



Governors Annual Report to Parents 2023-2024

Covering the
Year 2023/24

November
2024

Berriew Community Primary School Berriew, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8BA

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The Governors of Berriew Community Primary School are pleased to share this report with you.

If you would like to discuss the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us or any member of staff at the school.



Class dragon and Class Unicorn's trip to Blue Planet.

**Letter from the
Chair**
Page 2

Governing Body
Page 3

**Statutory
Information for
Parents**
Page 5

**Staffing and
Curriculum**
Page 6

**Welsh and Special
Needs**
Pages 7

**Summary of
School Budget
2022-23**
Page 8

School Calendar
Page 9



Governors Annual Report to Parents

2023-2024

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Parents/Carers

Although I was only elected as Chair in September, in the absence of any comment from the outgoing Chair, I hope you find it acceptable for me to comment in this annual report.

Thank you to all within the whole school community for your support during this last year, in particular, parents, staff, volunteers and governors.

When I returned to live in Berriew after 40 years I was delighted to be approached to be a local authority governor. I have over 30 years' experience as a Governor in both primary and secondary schools.

My time at Berriew school as a pupil is full of happy memories and was the foundation that set me on my academic road. Inspiring teachers who encouraged achievement. I was happy to find that this ethos still exists. I am impressed by the children who attend. I come into school regularly and enjoy engaging with the pupils, helping with supported reading, monitoring and lately Christmas pudding making!

As Chair I would like to encourage openness and approachability. The governor's role is to support the school's management, staff, parents and of course pupils.

We are charged with ensuring that everyone is safe whilst at school and that we provide the highest quality education with access for all.

We will endeavour to do just that!

Regards

Gill James

Message from the headteacher - Sean Clarke

The school continues to thrive with pupil numbers rising to 103, our highest in years. As always, I am grateful for the super relationship we have with the Berriew preschool and the successful start they provide our pupils. I am grateful to the hard work of Mrs Clarke, and the support she gave the school introducing many new initiatives and Mrs Savage and Miss Penale who gave a lot to the school whilst at Berriew.

We welcomed many new members to the governing body who were a valuable critical friend challenging the school and helping to improve the education of the pupils in the school.

We worked hard to improve our Welsh oracy and reading and are close to achieving the silver award. Mrs Worthington, Miss Davies and the Criw Cymraeg have done a marvellous job to raise the profile of Welsh around school. We continued to develop our maths knowledge and skills and made 2024 a musical year with pupils learning new instruments, participating in a fabulous Christmas play and concert at WHS.

I would like to thank all the staff for the educational provision and care they provide from Breakfast club, through the day to afterschool care. The teachers have shown a commitment to improving standards and the other adults show professionalism when dealing with the children and their families.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our parents and the wider community, without your help and support we wouldn't have the bold, brilliant children that make Berriew school so wonderful.



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Governing Body of Berriew CP School

Chair

MRs F Ferneyhough (Parent Governor) c/o School 01686 640312

Headteacher

Mr Sean Clarke c/o School 01686 640312

Clerk

Mrs J Savage and Mrs D Powell c/o School 01686 640312

Term of Office

Local Education Authority Representative Governors

Mrs K Jones October 2025
Mrs G James March 2027

Parents Governors (elected from and by the parents of the children attending the school)

Mrs A Gittins-Evans October 2025
Mrs N Mansall

Minor Authority Representative

Mr N James September 2023

Community Governor

Mrs E McGill February 2025

Teacher Governor

Mrs S Lewis August 2026

The full Governing Body met on each half term throughout 2023-24 with the main responsibilities being the welfare of the children, staff wellbeing, the school's budget, staffing and finances and the maintenance of the school, it's buildings and grounds. The Governors continued to implement the School Development Plan and were heavily involved in the budget setting process, the appointment of staff and the self-evaluation process. They undertook monitoring activities – listening to learners, undertaking learning walks, discussions with staff and book scrutiny.

Governor training undertaken during the year included - Being an effective Chair, introduction for new governors, finance, assessment and data, all monthly Chair of Gov meetings and all termly Gov Briefing sessions.



Governors Annual Report to Parents

2023-2024

Action taken by the Governing Body/School

Finance Sub-committee

The Sub-committee met several times to discuss the budget for 2023-24 and 2024-25 in light of the cumulative deficit budget. The committee also looked at fuel charges and improvements to the building including the newly fitted solar panels, batteries and LED lighting. The Finance Sub-committee also reviewed the spending plan, and we were able to include Mr Jenkins for PE coaching and use existing staff to cover PPA, NQT and ALN successfully.

