



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate

Governors Annual Report to Parents

October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Governing Body Darrenlas Primary School

Annual Parents Meeting

I enclose for your information, a copy of the Governors Annual Report to Parents for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) the governing body is no longer required to hold a meeting for the purpose of discussing the attached report.

However, under this legislation if a governing body receives a petition from parents of registered pupils at the school requesting a meeting a meeting will be held if the following conditions are met;

- The petition contains the signatures of ten percent of the parents registered pupils **or** thirty of the parents of registered pupils (whichever is the lower).
- The meeting must be for the purpose of discussing a matter relating to the school.
- Should a meeting be held there will be no more than three meetings held during the school year in which the petition is received.
- There are enough days remaining in the school year for the meeting to be held in line with the requirements of the Act.

Should a meeting be held it will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, the Headteacher and other persons invited by the governing body.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Andrew Morgan

Chairperson of the Schools Governing Body

## Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

### Governing Body of Darrenlas Primary School

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.

#### Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Mrs Jan Jenkins, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

#### Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Councillor Andrew Morgan

#### Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Category of Governor</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Retirement Date</b>
Cllr Andrew Morgan	LEA	Council Members	Sept 2021
Cllr Wendy Treeby	LEA		March 2021
Mrs Suzanne Burrows	LEA		March 2021
Mrs Joanne Grashoff	Community Governors	Governing Body	May2021
Miss Alison Carter			Oct 2018
Mrs Rebecca Walker			May 2021
Mrs Elizabeth Philips	Parent	Parents	Oct 2019
Mrs Tracy Prosser			Oct 2019
Vacancy			
Miss V. Morris	Teacher	Teaching Staff	Dec 2020
Miss Claire Smith	Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Oct 2019
Mrs Gemma Powell	Headteacher		

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

<b>LEA Representatives</b>	3
<b>Parent Governors</b>	4
<b>Staff Representative</b>	1
<b>Headteacher</b>	1

<b>Community Governors</b>	3
<b>Teacher Governor(s)</b>	1
<b>Minor Authority (if applicable )</b>	
<b>Total</b>	13

#### Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting

#### Election of Parent Governors

The last election of parent governors took place in September 2017. If any Parent Governor(s) resign before their term of office is complete arrangements will be made for an election to be undertaken at the appropriate time.

### **School Performance Data**

Below is a table showing the results of the pupil's performance at the end of the Foundation Phase and following the end of Key Stage 2 assessments.

In 2017, 3 pupils were assessed at the end of Foundation Phase.

1 pupil = approx. 3.33 % in performance terms for 2017

<b>Outcome 5 and above</b>						
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Family 2016</b>	<b>Wales 2016</b>
<b>LLC</b>	90%	88.5%	93.5%	90%	89%	88%
<b>MD</b>	87%	92%	93.5%	90%	90%	90%
<b>PSD</b>	97%	96%	100%	100%	97%	95%
<b>FPI</b>	87%	88.5%	93.5%	86%	88%	87%

Performance has been maintained and we outperformed the Family average and Wales average in all subjects.

KS2 - In 2017 38 pupils were assessed at the end of Key Stage 2.

1 pupil = approx. 2.63% in performance terms for 2017

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Family 2016</b>	<b>Wales 2016</b>
<b>English</b>	85%	90%	86%	84%	90.5%	91%
<b>Maths</b>	89%	93.5%	86%	87%	92%	92%
<b>Science</b>	93%	93.5%	86%	87%	91%	92%
<b>CSI</b>	81%	87%	86%	84%	88%	89.5%

L4+ performance has decreased in 2017 due to the percentage of pupils on the SEN and ALN register.

### **Financial Statement - Period Covered 2016 - 2017**

Enclosed, as appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2016/17

### **School Prospectus**

The School Prospectus is updated annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Assembly Government or other related bodies. A copy of the prospectus is generally issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from Primary to Comprehensive School.

Parents are informed if any amendments are made to the existing prospectus.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the School Improvement Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take, over a three year period, in delivering the curriculum. The plan is regularly monitored. The School Improvement Plan for the 2017/18 academic year has been considered and approved by Governors and is currently being implemented by the staff. The targets set include short, medium and long-term aims. Targets were reviewed by the Governing Body.

### **Use of the Welsh Language - Communication**

This school is an English medium school, lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of English. The use of the Welsh language is promoted by the use of incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day.

### **Term Dates and Holidays 2017 - 2018 Academic Year**

	<b>Term Begins</b>	<b>Half Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term Ends</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
<b>Autumn 2017</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Spring 2018</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer 2018</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July

5 INSET days to be taken at the discretion of each individual school.

All schools will be closed on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 for the May Day Bank Holiday.

The School day is organised as follows:

**Morning** - 8.45 a.m. to 12.30p.m. (12.00pm Foundation Phase)

**Lunch break** - 12.30p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

**Afternoon** - 1.30p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

### **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. At Darrenlas, we work closely with both the cluster primary schools and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, and embark on many shared projects.

