
Clyro Church in Wales Primary School

**Annual Report from Governors to Parents
for the academic year 2023/2024**



**Clyro Church in Wales
Primary School**

Head-teacher: Mrs Sarah Groves

Deputy: Miss Sinead Griffiths

Chair of Governors: Mrs Hannah Elliott

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This is my first annual report to parents. I became a parent Governor in January 2024 and became Chair in November 2024. Although I am fairly new to the role of a Governor, I was a pupil at Clyro School, a very long time ago, and have been a parent at Clyro School since September 2020. We chose to move our eldest daughter from another school to Clyro, based on the nurturing environment and the investment that staff make to recognise, understand and develop the individual needs and talents of each child. I am still a parent at the school, with a younger daughter who is currently in year 2.

This report covers the academic year of 2023/2024, which was filled with many challenges and success stories, most of which I experienced as a parent, rather than a parent governor. I would like to recognise the efforts that the governing body made, during this time, to support and challenge the school development, through a broad variety of skills which they brought to their roles, with a common goal for the children to receive the best opportunities to learn in a safe and happy environment.

I would also like to thank the parents and guardians, who continue to support the school through generous donations of time, knowledge and skills; navigating forgotten tasks such as long division, to support classroom learning; supporting the Friends with their ongoing fundraising and awareness initiatives; attending events and being a taxi service for extra-curricular activities, in addition to baking cakes and remembering Christmas jumper day!

We have such hardworking, dedicated staff at Clyro school, and I would like to thank them for their ongoing energy and commitment to the children.

I hope this report will provide you with an overview of the academic year and remind everyone of the achievements of our fantastic school, its fabulous pupils and dedicated staff.

Hannah Elliott



The Governing Body

It is the role of the Governors to agree the aims and values of the school and to agree the appropriate policies to ensure the school meets the requirements of the Welsh National Curriculum. The Governors' role is to support and challenge the school's leadership team to drive school improvement, through monitoring and evaluation.

Governors' Meetings

The Governing body hold at least one meeting per half term over the school year, with additional meetings of committees with clearly defined areas of responsibility.

Governors are allocated positions on the following committees:

- Curriculum and Assessment
- Finance and Resources
- Policy reviews
- Staffing
- Pay Review
- Complaints Appeals and Pay Review Appeals
- Performance Management

Governors are also directly responsible for additional specific subjects and spend time at the school to undertake learning walks where they visit classrooms and observe learning in lessons, and talk with teachers who hold responsibility for the subject. Monitoring is considered against the School Development Plan, to ensure standards remain high, policies are upheld, and the strategic development of the school remains on track.

Governors elect to have specific responsibility for:

- All Curriculum areas
- Health and Safety
- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Additional Learning Needs
- Training Links
- Attendance

Recommendations from committee meetings and findings from monitoring are shared at Governors' meetings, for wider debate, ensuring that a balanced overview of progress is maintained. The Governing body works together, not as individuals, and a majority agreement is required for all policies, strategic change and financial matters.

All Governors take part in mandatory and area specific training sessions, as organised by the Local Authority.

No resolutions were passed at the last Annual General Meeting and no Governor has claimed or been paid any expenses.

The Governors 2023/2024

Governor	Role	Term expires
Damian Murphy	LEA Governor (Chair)	Resigned July 2024
Mike Southcoat	LEA Governor (Vice-chair)	13 July 2025
Sarah Groves	Headteacher	n/a
Sinead Griffiths	Teaching Staff Governor	12 June 2027
Trish Richardson	Community Governor	Resigned July 2024
Mari Fforde	Community Governor	4 December 2026
David Hassard	Parent Governor	Term expired 4 October 2024
Rebecca Drysdale	Parent Governor	20 October 2026
David Thomas	Foundation Governor	Resigned August 2024
Davina Thomas	Foundation Governor	Resigned August 2024

Further information about the current Governors can be found on the school website:
<https://www.clyro.powys.sch.uk/governors/>

Pupil Numbers

In 2023/2024 there were 69 pupils on roll:

Class 1 = 29 pupils (5 in Reception, 13 Year 1 and 11 in Year 2)

Class 2 = 18 pupils (11 in Year 3 and 7 Year 4 pupils)

Class 3 = 22 pupils (8 in Year 5, 14 in Year 6)

14 Year 6 pupils left at the end of this academic year in July 2024.

Nursery Provision

Throughout 2023/2024 the school continued to have its own privately run on-site Nursery “Little Stars Clyro”. They are CIW registered and provide 3+ funding provision for 12.5 hours a week to children the term following their 3rd birthday and also have places for 2 year olds.

