
Clyro Church in Wales Primary School

Annual Report from Governors to Parents for the academic year 2022/2023



Headteacher: Mrs. Sarah Groves
Deputy: Miss Sinead Griffiths
Chair of Governors: Mr Damian Murphy

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I have served on as a governor for just over 8 years and became chair at the beginning of the autumn term, 2022/2023 academic year. Being a governor is a vital role in the running of the school and we as governors are always looking to improve in our roles and increase our contribution to the school. In the past year we have been highly involved through our calendar of governors' duties and have increased our knowledge and understanding through discussions with staff and frequent visits to talk to the pupils and conduct lesson observations.

We are lucky at Clyro to have a hugely supportive and positive governing body who bring a variety of skills to their roles and who act as what are called "critical friends" to the school. Our job is to work alongside the teachers and staff in decision and policy making and to offer our thoughts, criticisms and suggestions on how we can all best run the school. Our priorities are first and foremost to the pupils ensuring their safety, happiness and opportunity for learning are paramount and for children to be healthy, fulfilled and creative members of the school community. We are keen to make sure that Clyro School continually develops and that we as governors continue to learn about our role, the curriculum and the education available to all our learners. This is all done in close collaboration with the Head, the teachers and other staff at the school. Governors and teaching staff carry out regular lesson observations (all lessons were judged to be good or outstanding), learning walks, safeguarding and health and safety audits and work scrutiny visits on the main curriculum areas.

We are also very lucky to have such dedicated and hardworking staff at Clyro School and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their energy, commitment and passion for their work.

We, as many institutions, suffered with the restrictions of Covid-19 and children's freedoms, despite the best efforts of the teachers, were curtailed. We're well and truly on the other side of that now as lessons, activities, sports and extra-curricular trips are getting back to normal.

Damian Murphy



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 and to ensure the efficient day to day running of the school. Each governor is voted in to represent the governing Body if there is more than one candidate, otherwise they are appointed. Each governor has a term of office lasting 4 years.

Governors' Meetings.

The Governing Body hold at least one meeting per half term over the school year. There have also been meetings of Sub-Committees. Governors have attended Regional Governors' Meetings and training sessions as organised by the Local Authority.

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 volunteer to have specific, additional responsibility for:

All Curriculum (Areas of Learning and Experience) areas
Health and Safety
Child Protection & Safeguarding
Additional Learning Needs
Training Links
Attendance

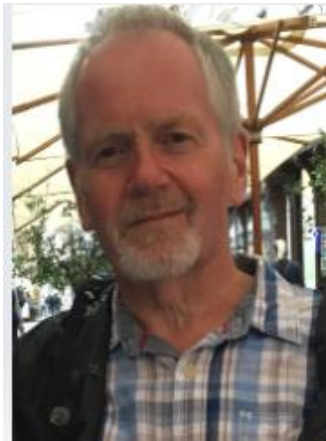
All governors have specific subjects for which they are directly responsible and are invited to undertake learning walks, where they visit classrooms to observe learning in lessons and talk with teachers who hold responsibility for the subject.

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



Damian Murphy – Chair of Governors (parent Governor)

My wife and I moved to the area 16 years ago and started a family. Originally from Cheshire, we lived in various rented hoses before buying a house in Ffynnon Gynydd. Our children both attended Clyro School. I enjoy sport and coach boy's and girl's football at Hay St. Mary's FC. Term of office runs to 5th March 2028.



Mike Southcoat – Vice chair (community Governor)

Mike lives in the local area having retired from working in various roles in education across mid and South Wales. Mike and his wife have two grown up children, one a teacher and the other a specialist children's physiotherapist. They have four grandchildren who take up a lot of their time. As a retired teacher, Mike has a particular interest in financial matters of the school as well as the curriculum. Term of office runs to 13th July 2025.



Mari Fforde - Community Governor Mari had two children Clyro school. She moved to the area in 2000 having grown up in West Wales and then lived in Brighton and London. Mari works at Hay Castle as a Heritage and Education Officer and is just a little bit obsessed with history! In the past she worked in the film industry as well as a photographer and website designer. Mari is a former chair of this governing body. Term of office runs to 4th December 2026.



Margaret Morris - LEA Governor

Margaret has had children and grandchildren educated at the school. Term of office runs to 29th August 2026



Reverend David Thomas – Foundation Governor.

