



PONTYPRIDD HIGH SCHOOL



Governors' Report to Parents and Carers

December 2023

Learning and Achieving Together



This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions since the last report was published.

1. Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Simone Delaney
Pontypridd High School, Albion Community Campus, Cilfynydd CF374SF

2. Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Mr Bill Davies.

3. Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

Name	Category of Governor	Appointed By	Retirement Date
Mr Bill Davies Mrs Sally Churchill Mrs Mair Rix Miss Katie-Victoria Davies Mr Christopher David	LEA	Council Members	31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024
Mrs Susan Bunney Cllr Stephen Carter Mr John Collins Mrs Catherine Naamani Mr Jonathan Davies	Community Governors	Governing Body	31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024
Mrs Louise Jones Mr Scott Howell Mrs Maryann Mitchell Mrs Helen Jones Mrs Sam Evans Mr Alex Richards	Parent / Carer	Parents / Carers	31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024
Mr Tom Longden Mrs Kerry Stockman	Teacher	Teaching Staff	31 st August 2024 31 st August 2024
Mrs Heather Young	Staff	Support Staff	31 st August 2024
Mr Mark Thomas	Executive Headteacher		

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

LEA Representatives	5	Community Governors	5
Parent Governors	6	Teacher Governor(s)	2
Staff Representative	1	Minor Authority (if applicable)	-
Headteacher	1	Total	20

4. Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.



5. Election of parent governors

There are no vacancies at the present time.

6. School performance data 2022 / 23

School performance data awarded for GCSE and A Level is included as **Appendix 1**.

7. Financial statement 2022 / 2023

A copy of the school's financial statement for the financial year 2022 / 23 is included as **Appendix 2**.

8. School information

The school provides a range of information annually that is available on the school website and through regular newsletters. There are also different information films and presentations available online to support such important processes as transition, option choices and parent / carer support for accessing information relating to their child.

9. School improvement plan (SIP)

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the SIP. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements. Progress is reported to different governing body committees.

The SIP for the 2023 / 24 academic year has been considered and priorities / targets for improvement set. Progress is regularly reviewed through school systems and procedures, termly meetings with LA Officers and the school's Improvement Partner. In addition, the Governing Body receive feedback and progress reports which are checked against desired outcomes through committee meetings and Headteacher reports.

School planning priorities for 2023 / 24 are included as **Appendix 3**.

10. Curriculum 2023 / 24

Years 7 and 8

Both Core and Foundation subjects are arranged in mixed-ability classes to enhance the learning experience. At Pontypridd High School we have embraced the curriculum changes that have been introduced through the Curriculum for Wales.

Our curriculum in Year 7 and 8 has specific themes that improve knowledge and understanding but most importantly give pupils excellent learning opportunities that enable them to make meaningful progress in literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

Historically all Year 8 pupils made option choices for GCSE and vocational subjects which they study from the start of Year 9. However, for the 2023 / 24 academic year, option choices will be moved to Year 9 in-line with Welsh Government advice around the made for Wales qualifications.



Pupil satisfaction relating to option choices is high with nearly all pupils being enabled to study their preferred options. In this sense the 14 – 16 curriculum is a very personalised one which is reflected in the excellent Capped 9 outcomes each year.

Key Stages 4 and 5

All pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 study core subjects as well as statutory courses in Welsh and Religious Education. All students also follow the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification / Skills Challenge Certificate in Year 13. In Years 9, 10 and 11 key elements of the Skills Challenge Certificate are covered but pupils are not entered for the final qualification.

All students in Years 13 choose subjects offered within the Pontypridd Sixth Form, a consortium with Hawthorn HS. Every student also completes the WBQ at Advanced level.

At Pontypridd High School it is recognised that all individuals have both strengths to share and potential to improve. Along with safeguarding and well-being, teaching and learning is the priority for the whole school. Within each faculty, 'Leaders of Learning' have a key role in leading and developing the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning within their staff team.

11. Use of the Welsh Language

Our school is an English medium school. The use of the Welsh language is promoted by the use of incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day. Pupils are encouraged to improve their Welsh and an annual Eisteddfod provides an opportunity for them to achieve success through written, speaking and performing in Welsh either individually or as part of a group. We have Welsh language assemblies led by staff from the Languages faculty.

One of the whole school planning priorities for 2023 / 24 is to further promote the Welsh language and culture.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are catered for according to their needs with input from appropriate support.