School Organisation, Staffing and Changes to Staffing

Throughout 2023/2024 there were three classes.

- **Class 1** – taught by Miss Griffiths (also Deputy Head)
- **Class 2** – taught by Miss Morgan from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Groves on a Thursday and Friday
- **Class 3** – taught by Mrs Bartholomew, with Mrs Aimee Collett covering Mrs Bartholomew’s maternity leave from 8th July 2023

Mrs Groves covered PPA for Miss Morgan on a Monday afternoon.
Mr Will Haines covered PPA for Miss Griffiths and Mrs Bartholomew, with PE lessons.

Learning Support Assistants:

- Miss Justine Burnett-Thomas, full time LSA in **Class 1**
- Mrs Simone Bouette, full time in **Class 2**
- Mrs Carol Jones, full time LSA in **Class 3**
- Mrs Anna Carlisle, 7.5 hours a week, providing intervention support for children on our Universal and Additional Learning Needs Provision registers.

Midday Supervisors:

- Mrs Simone Bouette
- Mrs Khrystyna Luchynska (started in June 2023)

Breakfast Club:

- Miss Justine Burnett-Thomas, Breakfast Club Supervisor
- Mrs Wendy Green, Breakfast Club Assistant

Office:

- Mrs Julie Lewis, secretary for 25 hours a week
- Mrs Vicki Williams, secretary on a Monday for 5 hours

Cleaning and catering:

- Miss Debra Lewis, cleaner for the school and private on-site nursery
- Mrs Wendy Green, Cook
- Mrs Kathy Clifton, Kitchen Assistant

Mighty Oaks, After School Club (run by the Friends)

- Mrs Jo Runciman
- Ms Lucy Spittle

School Session Times and Attendance

The school opens at 9.00am to receive pupils, ready for a prompt start to the school day at 9.15am. The school doors and gates are closed at 9.30am and the parking spaces on the lower level car park are locked to enable the pupils to use the area for play.

Registration is completed electronically at the start of the day and then again at the beginning of the afternoon session at 1.10pm.

Teachers can't have children before 9.00am due to insurance constraints. Breakfast club is available from 8.00am during term time and continues to be popular. Numbers during 2023/2024 averaged around 10 each morning.

School closes at 3.30pm, and school insurance ceases at 3.40pm.

We use electronic registers which automatically send attendance figures to Powys Council and are, therefore, checked by the Schools Education Welfare Officer, (EWO). Patterns of regular and repeated absences are looked at and explanations sought for any irregularities that are found by the school's Senior Management Team as well as the Local Authority. If the EWO feels concerned about a child's repeated absence, they will contact the school who will then follow procedure to improve attendance, as outlined the Attendance Guidance policy and the All Wales Attendance Framework. All absences should be explained by an email to the office or a telephone call by 10am at the latest.

Our attendance target for the academic year of 2023/24 was 96%. Attendance figures for 2023/2024 were 93.46%. This is a slight decrease on the previous year. We had 6.39% of authorised absence, and 0.15% were unauthorised. Mr Ben Thomas, our Educational Welfare Officer (EWO), continues to monitor our attendance figures and Mrs Trish Richardson, Attendance Governor, undertook an Attendance meeting with Sarah Groves, Headteacher.

We had 51 requests for term-time holiday absence. There have been no temporary or permanent exclusions or racial incidents to report for this term. We had one bullying issue which was dealt with.

Although the Headteacher has the discretion to grant holiday absence during term time in exceptional circumstances, please remember that this is only up to 20 sessions (10 working days) and where a child's attendance is deemed to be excellent. In all other cases the absence will be recorded as "Unauthorised".

After School Provision

Mighty Oaks, the after school club run by the Friends, is available from 3.30pm. It has been well attended throughout 2023/2024, with activities ranging from cookery, sport and crafts, and is open until 5.30pm.

Results and Target Setting

All children in Year's 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were tested using the online Welsh National Reasoning, Procedural and Reading Tests. Results are used by staff, as well as our in-house assessments, for pupil progress meetings to further inform their planning.

Additional Learning Needs

The staff and Governors of Clyro Church in Wales Primary School are in agreement that early identification of any learning difficulties and learning strengths is vital if children are to achieve their potential. Mrs Bartholomew continues in her role as Additional Learning Needs Coordinator, with Mrs Aimee Collett taking on this role as part of Mrs Bartholomew's maternity leave from 8th July 2023.

The school's Additional Learning Needs Policy is reviewed regularly. Additional Learning Needs, More Able and Talented and Concern Register and the Intervention Support is reviewed and updated termly. Every effort is made, in consultation with parents, to identify weaknesses or strengths at an early point in a child's school career and from this identification, to put in place, at the earliest point in time, interventions to meet the needs of the individual.