Pay Policy / Staffing / Performance Management Sub Committees

The Performance Management subcommittee met with Mrs Linda Green the Challenge advisor to evaluate Mr Clarke's performance targets for 2022-23 which were met and new targets, linked the school development plan for 2023-2024. In addition, the staffing committee met to discuss the new staff needed to replace Mrs Yorke, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Savage. In addition, they review the class structure and staffing for 2024-25.

Full Governing Body

In addition to the consideration of matters arising from the various sub-committees, the full Governing Body dealt with the following issues:

- Review the statutory policies linked to the school, including those provided by the Local Authority which needed ratifying.
- Support the school with monitoring activities linked to the school improvement plan. (These included book monitoring, learning walks, and listening to the learners).
- The development of the new school kitchen.
- Safeguarding around supply staff, site security and safeguarding procedures and policies.

Health & Safety / Buildings

The Headteacher, Safeguarding governor and Chair undertook the annual Health and Safety audit, with a focus on the safety of the school site. They also met with Mr Michael Gedrim safeguarding lead for Powys County Council and representatives of building services to review the fencing around the school. This was erected over the summer term and now means that the school site is nearly fully secure. Additional works were also undertaken to make the school car park safer. Throughout the building works, strict risk assessments were in place to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and staff. Matters relating to the health and safety of the pupils and parents was shared via newsletters and by email.

Admission Arrangements

All applications are dealt with by Powys County Council and our current intake remains at 15. However, over the last few years we have been oversubscribed. Which has resulted in us turning families away.



The school prospectus is updated annually. A copy is on the school website and is available to all parents if they request a paper copy. www.berriewschool.uk

School Development Plan (SDP 2023-24)

The SDP for the last year focused on:

1. To improve Welsh across the school so that the school gains the Cymraeg campus Silver Award.
2. To develop pupils' health, wellbeing, and empathy in order to impact upon engagements, motivation, and standards.
3. To strengthen expressive arts throughout school with a focus on developing musical skills to enhance creativity, wellbeing and music appreciation.
4. To work as a cluster of schools to ensure continuity and high expectations in the development of the curriculum for Wales.
5. To develop new strategies and approaches to the teaching of basic mathematical skills to raise numeracy standards across the school.

Policies

The staff and governors review policies and copies are on the school website www.berriewschool.uk and can be obtained if requested from the office (digitally or paper copies).

Destination of school leavers

Nearly all Year 6 pupils leaving Berriew CP School went to either Welshpool HS or Community College Bishops castle.

Language

The school is an English Medium school. Welsh is taught to all pupils as a second language in discrete Welsh lessons, reinforcement activities are taught in class through a bilingual approach.

Links with the High School

The school has close links with both high schools, particularly Welshpool HS. Year 6 pupils visit the school of their choice and High School staff liaise with the Year 6 teacher and ALNCo to discuss individual pupil progress and identified needs. Numerous sporting activities were arranged for local school at the high school and pupils attended other sessions linked to language and maths.

Links with the Berriew Preschool

The Berriew Playgroup (run independently) is located in the mobile classroom adjacent to the school site and is managed by Claire Munslow. The school has a close working relationship with the preschool and we support the transition into main school by having numerous opportunities for the pupils to join us for assemblies, plays, day session in the reception class and hold a new parents meeting in the summer term. We share the school field, outdoor classroom and Community Centre, and over the year with funding from preschool we have developed a secure garden/sensory area for the preschool pupils and the school on the field.



Staffing & Curriculum

Due to our increased numbers we were able to maintain the four class structure in the school. This consisted of Class Unicorn - Reception, and Y1 Class Dragon - Y2, Class Griffin -Y3 and Y4 and Class Phoenix with Y5 and Y6 pupils. There was the equivalent of 4 full time teachers and three full time Teaching Assistants and one part time teaching Assistant.

During the year guitar, drum, and piano tuition was provided by private arrangement with parents by Mr Theo Lawrence and Music Heroes. In addition, the music teacher from Welshpool High School taught Ukelele to Y3 and 4 which culminated in them performing at the high school with other children from the local area..

The school's priorities for development we created following a detailed self-evaluation of all aspects of school life and was supported by the school improvement advisor, Mrs Linda Green.

The School Improvement plan was developed with the staff, shared with governors and a simplified version with the children. An overview was put on the school's website.