Welsh in Years 7 and 8: 3 hours per fortnight

Welsh in Years 9 to 11: 4 hours per fortnight

12. Post inspection action plan

The school was inspected by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, in October. The report will be shared with all stakeholders when it is published on 27th December 2023.



13. School holiday dates 2023 / 24

Term	Begin	Half Term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2023	Monday, 4 th September	Monday, 30 th October	Friday, 3 rd November	Friday, 22 nd December	75
Spring 2024	Monday, 8 th January	Monday, 12 th February	Friday, 16 th February	Friday, 22 nd March	50
Summer 2024	Monday, 8 th April	Monday, 27 th May	Friday, 31 st May	Monday, 22 nd July	69
Total					194

INSET days are as follows:

- Monday, 4th September 2023
- Friday, 1st December 2023
- Friday, 22nd December 2023
- Friday, 28th June 2024
- Monday, 1st July 2024
- Monday, 22nd July 2024

School will be closed on **Monday, 6th May 2024** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates:	Christmas	Monday, 25 th December 2023
	Easter	Good Friday, 29 th March 2024 Easter Monday, 1 st April 2024
	May Bank Holidays	Monday, 6 th May 2024 Monday, 27 th May 2024

14. The school day

Each day is organised as follows:

- **Morning** – 8.30am to 1.15pm
- **Lunch break** – 1.15pm to 1.45pm
- **Afternoon** – 1.45pm to 2.45pm

15. Community focused schools

A community-focused school is one that: 'provides a range of services and activities', often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. Across Wales many schools already provide some community services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes.

The development of community-focused schools is not just a short-term project or initiative, but a real opportunity for schools and communities to work together in new ways for the future benefit of children, young people and adults.



Pontypridd High School has a well-established 'multi-agency' network that meets weekly to ensure the well-being of all our pupils is at the centre of our work.

Staff work closely with a number of partners such as, the Local Authority, Central South Consortium, regional Health Boards and local and national employers. Pontypridd High School has also taken a lead role in sharing practice with several schools from across Wales.

We are part of a cluster of schools including 8 primary partner schools. Together we have a significant role to play in ensuring the transition of pupils from primary to secondary school is a positive experience. The cluster includes Pontypridd High School, Cefn, Coedpenmaen, Craig Yr Hesg, Cilfynydd, Coedylan, Trehopcyn, Maes-Y-Coed and Trerobart primary schools. Pontypridd High also accepts a significant number of pupils into Year 7 from other primary schools.

16. Review of school policies

The school has a large number of policy documents covering all aspects of safeguarding, curriculum and health and safety. These documents are constantly reviewed by staff and governors to incorporate changing trends and legislation. Information can be viewed on the school website.

17. Additional learning needs (ALN)

The school's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs is consistent with the requirements of the previous and newly planned Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The school's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) works closely with all members of staff, pupils and parents / carers to ensure that individual development plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils.

The ALNCo liaises with all staff to ensure that the progress of pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil is able to progress and achieve what they deserve.

ALN	2023/24
IDP LA	3 pupils
IDP School	17 pupils
School Action	4 pupils
School Action +	5 pupils
With statements	13 pupils
SEN - % of roll	5.7% (42)
EAL	3.1% (23)
CLA	2.4% (18)



18. Pupils entitled to free school meals (eFSM)

eFSM	2022/23
Years 7 - 11	25.5%
3 Year average	27.1%

19. Access for disabled pupils

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the 2010 Equality Act (which replaces the 2005 SENDA / Disability Discrimination Act) in drawing up the School Improvement Plan and the day-to-day operation of the whole site.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure / sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information are included in the planning process.

The school's Accessibility Plan is on the [policy section](#) of the website.

20. Fabric of the building

The school site and school buildings are in a good state of repair. Over the past year we have seen further works related to school reorganisation and the move towards a new 3 – 16 school on our site from September 2024, called Ysgol Bro Taf. 'Phase 2' of these works, completed last summer, included the creation of:

- a new drama studio
- two new art rooms
- a new gallery
- two new food technology rooms
- three new health and well-being general teaching rooms
- a new mathematics general teaching room
- a new ICT suite
- a new construction workshop and outdoor area
- two new sets of anti-bullying toilets.

Plans will now begin for Phase 3 of the works to begin in the Spring 2024.

21. Target setting

The implementation and review of the school's strategies and targets is documented in detail in the SIP. Priorities are included as Appendix 3 and the SIP has additional specific detail.



22. Attendance Information

The total attendance at the end of 2022 / 23 was 82.5%.

