

St. Mary's & St Patrick's RC Primary School
Governing Body Annual Report to Parents
2023-2024



“We are a Catholic Family Learning Together”

“Teulu Catholig ydym ni yn dysgu gyda gilydd”

Each person in our school is unique and it is our intention that they will develop spiritually, morally, socially and academically to their full potential – with Jesus as their guide, the Holy Spirit as their inspiration and God as their loving Father.

St. Mary's & St Patrick's RC Primary School

*'I would like to speak to you, young people: be committed to your daily duties, your study, your work, to relationships of friendship, to helping others; your future depends on how you live these precious years of your life'. **Pope Francis***

For all of us working at St. Mary's & St Patrick's, it is both our duty and our privilege to be charged with providing the Catholic model needed by our children in the areas of life referenced by Pope Francis, above, through the manner in which we conduct ourselves daily in our school community.

We do all we can to achieve this aim by promoting the virtues identified in our Pupil Profile, which states that:

Pupils at St. Mary's & St Patrick's are growing to be . . .

Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

Attentive to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.

Faith-filled in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

Eloquent and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

Learned, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

Curious about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.



On behalf of the Governing Body of the school, I am pleased to present you with this Governors' Annual Report to Parents for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. This report is published via the school website and hard copies can be requested by contacting the school.

Governing Body Structure

The Governing Body 2023-2024

Chair: Mr P Donoghue

Vice Chair: Cllr R Penhale-Thomas

Clerk to the Governors: Mrs S Delaney

The following were members of the Governing Body as of 1st September 2023

Name of Governor	Position	Type
Mr P Donoghue	Chair	Foundation
Cllr R Penhale-Thomas	Vice-Chair	LA
Fr T McGrath		Foundation
Mrs C Took		Foundation
Mrs D Fowler		Foundation
Mrs V Noye-Allan		Foundation
Mr N Scourfield		Foundation
Miss M Browne		Foundation
Mrs R Holt		Foundation
Cllr R Collins		LA
Miss C Jenkins		LA
Miss J Barry		Parent
Mr M Davies		Parent
Mrs C Sherwood		Teacher
Miss K Jenkins		Staff
Vacancy x2		Foundation

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Archbishop. As a Voluntary Aided school, Foundation Governors are required to outnumber all other governors by two members.

Parents are reminded that practising Catholic parents can apply to become a Foundation Governor.

Archdiocesan Foundation Governor Forms can be provided by the Chair of Governors.

The Diocesan Director of Schools is Anne Robertson.

Parents will be contacted by the Clerk when vacancies for parent governors arise.

2023/2024, the Governing Body held three meetings of the full governing body.

They met remotely each term to review the standards and progress of the school, evaluate our performance and to carry out statutory duties such as setting the school budget and reviewing the performance of the Headteacher.

Our governing body operates a system of sub-committees and panels reporting in turn to the full Governing Body. Each sub-committee manages, supports, and oversees different areas of school life at St Mary's & St Patrick's. Link Governors are appointed for core AOLE (Area of learning experience), Additional Learning Needs (ALN), Child Protection and Safeguarding and Health and safety.

Strategic Governance

The role of the Governing Body is to provide strategic direction for the school. This includes the strategic aims of both the Welsh Government's Education Department and those specific to the Catholic Ethos and Identity of the School on behalf of the Archdiocesan Trustees, as administered by its Schools Commission. Fundamental to these aims, is the generation and approval of all School Policies. It is the responsibility of the governing body to support the head teacher and staff in their roles to achieve these aims.

Governor Support

Through the roles of our sub-committees and Link Governors, we participate in the generation of the School Development Plan and conduct various activities to monitor progress against the agreed objectives and targets. The governors raise their own Self Evaluation Action Plan and frequently conduct regular visits into the school, e.g., 'Learning Walks', where governors observe teaching and learning in progress, scrutinise pupils' books and talk to the pupils about their learning experiences. Each governor records the activities that take place and completes a summary of the event, noting any specific observation and recording any action that may be agreed.

Parents and Carers will be aware of the concern over traffic flow during 'drop off' and 'collection' times. Governors have monitored the flow of traffic at peak times and have been greatly concerned at the speed and double parking that takes place. We would urge families to please park safely. This issue remains a high priority for us all and we continue to monitor the situation carefully for the safety and wellbeing of our pupils.

