



Care Share Believe Achieve



Ysgol y Castell

Governors Report to Parents

2023-24



Message from the Chair of Governors – Vanessa Hooper

Welcome to Ysgol y Castell Governing Body's Annual Governors' Report to Parents. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to welcome back our current pupils, parents and carers, and staff to another exciting year ahead! May I also extend a warm welcome to any new pupils and their parents and carers who have just joined the school.

The purpose of the Annual Governor's Report to Parents is to inform you as to the current state of the school, including its staffing, estate, and future developments. The report details the work of the Governing Body over the last year in providing challenge, scrutiny, and support to the school as a 'critical friend'. Together with the school, and our community partners, we constantly strive towards the shared goal of providing the best educational experience and opportunities for our pupils, in a caring, nurturing, and supportive environment in line with our school motto, "Care Share Believe Achieve".

The work of the Governing Body includes regular meetings of the Full Governing Body every term, with responsibilities delegated to certain sub-committees to allow for greater scrutiny, challenge, and informed discussion to take place with reports back to the Full Governing body for information and any relevant votes to take place. Termly school visits are also required of each governor during which they will meet with class teachers to find out more information regarding a designated area of learning they have agreed to focus on. I'd like to thank my fellow members of our Governing Body for the dedication they have shown over the last year in the execution of their duties.

As a school, we endeavour to be constantly improving our school environment that encourages pupils to become resilient, independent, and confident individuals. The new school building and outdoor area will allow all these skills to be taught and developed while enhancing the ability for outdoor learning.

There are many areas where we as a school have prioritised development and will continue to do so over the next year.

Vanessa Hooper



School information for the coming year

Headteacher	Delyth Goodfellow	
Assistant Headteacher/ Acting Deputy Headteacher		Ceris Knight
Office Manager	Susan Thomas	

Governors

Chair of Governors	Vanessa Hooper
Vice Chair	Darren Phillips
Clerk to Governors	Susan Thomas

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Term Dates 2024-26

Autumn 2024	Tuesday 3rd September	Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November	Friday 20th December
Spring 2025	Monday 6th January	Monday 24th February – Friday 28th February	Friday 11th April
Summer 2025	Monday 28th April	Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	Monday 21st July
Autumn 2025	Tuesday 2nd September	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October	Friday 19th December
Spring 2026	Monday 5th January	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February	Friday 27th March
Summer 2026	Monday 13th April	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May	Monday 20th July



How do School Leaders and Governors promote school improvement?

At Ysgol y Castell, leaders have children's safety, welfare and learning at the forefront of all decision-making. Each member of staff and each governor is a leader of at least one aspect of the school's life, working as a strong team to improve and raise standards. Pupil voice, through the School and Eco Councils, and parent consultation through regular meetings and surveys, mean that the whole school community is part of the consultation and decision making process. The Headteacher and her Senior Leadership Team work with all aspects of the school community to identify priorities, plan and action developments for these, and to closely monitor impact and outcomes. The Governing Body monitors school improvement priorities through regular visits to the school for meetings and learning walks; it also spends time on scrutiny of documentation and ensures that a rigorous appraisal procedure of the Headteacher and staff is adhered to. In all, the 'Team' ethos at Y Castell is key to the successful learning of all our children.

Staffing Structure 2023- 24

Headteacher	Delyth Goodfellow	
Assistant Headteacher	Ceris Knight	Year 4
Teachers		
	Maria Austin	P1 & 2 Lead, Reception
	Sioned Taylor	Year 1
	Stephanie Jones	Year 2
	Sian Reilly	Year 3
	Bish Bowen	P3 Lead, Year 5/6
	Tom Williams	Year 5
	David Morgan	Year 6
	Rachel Williams	ALNCo
LSA's		
	Susan Smith, Anna Porter, Joanne King, Emma Norwood, Sarah Town, Rhian Baker, Mel Woods, Karen House, Karen Jones, Maxine Duncan, Debbie Harding, Stacie Collins, Amy Reynolds	
Administration		
	Sue Thomas, Lorraine Mears	