David is the vicar of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Clyro. He plays an active role in the school, including taking collective worship every week as well as welcoming the children and staff to the church. He has been a governor at the school for more than 13 years and has been a member of school governing bodies in other parishes before moving to this area, totalling over 20 years as a governor. Term of office runs to 26th July 2024



David Hassard – Parent Governor

David joined the governing body as a parent governor. He runs an outdoor education Centre at Maes y Lade and is passionate about young people having the opportunity to spend time learning outdoors surrounded by nature. He has been working for a Youth Charity since 2004 in various roles with a focus on informal education and outdoor learning. Father of Ethan (year 5). 4th October 2024.



Davina Thomas – Foundation Governor

Davina represents the governing body as a foundation governor with responsibility for safeguarding and is the ALN link governor. She has been a primary school teacher for almost 30 years. Most of her career has been working at a Brecon primary school where she is the ALN Co with 20 years' experience in the role. She is married to Rev. David Thomas so takes an active role in the life of his parishes including Clyro. 26th July 2024.



Trish Richardson – Community Governor

I have lived in Hay and Clyro for the last 17 years. I am a retired civil servant with a background in Policy, Human Resources and Operational Delivery. This is my second term as a Governor, having previously served as Vice Chair, which included contributing to our successful ESTYN inspection. We are so lucky to have such a thriving and excellent school at the heart of our community and I feel very privileged to have been invited to re-join the Board of Governors. I want to play an active role in school life and to offer my time, knowledge and skills to help every pupil achieve their full potential and become confident and active citizens of Wales. 22nd January 2027.



Becky Drysdale – Parent Governor

I joined as a parent governor in 2022. I work for an adoption support service based in Clyro where we provide specialist therapeutic interventions for children impacted by early years trauma and their families. I have a background in Arts Administration and in my spare time accompany the Brecon Male Voice Choir, play bassoon in various local orchestras and enjoy time with my 2 boys who attend Clyro School.
20th October 2026

Sarah Groves – Headteacher

Sinead Griffiths – Teaching staff governor

Pupil Numbers

This year, 2022/23 we have had 78 pupils on roll:

Class 1 (reception and year 1) = 24 pupils

Class 2 (year 2, 3 and part of year 4) = 25 pupils

Class 3 (part of year 4, year 5 and year 6) = 29 pupils

We currently (Mar 2024) have 69 pupils on roll.

Nursery Provision

The school has 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.

If you would like to know more please contact Tisha Jones on 07532257971 or email littlestarsclyro@gmail.com.

School Organisation, Staffing and Changes to Staffing

We have 3 classes at Clyro Primary School. Class 1 was taught by Miss Griffiths; class 2 by Miss Evans until Miss Morgan returned (part time) from maternity leave. Miss Morgan now teaches Monday to Wednesday, sharing the class with Mrs. Groves, who also covers her PPA on a Monday afternoon; class 3 was taught by Mrs Bartholomew. Miss Griffiths was Deputy Head. We employed Mr. Will Haines, from Superstars, who covered PPA for Miss Griffiths and Mrs. Bartholomew by teaching PE.

During the academic year our Learning Support Assistants were Miss Burnett-Thomas, full-time in Class 1; Miss Bouette, full-time in Class 2; Mrs. Jones full-time in Class 3. Additionally, Mrs. Carlisle worked 7.5 hours providing intervention support for those children on the Basic Skills and Additional Learning Needs register. Mrs. Bouette and Mrs. Smith were our Midday Supervisors. Miss Burnett-Thomas and Mrs Green ran our Breakfast club. Mrs. Lewis (20 hours per week) and Mrs. Williams (Monday for 5 hours) provided secretarial support. Miss Lewis was our cleaner, Mrs. Wendy Green is our Cook, and Mrs. Kathy Clifton is our Kitchen Assistant.

School Session Times and Attendance

The school opens at 9:00a.m. to receive pupils, ready for a prompt start to the school day at 9:15a.m. The school doors and gates are closed at 9.15am and the parking spaces on the lower level carpark 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 cannot be directed to have children in school before this time, due to insurance constraints. Should you need to bring your child to school before 9.00am, you must make a prior arrangement with the class teacher concerned. Breakfast Club is available and starts at 8:00a.m. during term time. At the end of the school day, pupil insurance ceases ten minutes after the end of the school day, therefore, if you are going to be late picking your child up, please make a prior arrangement with the class teacher concerned. School closes at 3:30p.m. If extra-curricular clubs are running after school, they begin at 3:30pm and usually end at 4:15 pm unless otherwise stated.