Staff News

This year we said goodbye to Mrs Paula Davies and Mrs Hayley Williams. Mrs Davies has worked at the school for 28 years and has been part of the fabric of the school. We had a wonderful celebration of her service to St Mary's & St Patrick's on April 30th. Mrs Williams has worked at the school for 5 years, Mrs Williams has been an asset to our school, and shared many of her wonderful talents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for all their hard work and the dedication shown to the children throughout their terms of office at our school. I would also like to wish them every happiness and success in the future.

Financial Statement

A statement of finances to the end of the 2022/2023 financial year can be found at Annex 1 (attached).

Adoption of New Policies and Procedures

During the 2023/2024 school year, the Governing Body worked diligently to ensure business continuity for the school continued.

ESTYN Inspection

Having received a successful Estyn Inspection in January 2023, the school continues to address recommendations set out in the report.

Estyn recommendation January 2023

R1 Address the site safety issue, identified at the time of inspection

R2 Ensure that the new leadership practices improve the consistency and effectiveness of teaching across the school

R3 Provide effective opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy and digital competency skills across the curriculum

R4 Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning effectively

R1 - Gates, magna lock and video com have been fitted to the main reception of the school.



Section 50 Inspection

The school is awaiting a Diocesan Section 50 inspection.

Term dates for the 2023-2024

Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term end
Autumn	01.09.23	30.10.23	03.11.23	22.12.23
Spring	08.01.24	12.02.24	16.02.24	22.03.24
Summer	08.04.24	27.05.24	31.05.24	22.07.24

School Improvement Targets 2023-2024

2023/2024	
Priority 1	Introduction of a new RE curriculum in line with RED, in readiness for 2025 1a. Review and align current RE curriculum with RED guidelines 1b. Provide professional development opportunities for RE teachers 1c. Monitor and evaluate the impact of the new RE curriculum on student outcomes
Priority 2	Developing Additional Learning Needs across the school 2a. Enhancing teacher training and professional development in supporting students with additional learning needs 2b. Implementing personalized learning approaches to meet the specific needs of students with additional learning needs
Priority 3	Ensure consistency in assessment for learning 3a. SER – MER of all Learning & Teaching 3b. Feedback / Feedforward / Marking / AfL / DIRT 3c. Attendance – Target 92%
Priority 4	Provide effective opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum 4a: Develop a Whole-School Approach to Numeracy. 4b: Strengthen Cross-Curricular Links in Numeracy.
Priority 5	Provide effective opportunities for pupils to apply their digital competency skills across the curriculum 5a) Ensure digital skills are developed, incorporated and applied in all areas of the curriculum 5b) Enhance teacher digital knowledge and skills

School Attendance Targets

2023-2024 to June 2024		%
LA Average	Whole School	
Cluster Average	Whole School	
St Mary's & St Patrick's RC	School Target	92%
Whole School Year	Whole School	91%
	Authorised Absences	9%
	Unauthorised	0.34%

A year in the life of the family of STMP

We began the year with a visit from Archbishop Mark. We celebrated the feast of St Francis of Assisi together. Pupils, staff, governors, parents and parishioners shared tea, cakes and stories with His Grace. Members of The Senedd showed Archbishop Mark around our wonderful school, and then the school council met with him to ask him about his life and role as an Archbishop. Questions asked included 'How old are you? Have you met any saints? What is the best thing about being an Archbishop?' We remember this day with fondness.





Urdd Jambori

In October, we welcomed Mardd from the Urdd, to help us Prepare for the Jambori. We learnt lots of songs and enjoyed joining with schools all over Wales at the Jambori.



Congratulations to our pupils who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge held at Maesteg Library! We are delighted that so many of you kept on reading through the Summer!

Llongyfarchiadau!



Year 2 also welcomed Tamar to help them tell Christmas stories with our families. They had a wonderful afternoon imagining all sorts of magical adventures.



In December, the whole school took part in an Advent Retreat. This allowed pupils and staff to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. This time of reflection allowed the school family to come together and share the ways in which we show and share love with each other, our families and those we meet.

The New Year saw our fabulous school choir, head to Birmingham to take part in Young Voices 2024. The pupils had an incredible experience singing as part of a 6,000 strong choir.