The school has a very committed team of staff who works closely with the Local Authority and all staff, pupils, parents and carers to maintain a focus on attendance and its significant link to increased opportunities and success in school.

Absence from school is a contributing factor in low pupil achievement, so our school will always target improved attendance. This has taken on greater significance post-COVID and this is a clear priority within our SIP for 2023 / 24.

23. Admission arrangements

The Local Authority is the admissions authority for all schools (other than Church schools where the schools governing body is the admissions authority) within the LA boundary. The school's admission arrangements are, therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions. The contents of this policy can be accessed on the LA website.

Pupils will usually remain in school until they complete Year 11 and then transfer to a post-16 provider, such as Bryn Celynnog or Coleg Y Cymoedd, employment or further education.

However, pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy.

24. School Leavers

Year 11 Leavers – (Total Cohort 153) – 140 have progressed onto college, 13 had confirmed places or were applying for employment and / or apprenticeships.

Year 13 Leavers – (Total Cohort 36) – 23 pupils were accepted on university courses, 1 progressed to College and 12 had confirmed places or were applying for employment and / or apprenticeships.

25. Sporting Aims and Achievements

The school takes part in numerous sporting activities throughout the year including football, rugby, athletics, netball, and basketball.

26. Healthy Eating

The school has successfully passed Phase 6 of the Healthy Schools program and is currently working towards achieving our National Quality Award.

Mr Bill Davies, Chair of Governors – December 2023



APPENDIX 1

Key Performance indicators

GCSE

	2019	2022	2023
Capped 9	380	394	388
5 A*/A	8.0%	17.2%	12.3%
L2 +	48.8%	58%	50.7%
APS English	40.2	40	38.7
APS Maths	37.3	38	36.4
APS Science	35.4	35	34.1

A Level

	2019	2022	2023
3+ A*A	3.9%	11.8%	5.6%
3+ A*-C	45.1%	47.1%	41.7%
3+ A*-E	80.4%	79.4%	88.9%



APPENDIX 2

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2022/23

EMPLOYEE COSTS	Total Spend £
TEACHERS (including Headteacher & Supply)	2,955,930
MANUAL WORKERS (Site Manager/Caretakers/Cleaners)	111,246
APT & C Staff (School Clerks/Cover Supervisors/TAs/SNSAs/Invigilators/Technicians)	1,034,323
PREMISES RELATED	
REPAIRS TO BUILDING/SITE (including Planned Maint SLA/Grounds Maint/Security)	124,033
ENERGY	97,618
RATES	131,187
CLEANING MATERIALS & REFUSE COLLECTIONS (including Cleaning Contractor)	143,715
SUPPLIES, SERVICES AND OTHER EXPENSES	
SCHOOL EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE (including Computer Hardware/Software & Capitation)	68,928
POSTAGE, TELEPHONES, PRINTING & PHOTOCOPYING	36,008
EXAM FEES/EXPENSES & COURSE FEES & TRAINING	134,336
INSURANCES	17,679
GRANT EXPENDITURE	109,440
OTHER HIRED SERVICES	196,294
EDUCATED OTHERWISE	47,411
SLAS (Pest Control/Personnel/IT/Performance Management/Maternity/GDPR/Clerk of Governing Body)	78,932
USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES	3,100
MISCELLANEOUS	12,408
CONTINGENCY	59,989
TRANSPORT	119,311
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,481,890.61
INCOME	774,050
TOTAL	4,707,841



APPENDIX 3

School Improvement Priorities for 2023/24

Area 1 and 3: Teaching and learning

- Improve Capped 9 outcomes for pupils in Year 11, particularly pupils eligible for free school meals
- Further develop pupil learning experiences to ensure the progressive development of skills
- Improve the effectiveness of teaching and assessment so that pupils are consistently challenged to achieve their potential
- Improve provision for developing pupils' Welsh language skills, and appreciation of Welsh culture and heritage.

Area 2 and 4: Care, support and well-being

- Improve attendance, particularly pupils eligible for free school meals and pupils in Year 10 and 11
- Strengthen approaches to promoting positive behaviour
- Strengthen opportunities for pupils to take on leadership roles within the school and inform decision making
- Further develop provision for pupils with additional learning needs to ensure the successful implementation of ALN reform.

Area 5: Leadership and management

- Refine self-evaluation and improvement processes so that they focus more sharply on teaching and its impact on pupils' learning
- Further develop the range of 'pathways' to support professional learning for all practitioners and ensure it is linked precisely to the school's improvement needs.