SIP 2024-25

Priority 1	To improve attendance across the school to 94%
Priority 2	To work with 'Tim datblygu'r gymraeg' to improve welsh across the school
Priority 3	To review, embed and ensure consistency of the marking policy
Priority 4	To ensure regular opportunities to apply mathematical skills across the curriculum

Pupil Voice

We have various councils enabling pupils to have their voices heard, School Council, Eco Council, Healthy schools, Criw cymraeg etc . Pupils continue to be involved in decisions around their learning. The school uses quite open topics giving maximum scope for pupils to open lines of enquiry! The teachers introduce the topics to give children some knowledge and then give them opportunity to make suggestions. Our younger children in Nursery and Reception are developing the confidence to make decisions about their play within clearly defined learning areas. Across the school councils are now meeting once a month to discuss, and make recommendations, on a range of areas. Some committees are able to get on and make the changes too!

Staff Development

The school continues to develop as a professional learning organisation. Staff develop through training and learning from one another. The approach of peer classroom observations for teaching staff was continued as a means to provide teachers with both the opportunity to observe good practice through the school, but to also improve their own teaching methods. We have continued to develop staff skills to deliver outdoor learning effectively. All the time we want staff to feel like working in Y Castell is a great experience and opportunity.

Community Visits and Visitors

The school makes use of visits and visitors to enhance the delivery of the curriculum. Nothing makes a topic come alive more than the first-hand experience and where practicable we endeavour to make these a part of the learning experience. Parents will no doubt have noticed from our social media feeds how often we have got children out and about in the local area of Kidwelly , visiting the Quay, the castle etc. This is never for a 'jolly'. Although we know the children love it! Having first hand experiences enriches their learning and this has an impact on their overall wellbeing.

The Curriculum for Wales

The Four Core Purposes

We as a school wanted to have four mascots to represent 'The Four Core Purposes'. It was decided that using pupil voice we would ask the pupils to design these mascots. As the black cat is a symbol of Kidwelly it was decided that we would use it as a base for our mascots.

All pupils from year 2 to year 6 were given the task on designing shields for the cats. During an assembly we spoke to the children, reminding them of TFCP and explained to them the important task they had of designing the shields. We also asked them to name the cats.



The pupils were very enthusiastic and we had some fantastic designs! We took elements from several designs and a local artist/illustrator put them together for us, these are the results –

We are...
Enterprising, creative contributors who....

You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!

- Dr Seuss



...are ready to play a full part in life and work



Enterprising, creative contributors who:

- connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products;
- think creatively to reframe and solve problems;
- identify and grasp opportunities;
- take measured risks;
- lead and play different roles in teams effectively and responsibly;
- express ideas and emotions through different media;
- give of their energy and skills so that other people will benefit; and are ready to play a full part in life and work.



We are...
Ambitious, Capable learners who....

All our dreams can
come true... if we
have the courage
to pursue them.

- Walt Disney



are ready to learn through their lives.



Ambitious Aled



Ambitious, capable learners who:

- set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge;
- are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts;
- are questioning and enjoy solving problems;
- can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English;
- can explain the ideas and concepts they are learning about;
- can use number effectively in different contexts;
- understand how to interpret data and apply mathematical concepts;
- use digital technologies creatively to communicate, find and analyse information;
- undertake research and evaluate critically what they find and are ready to learn throughout their lives.

We are...
Healthy, confident individuals who....

Make sure you're very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind and above all be humble.
- Serena Williams



are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Healthy and
Confident Hari



Healthy, confident individuals who:

- have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs;
- are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy;
- apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives;
- know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well;
- take part in physical activity;
- take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk;
- have the confidence to participate in performance;
- form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect;
- have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can;
- face and overcome challenge;
- and are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.



We are...
Ethical, Informed Citizens who....

If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.

- Roald Dahl



are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.



Ethically Informed Elin



Ethical, informed citizens who:

- find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views;
- engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values;
- understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights;
- understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting;
- are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past;
- respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society;
- show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet; and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the World.