This was made possible due to grant funding.



World
Book
Day
2024



Our pupils enjoyed more storytelling to end the Spring term.

Lobby Lou Storyteller, Justin came for help to solve the puzzle of Mr Wonka's missing chocolate!

After a day filled with problem solving and laughter the pupils found the culprit ...

The Easter Bunny!

Pupils went home with a chocolate treat thanks to the Friends of STMP!





Summer Term saw further celebrations with our Parish. The whole school family, joined with Governors and Parishioners to celebrate the Month of May, with a May procession.





Our pupils benefit from many visitors and visits to support their education. This is key to their understanding of the world and the role we all play as citizens within God's creation.



School Timings for the 2023-2024 year

	PS1		PS2 &3	
	Start	End	Start	End
AM	8.55am	12.00pm	8.55am	12.05pm
PM	1.00pm	3.00pm Nursery only 3.15pm	1.00pm	3.15pm

St Mary's & St Patrick's RC Primary

As a Catholic school, we have a great responsibility to bear witness. The Religious Education Directory states; 'The Christian presence must be shown and made clear, and must be visible, tangible and conscious (within a Catholic school). We are called upon to commit to bearing witness through an educational project clearly inspired by the Gospel. To those who then decide to cross this threshold the necessary means are offered for continuing to deepen their experience of faith.'

Catholic schools are legally obligated to teach RE for 2 ½ hours per week and celebrate an Act of Worship every day. This is at the heart of everything we do at St Mary's & St Patrick's, we are proud of our faith and sharing it with the whole community.

Curriculum for Wales

With the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, both teaching and non-teaching staff have proactively engaged in the positive changes that have taken place during the past year. Furthermore, the new Code of Practice for our ALN pupils has significantly improved the provision for their learning and support.

Once again, our focus has been on the creation of the School Development and Improvement Plan (SDP) for the Academic Year 2023/24. Establishing challenging, achievable School Improvement Targets and the creation of the School Self Evaluation document (SEF). The (SEF) document outlines how school performance is monitored and to ensure targets are met, what action must be taken. The governing body believe that the school continues to make progress towards achieving the targets set. We thank Mrs Kelly-Fisher and the entire staff at St Mary's & St Patrick's for their hard work throughout 2023/24.

From September 2022 the New curriculum for Wales was introduced in all primary schools. In Wales this new curriculum saw a radical change in the principles behind the way pupils are taught, while still ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils. Fundamentally, the new curriculum centres on four purposes and six areas of learning.

The four purposes ensure that learners are:

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives.
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

In addition, the six areas of learning and experience ensure that pupils are provided with opportunities to develop their learning through:

- Expressive Arts.
- Health and Well-being.
- Humanities.
- Languages, Literacy and Communication.
- Mathematics and Numeracy.
- Science and Technology

Religious Education stands alongside these as a central part of the educational curriculum taught at St Mary's & St Patrick's.

All teachers provide these opportunities through creative management of the lessons they teach yet always with the four purposes at the core. The school now has teams of staff responsible for ensuring progression throughout the six areas of learning and experience that allow all our pupils to achieve their full potential. Teachers are also working closely with our colleagues in the Faith Cluster to draw up an Understanding of Shared Progression from 3 years to 16 years.

In addition to the changes in approach to teaching and learning, we also saw a change in the way the pupils are organised. Now, instead of Foundation Phase (Reception to Year 2) we have Progression Stage 1/2 (Lower Phase). Similarly, Key Stage 2 has made way to Progression Stage 2/3 (Upper Phase) for Year 3 to Year 6.

Despite all these changes, all schools in Wales have had ample opportunity to prepare for them and while updates and revisions to approaches are to be expected, the staff at St Mary's & St Patrick's are fully conversant with and are enjoying this new approach to teaching and learning. This new approach to planning and delivery ensures that schools are empowered to design their own curriculum, tailoring to each individual learner's needs, while supporting their wellbeing. Every pupil will benefit from learning that supports them to become confident and creative, with the life skills and knowledge needed to help them reach their potential. Welsh Government Personalised assessments for English and Maths continue to be via 'online assessments' and these along with ongoing teacher assessments, allow teachers and the school to monitor individual pupil progress, tailoring learning directly to the needs of the pupils.