Procedure for the Admission of Children

Powys Local Education Authority takes full control of admissions to schools. This responsibility relates to all children and not just those who are joining the school at the normal admission age. Each school has an admission number for the year group that the child is being admitted into. The school should not exceed this number unless it has been sanctioned by Powys LA, usually through the formal Appeals Procedure. If a pupil is accepted into the school without approval of the LA, the pupil may need to be removed from the school roll until an admission appeal is heard. Please note, only children who are admitted through the Authority's admission procedures will be funded. The LA therefore request that their schools do not accept pupils onto the school roll until it has formally allocated the pupil a place.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE OR ANY QUESTIONS DO CONTACT THE SCHOOL AS WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

Policies

The school has an annual policy review schedule to ensure that all required policies are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. This schedule includes policies generated by Powys LA and other policies relating to all aspects of the work, employment and general running of the school. Review of policies is ongoing and as new policies come into school from Powys or The Welsh Government, the Governing body will act accordingly to ensure they are implemented.

Buildings and Grounds

We have been in our school building for over six years now and continue to work with the LA to further improve the setting in every way possible, ranging from Clevertouch screens to a tree survey, a PE equipment inspection and a new Grounds Maintenance contract. We continue to keep a close eye on the cost of running costs of the building, and maintenance, as part of overall budget management.

The School grounds have undergone significant transformation over the year, mainly due to the ongoing support and hard work of the Friends of Clyro School. They were awarded £20,000 from the Local Places for Nature Scheme which will be spent over two years, with this year's project being the renovation of the pond area at the school which hasn't been touched for several years, turning it into a nature reserve with two ponds and a

sensory trail. The School Council representatives collected ideas from each class and these were shared with the landscape gardener to re-designing the space. Members of the Friends cleared a significant area and fixed a new roof on the bird hide. The children helped empty and clear one pond with the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. The Hay Fund (Cheese Market) donated £300 to go towards plants in the redeveloped pond area for the sensory garden.

The Friends were also awarded a Keep Wales Tidy 'Food Development Package' which has been used to create a food-growing area, next to the new Outdoor Garden Lab. A representative from Keep Wales Tidy worked with pupils to develop the raised beds and help construct the area. The package includes training, advice, practical help and support to install the new areas, as well as tools, materials and equipment to care for them long-term. The Friends have held several Grounds Day's, one of which was attended by Clyro Gardening Club, to develop these areas, where parents, staff and pupils dug, weeded, sowed seeds, planted, replenished woodchip paths, made flower beds and tidied up the school grounds. I must say a very big thank you to Edith Farnworth, who has been the driving force behind this project and who managed to successfully secure all of the grants.

Security Arrangements

All fire systems and equipment have been regularly inspected and the provision is good. All equipment is tested under the supplier's maintenance contract. Fire alarms are tested weekly and fire drills are held each half term. The fire brigade were called for one false alarm and protocol was followed successfully, with the support of parents. Electrical appliances are regularly tested. All visitors to school enter the school via the reception. Visitors are required to wear a visitor's lanyard and badge and sign the visitor's book on arrival and departure as well as read the Safeguarding information, which is available in reception. All parents are requested to abide by the current school start and end times, unless they have made prior arrangements with staff. It is requested that you advise staff if changes are made to the person collecting your child/children.

Destination of Leavers

At the age of eleven most of our pupils transfer to Gwernyfed High School. However, every year some pupils, due to home locality or parental preference, transfer to Fairfield High School, Lady Hawkins High School or to Independent Schools.

School Action Planning Progress

The School Development Plan (SDP) continues to be reviewed and scrutinised by our School Improvement Adviser (SIA) on a regular basis, with very positive feedback on all of the excellent work that the teachers have undertaken on the new Curriculum for Wales and how far along we are with implementation. Examples of the areas reviewed include our in-house assessments, how we track pupil progress and the new Pupil Voice half-termly

packs developed by Miss Griffiths as part of her NPEP project, which the SIA was impressed with. Our last Estyn inspection, in 2019, resulted in a good to excellent judgement and we continue to focus our school priorities on their recommendations.

Section 50 Inspection Report (Church Schools)

Our last Section 50 Church inspection assessed the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Clyro Church in Wales Primary School as a Church in Wales school as excellent. The school continues to embed Christian values in everyday life and build good relationships and a community of mutual support. Pupils are encouraged to apply the Christian vision and values of the school to their learning, behaviour and decisions. In addition, pupils learn about all religions and celebrations throughout the year to gain a deeper understanding of different faiths in modern Britain.