Children's progress is carefully monitored through the online National Welsh tests (reading maths procedural and reasoning) plus half-termly writing assessments. In addition, the children do a spelling assessment at the beginning and end of the year. From reception to year 6 they are taught phonics and spelling patterns linked to their ability. Reading is continually monitored through daily guided reading sessions, and we also undertake wellbeing questionnaires throughout the year to check on the emotional and mental wellbeing of our children. Following discussions with the staff and pupils the school then implements actions to address any issues raised. We looked at playtime behaviour and activities, introducing Welsh games, mindfulness and using our outdoor areas more.

The curriculum was reviewed to develop and enhance the pupils' skills through themed topics, linked to the six areas of learning. Homework grids were simplified to encourage home learning to further develop the skills the children have been taught in school, alongside spellings, times tables and reading practice. The curriculum is annually reviewed to ensure we address the four purposes outlined in the new Welsh curriculum.

1. Ambitious, capable learners
2. Enterprising, creative contributors
3. Healthy, confident individuals
4. Ethical, informed citizens





Governors Annual Report to Parents 2023-2024

Welsh Language

Although an English medium school we are fully committed to the development of the Welsh Language and the Welsh Culture and work hard to support Cynefin, through visitors and online events. As part of our work towards the silver award, pupils are encouraged to use incidental Welsh during the day, and this is modelled by the staff in and outside of the classroom. The pupils have a weekly Welsh lesson plus additional guided reading sessions and 15 minutes Welsh practice daily.

Pupils with Additional Learning Needs and Pupils with Disabilities

Berriew continues to pride itself on being a fully inclusive school, and we welcome all children for whom a mainstream education is appropriate. All pupils with any form of special need participate in 'everyday' curriculum activities with their peers whenever possible. There is a disabled toilet in the main building so we can cater easily for those who require such facilities. The building is on one level and ramps lead up to several external doors. The school has a Disabled Access Plan in place.

Children with additional learning needs are supported in class by the class teachers, teaching assistants and the Additional Needs Co-ordinator Mrs Lewis. Lessons are carefully differentiated and planned sensitively to cater for the different abilities in the class especially those with special needs. However, in specific situations, specialist support from the Local Authority or individual or class-based support is provided to help pupils reach their own individual targets. We work closely with outside agencies to support with mobility, sight and hearing impairments, dyslexia, behaviour and autism issues.

When a difficulty has been assessed and discussed with the staff and outside agencies, additional support is provided either through a universal Learning Plan (ULP) or an Individual Development Plan (IDP). These plans set short term targets for each child to achieve over a few weeks or half term. These are regularly reviewed, with support provided by the ALNCo and new targets written where appropriate to move learning on. A great emphasis is placed on quality first teaching, differentiation, effective ULP's and developing basic literacy and numeracy skills. In some cases, we have made referrals to the LA for extra support from specialist teachers to guide and support the staff in school to ensure we are supporting the children effectively.

Staffing changes

Over the year we said goodbye to Mrs Yorke, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Savage and Miss Penhale. All these members of staff contributed greatly to the education of the children and left their individual marks on the school. All have moved on to new horizons and are flourishing in their new roles. Mrs Worthington went on maternity leave and we welcomed Miss Davies to Class Phoenix. The staff are supporting her through her NQT year and the children are being well catered for whilst Mrs Worthington is absent.

Attendance

Our school target was 97% however, due to illness, and holidays in term times our attendance was only 96% which was still higher than the average across schools in Powys.



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Summary of Berriew CP School Budget 2023-24

Total Delegated Funds = 449,078	2023/24 BUGET	2023/24 ACTUAL
Expenditure Area		
Salaries and wages	408,277	417,934
Premises (e.g., repairs and maintenance, utilities, rates etc.)	56,042	69,618
Supplies and Office (e.g., stationary, LA support, copier etc.)	40,450	64,819
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		552,372
Income (e.g., grants, donations etc.)		
TOTAL INCOME	25,766	45,557
NET EXPENDITURE	479.003	506,815





2024-25 School Calendar

Autumn Term 2024	Non- Pupil Days	No of school days
Monday 2 nd September to Friday 25 th October	Monday 2 nd September	40 days

Half term – Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

Monday 4 th November to Thursday 20 th December		35 days
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Spring term 2025	Non-Pupil Days	No of school days
Tuesday 7 th January to Friday 11 th February	Monday 6 th January	35 days

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

Monday 3 rd march to Friday 11 th April		30 days
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Summer Term 2025	Non-Pupil Days	No of school days
Tuesday 18 April to Friday 26 May		20

Half term - Monday 26th May to Friday 30st May

Monday 2 nd June to Friday 18 th July	7 th July	35
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Good Friday	Friday 18 th April 2025
Easter Monday	Monday 21 st April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 26 th May 2025
Royal Welsh Show	Monday 21 st July to Thursday 24 th July 2025