For further information and updates on the New Curriculum for Wales please visit:
Curriculum for Wales - Hwb (gov.wales)

Actions to Promote Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school continues to promote healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle, that is based on a model policy and is linked to the 'National Appetite for Life' agenda. All pupils have access to a fruit tuck daily in the morning break, which has a lovely selection of fresh fruit to choose from.

- Healthy Lunch boxes: as a school we encourage the pupils to bring in healthy lunchboxes. Healthy lunch box information leaflets are regularly distributed alongside the weekly newsletter.
- Water: the school encourages all pupils to bring in water bottles filled with water. We were able to obtain bottles for every child through Dwr Cymru Education Services. The pupils are given access to fresh water throughout the day.
- Fresh Milk: FP have free fresh milk each day at morning breaktime.

- Fresh Fruit: Governors have been able to support the funding of fresh fruit for all pupils for the past 2 years.

The governors wish to remind parents and carers that at St Mary's & St Patrick's, no nut or chocolate products should be brought to school due to severe allergies. Additionally, chocolate bars, crisps and sweets do not fulfil the Healthy Schools agenda and we would urge families to refrain from providing such snacks. In addition, all parents and carers should ensure that their children bring water bottles to school. Parents should themselves be aware of the 'Change for Life' agenda recommended by the NHS. Further information on this is available at www.change4life.co.uk

Sports and Extra Curriculum Activities

All pupils have access to sports lessons in the week, including an indoor PE lesson and a sports lesson outdoors, weather permitting. Year 4, 5 & 6 also take part in swimming lessons. A variety of after school clubs are in place including among them netball and football for Year 5 & 6 pupils.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The school takes this area of provision very seriously and has an appointed Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo). The ALNCo assists teachers in assessing need and offering advice, whilst arranging external agency support as and when appropriate always involving parents / carers and arranging reviews of those children with potential needs. One Page Profiles (OPP) and Individual Development Plans (IDPs) are formulated to ensure that pupils receive the best support for their needs. There is a link governor appointed to ALN who reports back to the governing body. There is a strong cluster approach to ALN and ALNCo's and headteachers work very closely together.

Planning for Monitoring and ensuring progress

In a year, regular scrutiny of lessons and progress is monitored through a wide range of different methods. These include formal observation, informal learning walks, monitoring of pupil books, teacher planning and discussion with pupils about their learning. Pupil voice is an essential part of children's development and is heard through both the school pupil's council groups and at the beginning of topics. Senior staff are supported in the process of monitoring school progress via support from the Central South Consortia (CSC) and dedicated School Improvement Partners (SIP).

Teachers now have a very clear understanding of the published progression steps expected to be seen throughout the school. To ensure consistency across the school, governors regularly participate and support the process of monitoring through the involvement of the Curriculum Sub Committee that meets on a regular basis.

Welsh as a second language

St Mary's & St Patrick's RC Primary School is an English medium school where lesson instruction is given through the medium of English. As a school in Wales, we are very aware of our role in promoting and developing the use of Welsh as a living language. In addition to sessions where we teach Welsh as a second language, the school tries to promote the development of bilingualism of the language using incidental requests e.g. Good morning, how are you? Stop! Listen! Sit on the carpet, what's the weather today? through the medium of Welsh. When pupils hear the language, they respond to it through appropriate action. Staff and pupils greet each other throughout the day using the medium of Welsh and pupils are encouraged and supported to use the short sentence patterns they know outside of the classroom in the playground. Phrases of the week are evident throughout the school and pupils are encouraged to use

these at every opportunity. Furthermore, words and phrases of the week are included in the school's newsletter that is sent home to assist families in developing the Welsh language. We are conscious that many of our pupils join us at varying times during their school careers, several from outside Wales. Welsh is taught as a second language throughout the school. All members of staff have been trained to deliver this subject.

Friends of STMP

Money raised by the Friends of STMP has contributed to the Residential Trip for Year 5 & Year 6, Easter treats and Christmas gifts. The Friends of STMP has also supported many events by helping to provide and serve refreshments. In addition, the governing body wishes to thank all those parents, carers, families, friends, and parishioners who have shown their support for the school throughout the year.

Support for charities and donations

During the year our children and their families have supported the School, CAFOD, Mission Together, Royal British Legion and the Food Bank.