Attendance figures for the academic year were at 94.38%. We had 5.54% authorised absence, and 0.08% of absences were unauthorised. There were no temporary or permanent exclusions, bullying or racial incidents to report.

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 instruct the school to start the Attendance Pathway. All absences have to be explained by a note or telephone call by 10a.m. at the latest.

Although the Headteacher has the discretion to grant holiday absence during term time in exceptional circumstances, please remember that this is only up to 10 sessions (5 working days) and where a child's attendance is deemed to be excellent. In all other cases the absence will be recorded as "Unauthorised".

Results and Target Setting

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

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. Our Additional Learning Needs Coordinator is Mrs Bartholomew. The Additional Learning Needs Register is reviewed termly by staff and any support that is needed is implemented at the earliest opportunity.

The school's Additional Learning Needs Policy is reviewed regularly. 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 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. WE HAVE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE OF MISTAKES BEING MADE BY POWYS CC.

Policies

The school has a regularly updated review schedule and timetable where it reviews and updates all policies it is required to have. This schedule includes policies generated by Powys and others 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 new school building for over five years now and have settled in well. We as governors keep a close eye on the cost of the building as well as utilities bills which, as we all know, have been higher the last year or so. Mrs. Groves is more than aware of the need to keep on top of these items as far as the budget is concerned and we, with the input of the governor's finance committee, feel we have reached a good level of understanding of how to make the systems work. Since delegation for the budget was returned to the school, the budget has remained in a good place although vigilance will be maintained to sustain this. Since the new school was built, we now have mature landscaping and grassed areas for sports day and other events.

Security Arrangements

All fire systems and equipment are regularly inspected and the provision is good. All equipment is tested under the supplier's maintenance contract as it falls due. Fire bells are tested weekly and fire drills are held each term. Electrical appliances are regularly tested. All visitors to school must enter the school via the reception, they 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. All parents are requested to abide by 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.

Please note: The school staff have a Duty of Care to the children and will do everything they can to prevent anyone causing harm to others or self-harm or serious damage to property. They will therefore, if necessary, endeavour to restrain your child from harming others, self-harm or causing serious damage to property. Section 550 A of the Education Act 1996 allows for authorised persons to use reasonable force to control or to restrain pupils. The school's Duty of Care will insist that it takes such reasonable action where the situation is thought to merit it. All persons employed to work with the children in school are authorised to follow these procedures.

Destination of Leavers

After completing year 6, most of our pupils transfer to Gwernyfed High School. However, on occasion, some pupils, due to home locality or parental preference, transfer to Fairfield High School, Lady Hawkins High School or to Independent Schools.

Progress on School Action Planning

Staff have written a new School Development Plan which has been verified by Powys. Our last Estyn inspection resulted in a good to excellent judgement and we continue to focus our school priorities on their recommendations.

Progress from the Section 50 Inspection Report (Church Schools)

Our last Section 50 Church inspection assessed the school as excellent in every one of the five areas and the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Clyro Church in Wales VC Primary School as a Church in Wales school is excellent. We continue to focus our school priorities on their recommendations.

Finance and Budget

The return of financial delegation to the governing body has seen the school return to an even keel financially albeit with funding for only three teachers. The governing body finance committee meets frequently to ensure that the budget remains healthy and we do not get caught out by unexpected changes.

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 building up on ParentPay.

Sporting Achievements

Prior to the pandemic 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, as well as the sporting extra-curricular clubs

provided by staff. We continue to endeavour to return to these pre-Covid levels of sporting and extra-curricular activities.

We are very keen to promote a healthy lifestyle for the children and this includes encouraging sport and partaking in active games. This will also form a vital part of the New Welsh Curriculum which we are beginning to implement. 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. The staff have undergone training during lockdown in both healthy activities and well-being and will continue to bring these skills into the classrooms.