Finance and Budget

The school budget is reviewed on a regular basis by the Headteacher, the governing body and the finance committee, with support from the LA. As of March 2024, the budget was in good shape for the coming years.

We use ParentPay for school meals as well as Breakfast Club, trips and other payments. Pupils are able to order their daily meal online which is then sent to Mrs Green in our kitchen. We would like to remind parents and guardians that these payments need to be made regularly and that we cannot accept debts built up on ParentPay.

Sports & Extra Curricular Activities

Pupils took part in a wide variety of skills training sessions for different sporting activities. The range of activities they have taken part in and received coaching in includes cross country, multi-skills sessions, athletics, tag rugby, football, netball, swimming, hockey, rounders and cricket.

We are very keen to promote a healthy lifestyle for the children and this includes encouraging sport and partaking in active games. This is also a vital part of the new Welsh curriculum. We are keen to ensure that the school continues to be an inclusive and encouraging place and that all pupils have the chance to partake in and compete in a variety of sports. These activities are vital in the learning process in promoting teamwork, support, dealing with failure and losing as well as individuals striving to do the best they can.

Our new Sports Ambassadors received training from Nicola Jones, Sport and Active Communities Development Officer for Gwernyfed & Crickhowell. In the first half of the autumn term, we were extremely lucky to receive a 6-week programme, funded by the Diocese, of "Project Touchline", where faith, values and sport are explored with the children.

All children in Class 2 and 3 received “5 ways to Wellbeing” training. Pupils in Years 4, 5 & 6 took part in resilience training and peer mediation training, enabling them to resolve any arguments /disputes themselves during lunch and break times. Staff have engaged in, and continue to use the Whole School Approach to Health and Mental Wellbeing. Years 5 and 6 were trained to be dementia friendly, followed by visits to the HayDay Dementia Café at Clyro Village Hall.

Pupils continue to have instrumental music teaching on the piano with Mr Sweeting and drumming with Mr Gibbon. Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils were very lucky to be asked to be part of a concert at St. Mary’s Church, Hay on Wye, of “Handel’s Messiah”. Mrs Fiona Evans, the Hay Community Choir Director, rehearsed with the children, who then sang alongside the Hay Community choir, accompanied by the Royal Welsh College of Music Orchestra. Pupils in Class 2 enjoyed a 10-week block of Jflutes lessons in the Autumn Term, followed by weekly harp lessons during the Spring Term. Class 3 took part in the Gwernyfed Cluster Concert for Year 5 and 6 children in our cluster. Class 1 put on a wonderful Christmas nativity play, “Away in a Manger”, and pupils in Classes 2 and 3 finished the school year with an amazing production of ‘Matilda’.

After a successful application to the Arts Council of Wales and their new ‘Have a go’ fund, Class 3 had a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with Andy Birch, a professional graffiti artist from North-West Wales, to create a mural highlighting our school, it’s values and the community.

The whole school was involved in our entry for the Welsh Heritage Schools initiative, and based on a broad range of activities, every pupil contributed to our success in winning this award and a prize of £800. As part of the work for this competition, the whole school enjoyed activities at Hay Castle, including learning the story of Matilda De Braose, and finding out about planets, galaxies and space as part of the ‘Dark Skies’ exhibition. Other school /class trips or activities have included Hay Festival, St. Fagans, Dan yr Ogof caves, Rock UK, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales Concert for Primary Schools at the Cardiff Millennium Centre, the Dark Sky Discovery Site at Libanus Mountain Centre, the Begwyns, Spring Greens Fair, the Small Breeds Farm in Kington, West Midlands Safari Park.

We have been lucky this year to have several visitors to the school throughout the year, each bringing different experiences for the children. These have included a Beekeeper, local illustrator Emily Hill, local author Catherine Barr, Shepherd’s Ice Cream Parlour and of course Julie Lewis and her lamb. VSTEAM Education came in to run workshops for each class, looking at renewable wind energy. Parents have contributed each term with ideas for topic related learning as part of the new Pupil Voice half-termly packs developed by Miss Griffiths as part of her National Professional Enquiry Project (NPEP) project, with several parents subsequently running workshops. The NPEP initiative has been recognised by Powys as an example of best practice approach to the new Welsh Curriculum and has been shared with other schools and the Welsh Government. We were invited by Chris Davies, Service Manager for Curriculum for Wales and Professional

Learning from Powys, to share our work at the 2024 NPEP conference, where several children from class 1 and 3, and a parent, showcased the hard work completed by children at the school.