Standards of behaviour

The conduct of pupils in the school is of a high standard and visitors to our school frequently comment on pupils' exemplary behaviour. The school has a strong Christian ethos, and we are all keen to build relationships of trust and respect. Our positive behaviour policy praises and encourages good behaviour with many opportunities to reward and celebrate this.

Provision of toilet facilities

The school has toilet facilities for both boys and girls in Progression Stages 1,2, and 3. These unisex facilities for boys and girls for Progression stage 1 / 2 and separate facilities in Progression Stage 2 and 3. Each toilet area also has washbasins, liquid soap and dryer. The toilets are thoroughly cleaned daily by our cleaners and refreshed at other times as required. The provision of all toilet facilities is hygienic and appropriate.

Complaints

We pride ourselves on our home-school-church partnership and 'open door' policy. We therefore anticipate that complaints / concerns will be resolved informally and amicably via parent/teacher communication. Parents /carers should initially discuss concerns with individual class teachers in the first instance then bring any unresolved complaints / concerns to the Head teacher. Parents who remain dissatisfied should then contact the Chair of Governors who will deal with the complaint and, if necessary, raise the matter with the Governing Body. We remind all parents that the use of social media platforms for any complaints or grievances about the school is inappropriate. We would ask that you always approach the school in the first instance. All complaints including matters relating to the Curriculum for Wales or collective worship follow a formal complaints procedure. A copy of this procedure is available at the school or on the school website.

Facilities for the disabled

St Mary's & St Patrick's is a fully inclusive school. There is a ramp in the main front entrance for wheelchair access. Within the junior area is a disabled toilet. The school has a 'Cluster Strategic Equality Plan' and a 'Policy for supporting pupils with healthcare needs,' in place, that gives clear guidance to ensure that we do not in any way discriminate against disabled pupils / pupils with health needs, either preventing them accessing the school or the curriculum.

Public access to documents

Parents and carers are entitled to have access to the following documents, copies of which are held in the school and are available on request from the headteacher:

- a) The Local Education Authority's Statement of Curriculum Policy.
- b) All Welsh Government Statutory Instruments, Circulars or Memoranda.
- c) All published Estyn reports that refer expressly to the school.
- d) A full copy of the Complaints Procedure.
- e) A copy of that part of the Trust Deed which governs the provision of Religious Education in a Voluntary Aided school.

For our School, the relevant section states that 'Religious Education shall be in accordance with the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church'. In addition to the above statutory documents, the following are always available from school: relevant Curriculum for Wales documents, a copy of the prospectus, governors policies, constitution of the PTA, latest agreed minutes of the meeting of the governing body and PTA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022/23**SCHOOL: ST MARYS & ST PATRICKS R C PRIMARY**

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
<u>EMPLOYEES</u>	
TEACHERS	540744
SCHOOL SUPPORT WORKERS	46623
CLERKS AND CLASSROOM SUPPORT	202546
AGENCY STAFF	63287
SICKNESS AND MATERNITY INSURANCE	16437
STAFF TRAINING	2385
OTHER COSTS eg POLICE CHECKS	494
	872516
<u>PREMISES AND RELATED COSTS</u>	
REPAIRS, ETC TO BUILDINGS	4150
ENERGY	20258
RATES	1846
WATER SERVICES	3156
FIXTURES AND FITTINGS	104
CLEANING AND DOMESTIC SERVICES	10390
	39904
<u>TRANSPORT AND RELATED COSTS</u>	
USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES	1500
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TRANSPORT	655
CAR ALLOWANCES/STAFF TRAVEL	0
	2155
<u>SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</u>	
CAPITATION (TEACHING MATERIALS)	76904
FURNITURE/EQUIPMENT	9573
SCHOOL MEAL COSTS	38753
ICT RELATED COSTS	12313
PRINTING, STATIONERY ETC	1310
TELEPHONES/BROADBAND	1885
INSURANCE	2178
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT	9877
TRADE WASTE	1453
LEASING	6119
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	2276
	162641
<u>INCOME</u>	
WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANTS	164523
OTHER SCHOOL GRANTS	41064
SCHOOL MEAL INCOME	19401
	224988
<u>NET SCHOOL EXPENDITURE</u>	852228