Community Links

The school has very strong links with the community which it feels are vital and look to continually develop. If you have any suggestions for groups that we could become involved with or ways in which we can further include the community then please do let us know. The children regularly put on events which are open to the local community, for example, MacMillan Coffee mornings, productions and plays, stalls at Church Coffee mornings, Carol Concerts, Hay Festival, etc. Our school hall is available for the community to enjoy and it is available to rent for evening use. Please do get in touch through the office, if you would be interested in this for activities.

The Church continues to be important and is actively involved in school life and we have daily Collective Worship. We have a regular weekly Collective worship led by our vicar, Rev. David Thomas, as well as termly church services and use the church buildings and grounds as a resource. Rev. Gordon Bingham from the Bethesda Baptist Church also comes in once a month. We hold a variety of services at Clyro Church such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and an annual Leavers Service. Work from each class continues to be sent in every half-term to the local parish magazine, The Messenger and the school monthly newsletter is displayed in the church.

Dyfed Powys Police have strong school links with the school with officers coming into talk to the children on various topics. We also have regular visits from the Community Police Officers. The Health Service and school nurse visits the school regularly for Health Education and other health related issues. Cluster Schools Initiatives also provide opportunities to work with other educational providers and businesses.

The Friends of Clyro School (PTFA)

The Friends have held various events during the year. These events are vital to the success of the school and we are very grateful to The Friends for all their hard work over the past year. Their work and efforts to raise money for our school have helped to fund educational visits, paid for coaches for sporting events and the purchase of educational resources and equipment, their support is very much appreciated by the school and the governing body.

To help support the Friends please go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/1YPY1B/> or click the link through the Friends Facebook page.

The staff and Governors would also like to express their appreciation for the efforts of

people who come into school on a voluntary basis to work with the children in class and in extra-curricular activities.

2023 – 2024 School Calendar

Autumn Term 2023

Term Ends: Thursday 21st December

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 9th January

Half Term – Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February

Term Ends: Friday 22nd March

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8th April

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

Term Ends: Friday 19th July

Main Events for the academic year of 2022/23

Autumn Term 2022

Harvest Festival Church Service

Wreath laying at Hay War Memorial to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II

Parents Consultation Evenings

Class 3 MacMillan Coffee morning

Class 2 Big Pit visit

KS2 Hay Castle Day

Class 2 Victorians visit to Brecon Museum

Class 3 violin & cello lessons

Class 3 Refugee visitor talk

Whole school Expressive Arts week

Class 1 Forest School sessions

KS2 swimming at Brecon Pool

Children in Need and “Clyro’s Got Talent” Show

“BBC Newsround” interviewed Yr. 5/6 about Football World Cup

Christmas Fayre

Yr. 5 & 6 Christmas stall at Clyro Church Coffee morning at Clyro Village Hall

Class 1 Christmas play “Hey Ewe!”

Christingle Service at Clyro Church

Spring Term 2023

Whole school LEGO Coding workshop

New Curriculum launch party

New Curriculum for Wales Parents Information Evening

Class 2 visit to The Royal Mint

Parent Consultation Evenings

Class 1 Dance lessons from Impello Dance

Class 2 Tongue drumming lessons

PC Skyrme visits – Class 2 – Stay Smart; Class 3 – Cyber Bullying.
Internet Safety and Social Media Parents Information Evening by PC Skyrme
St. David's Day Eisteddfod
World Book Day
Cluster Netball Tournament

Summer Term 2022

Multi-Faith Day at school – Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism workshops
Class 2 & 3 took part in surveying Clyro Churchyard as part of "Love your Burial Ground Week"
Class 2 & 3 visit to Theatre Brycheiniog to see "Sinfonia"
Class 3 Residential visit to London
Grounds Day
Whole school walking tour of Hay
Easter Church Service
KS2 Hay Castle Day "Bats, Rast and Woodlice"
Whole school visit to Mountain Centre
Class 2 visit to spot Curlews on the Begwyns
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, plus walking bus from Hay to Clyro
King's Coronation Day and party
KS2 visit to Hay Festival
Refugee Week
Class 2 rugby sessions with Cardiff Rugby Club
Cookery Club
Concert violinist concert
Stick 2 Percussion workshops
KS2 Summer production of "The Greatest Showman"
Diocesan Leavers Service
Leavers Service at Clyro Church
Year 6 Leavers Presentation Evening

Budget

See attached

Damian Murphy, Chair of Clyro CIW School governors

15th March 2024