Community Links

The school has very strong links with the community, which continue to develop. If you have any suggestions for groups that we could plan to become involved with, or ways in which we can further include the community, then please do let us know.

The children regularly put on, or take part in events which are open to the local community, for example, productions and plays, attending the HayDay dementia café, stalls at church coffee mornings, carol concerts and Hay Festival. The school hall is available for hire for community events. Please do get in touch through the office if you would like further information on hiring the hall.

The school has supported a wealth of charities, including MacMillan Cancer Support, Children in Need, Brecon Foodbank, The Children's Society, HayDay dementia café, Jeans for Genes, the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees, Samaritan's Purse UK and Comic Relief. We have continued with supporting these charities when possible. The school is dementia friendly.

The Church continues to be important and actively involved in school life with regular collective worship led by our vicar, Rev. David Thomas until May 2024, when, sadly, he left Clyro to take on the parish of Llyswen and Boughrood, in addition to his other parishes of Glasbury, Llanstephan, Cwmbach and Llowes. He was an unwavering support to the school, staff and families through many important, happy and difficult times and we are all extremely grateful for his guidance and assistance during the 15 years that he was an integral part of the school. We have welcomed Father David Wyatt, the new Parish Priest at St. Mary's Church in Hay who is also now the new priest at Clyro St. Michael and All Angels. Father David has continued weekly collective worship, as well as having lunch with the pupils each week. Rev. Gordon Bingham from the Bethesda Baptist Church in Hay has continued to visit monthly for a collective service. We hosted the Diocesan RVE Lead meeting at our school. Visiting staff and the Diocesan Director for Education, Mr. John Meredith, very impressed with the RVE work that they saw in the school. Year 6 pupils attended the Diocesan Leavers Service at Brecon Cathedral with Mrs. Bartholomew and were asked to lead the start of the service.

Work from the children has been published in the *The Messenger*, the parish magazine, and displayed at the church, along with our monthly newsletters. We held a variety of services at Clyro Church such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and an annual Leavers Service. In addition to termly church services, the children have used the church buildings and grounds as a resource for topic related work, such as learning how Welsh stained glass and art express spirituality. As part of the "Love Your Burial Ground" Week/ Churches Count on Nature 2024 initiative, classes 2 and 3 went to Clyro church to survey the wildlife in the churchyard. They found hundreds of different species of flora and fauna

and this has been entered into the “Beautiful Burial Grounds Project” on the iNaturalist UK website.

Dyfed Powys Police continue to maintain strong school links with the school with officers coming into talk to the children on various topics. Additional visits have been made by Community Police Officers. The health service and school nurse continued to make regular visits to the school for Health Education and other health related issues. Cluster Schools Initiatives have also provided opportunities to work with other educational providers and businesses.

The Friends of Clyro School (PTFA)

During 2023/2024 the Friends raised a substantial amount of money, through fundraising activities and successful grant applications, which will be invaluable to the school. All of the children have, and will continue to benefit from significant improvements to the school grounds, following the amazing award of £20,000 from the Local Places for Nature Scheme and a “Keep Wales Tidy” ‘Food Development Package’ enabling the children to grow their own veggies in a newly developed garden area. Other fundraising activities have included a fantastic Promise Auction, Bingo night, Movie night and the festive Christmas Fayre. We are extremely grateful to the Friends for their ongoing hard work raising money, which is then used for vital resources, experiences and subsidising educational visit costs.

To help support the Friends please go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> or click the link through the Friends Facebook page

The Governors and staff would like to thank everyone who works so hard to provide the very best experience for all the pupils of Clyro Church in Wales Primary School. The efforts of the Friends of Clyro School are hugely appreciated, and we recognise how much the parents contribute to the school, enhancing the quality of experiences that the children access during their time at the School.

The Governors and staff would also like to express their appreciation for the efforts of people who continue to come into school on a voluntary basis to work with the children in class and with extra-curricular activities.

Thank you.

2023/2024 Budget Summary

Pupil Numbers: 77

Total Delegated Funds: £405,942

Other income including grants: £71,754

Salaries & Wages: £366,367

Premises: £74,518

Supplies & Other Expenses: £48,143

Net Expenditure: £489,029

Planned under/ (overspend): £(11,333)

Under/ overspend CF: £12,395

2025 School Calendar

Spring Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 6th January

Half Term – Monday 24th February to Friday 28th February

Term Ends: Friday 11th April

(Non-pupil days Monday 6th January and Friday 21st March)

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28th April

Half Term – Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Term Ends: Friday 18th July

(Non-pupil day Monday 23rd June)

Autumn Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 1st September

Half Term – Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Term Ends: Friday 19th December

(Non-pupil day Monday 1st September)