### **Review of School Policies**

The school has a large number of Policy documents covering both curriculum and non-subject areas. These documents are constantly reviewed/ revised by staff/governors to incorporate changing trends and legislation. Further information is available by contacting the Headteacher during school time.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

The School's Policy for the Assessment of and Provision for, pupils with Additional Learning Needs is summarised as follows:

The School's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs is consistent with the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in January 2002.

The School's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them.

The ALNCO also liaises with all members of staff, to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.

### **Access for Disabled Pupils**

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in drawing up the School Development Plan/Post Inspection Action 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 Authority has in place an Accessibility Strategy and in line with this strategy has had an audit of the school site undertaken, as part of an Authority wide brief, to identify any potential barriers and (ultimately) improve the access to the school.

### **Fabric of the Building**

The building is generally in a good state of repair. Over the past year the following refurbishment/repairs have been carried out. Extensive work to the outside of the KS2 building was carried out during the Summer break, funded by the Local Authority. In addition work was carried out at the front of the lower school building and inside the canteen. Our Caretaker is also carrying out a programme of repairs to ensure that the buildings remain in excellent repair.

### **Target Setting**

The implementation and review of the school's strategies and targets is documented in detail in the School Improvement Plan

FOUNDATION PHASE						
Outcome 5+						
	2015		2016		2017	
	School Actual	School Target	School Actual	School Target	School Actual	School Target
PSD	97	87.5	94	100	100	96
LLC	90	78	89	93.5	90	92.5
MD	87	75	91	93.5	90	92.5
FPOI	87	75	89	93.5	86	89

KEY STAGE 2						
Level 4+						
	2015		2016		2017	
	School Actual	School Target	School Actual	School Target	School Actual	School Target
English	85	81	86	86	84	86
Mathematics	89	85	86	86	87	86
Science	93	81	86	86	87	86
CSI	81	81	86	86	86	86

Most targets were met or exceeded this year in KS2. Target in FP were not met due to a fluctuation of pupils moving in the cohort.

### **18. Attendance Information**

Overall annual attendance 2014-15	Overall annual attendance 2015-16	Overall annual attendance 2016-17
94.9%	94.6%	94.1%

Attendance continues to fluctuate between terms and has dropped again this year. Teachers share pupils' attendance data with parents on a regular basis ensuring parents are aware the impact of missing lessons has on education. School closely monitors the number of holidays taken within the school term. School will authorise 10 days holiday if a child's attendance is above 95%. Weekly celebrations are held where the class with the best attendance receives recognition.

Absence from school is a contributing factor in low pupil achievement, so the Welsh Assembly Government is targeting improved attendance. Parents can help this situation by informing the school if they feel that there are any problems that are preventing pupils from attending or causing the pupil to feel that they do not want to attend school.

### **19. Admission/Transition Arrangements**

The County Borough Council is the Admissions Authority for all schools (other than Church schools where the schools governing body is the admissions authority) within the Authority's boundary. The schools admission arrangements are, therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication Starting School book. The book is made available to parents at the point of their application for their child's admission to school. The contents of this book can also be accessed online on the Authority's website.

Pupils will usually remain in the school until they complete year six and then transfer to secondary school. This school is a feeder school for Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, however, pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy.

## **20. Sporting Aims and Achievements**

The school takes part in numerous sporting activities throughout the year including football, rugby, athletics, netball, cricket and swimming. The governing body attaches great importance to providing great opportunities for children of all talents to play as team members, recognising the positive effects on behaviour and the school ethos that participation in sport creates.

## **21. Staff**

Mrs Rosser and Mrs Vigliotta continue their maternity leave until the Summer Term, they are currently being replaced by Miss Lewis (Reception) and Miss Churchouse (Year 4).

## **22. After school Activities**

Darrenlas Primary After School Club continues to be a successful organisation. Many parents are now using the facility. Due to feedback from parents and pupils during the self-evaluation process more extra-curricular activities have been organised this year. Some take place during lunchtime sessions while most are organised for after school.

These include:

Football	Netball	Choir	Rugby	Athletics
Craft	IT	Chill out club	Multi sports	Welsh

## **23. Involvement of Parents**

The Governing Body celebrates the good relationships that exist between parents and the school, and thanks all the parents, grandparents and carers for the substantial support given. Events organised by the PTA have included:

Summer Fayre

Macmillian Coffee Morning

Halloween Disco

Children' Christmas Disco

Children's Easter Disco

Easter Egg Raffles

Christmas Hampers

A huge thank you goes to the Parent Teacher's Association, who raise a great deal of money throughout the year. Thanks to the generosity of the parents, the school also raise money for a range of charities, including Children in Need, Comic Relief and Macmillan Cancer Research. Parents evenings are held every Autumn and Spring Term, these are always well attended.

## **24. Educational Activities outside the classroom**

A wide range of educational visits are organised for the children throughout the year.

## **25. Healthy Eating**

In Accordance with the Appetite for Life initiative, promoting healthy eating and drinking in the school is always a priority. We hold regular 'Healthy Schools Weeks' where the children try various sporting activities. During these weeks they also prepare some healthy meals. The school 'Healthy Tuck Shop' continues to be a big success. The school is currently working towards Phase 4 of the Healthy Schools Award scheme.