school estate.

Extracurricular activities

The school provides a diverse and exciting range of extracurricular activities for pupils – some of which have been requested by the children. These include:

- Maintaining our popular breakfast club;
- Football/rugby club;
- Digital coding club;
- Film club;
- Foundation fun club;
- Welsh club;
- Forest school and
- 'So to Do.'
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Some of our Ambassadors also run an emotional well-being play time café so that we can help create a healthy environment where pupils feel able to play, share their thoughts and grow.

Parents/carers and pupils learning together

Following successes achieved last year, the school, working with community colleagues will continue to provide:

- Community farm workshops;
- Topic celebration events;
- Class assemblies and workshops;
- Family festival days;
- Fayres and
- Cooking sessions

Should parents identify other needs or potential opportunities for us to collaborate with, please would they let the Head know. Thank you.

Curriculum for Wales



The school has continued to develop a varied, relevant and inspiring curriculum, which has been designed to ensure that children attending Blaen y Maes become:

- Ethical and informed citizens;
- Enterprising and creative;

- Ambitious and capable learners; and
- Healthy and confident

We work together with our School Improvement Advisor to monitor the impact of our curriculum provision.

Continuing to review and improve

The Governing Body, Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team and staff across the school are committed to raising standards for all of our pupils. In doing so, they have worked with literacy/numeracy advisors, fostered pro-active approaches to Additional Learning Needs, successfully re-accredited the school as a Gold Award Rights Respecting School and participated in Support Visits organised by the Education Department. All of these positive achievements are considered in our School Development Plan. Specifically, as we move through 2024/2025, key priorities in the Plan can be viewed on our website as part of our SDP summary report: <https://www.blaenymaesprimary.co.uk/school-development-plan/>

A significant range of activity is taking place in school and the Governing Body would like to formally recognise the dedication and commitment of the Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team and our teachers and support staff. We have an impressive team in Blaen y Maes Primary School and whilst there is work to be done for us to be excellent in all that we do, we are making progress. A full version of the School Development Plan is available upon request.

Appointment of a new Deputy Headteacher

Following last year's report to parents/carers and after the appointment of Mrs Lecrass as Headteacher, the Governing Body, following a highly competitive recruitment process, appointed Mrs Smith as Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Smith has invested deeply in the life of Blaen y Maes and continues to provide strong leadership to colleagues, support for the Governing Body and excellent teaching for our pupils. We are delighted that she has taken up this important role.

Concluding Statement

We hope that parents/carers can see that a great deal of work is taking place in Blaen y Maes. This report can only offer a snapshot of what is happening in the school, but we hope that you find it helpful. Although there are challenges in education and wider society, we are maintaining a positive vision of the future in Blaen y Maes. We have an excellent school team, an inspiring Senior Leadership Team and as Governors, we are dedicated to doing what we can so that Blaen y Maes is a school that pupils want to come to and, when they leave, have learned valuable skills and acquired important knowledge. Thank you for accompanying us on the schools journey and, if at any point you have questions or queries, please do contact the school. The Governing Body commends this report to you.

The Governors of Blaen y Maes Primary School
October 2024