



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate

Governors Annual Report to Parents

September 2014

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 2013-2014 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.

1. Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Miss Non Morgan ,Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

2. Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Councillor Andrew Morgan

3. Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

Name	Category of Governor	Appointed By	Retirement Date
Cllr Andrew Morgan Mr Daniel Allen Mr Anthony Trow	LEA	Council Members	Sept 2017 Dec 2015 Oct 2016
Mr Alan Richards Miss Alison Carter Mrs Rebecca Walker	Community Governors	Governing Body	Nov 2017 Oct 2014 May 2017
Mrs Suzanne Burrows Mrs Liz Philips Mrs Maria Gill 1 parent governor vacancy	Parent	Parents	Sep 2017 Oct 2015 Sep 2017
Mrs Amanda Vigliotta	Teacher	Teaching Staff	Sep 2017
Miss Claire Smith	Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Oct 2015
Mrs Gemma Jones	Headteacher		

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

LEA Representatives	3
Parent Governors	3
Staff Representative	1
Headteacher	1

Community Governors	2
Teacher Governor(s)	1
Minor Authority (if applicable)	
Total	12

4. Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

5. Election of Parent Governors

The next election of parent governors is due to take place in September 2014 .

If, however, any Parent Governor(s) resign before this date arrangements will be made for an election to be undertaken at the appropriate time.

6. 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 2014, 30 pupils were assessed at the end of Foundation Phase.
1 pupil = approx. 3.3% in performance terms for 2014

	% FPO5+							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Family 2014	Wales 2014
LLC				77	81	90	82.5	86.6
MD				77	78	86.7	82.8	88.7
PSD				82	92	96.7	91.2	94.2
FPI				77	76	86.7	80.4	85.2

All subjects increased in 2014 FPO5+, with significant improvement in LLC and MD. The differential between performance and Family and Wales has significantly improved and school performed better in all areas against the family average.

KS2 - In 2014 27 pupils were assessed at the end of Key Stage 2.
1 pupil = approx.3.7% in performance terms for 2014

	% L4+						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Family 2014	Wales 2014
English	78	78	94	87	85.2	88	88.4
Maths	83	94	83	87	88.9	88	88.9
Science	72	94	94	87	92.6	90.8	90.3
CSI	67	78	83	87	81.5	85.3	86.1

2014 L4+ performance fell slightly for English but results in Maths and Science showed an increase. While the core subject indicator fell by 5.5%, this is due to the number of children with Special Educational Needs in this cohort. However, the number of pupils achieving Level 5 in all 3 subjects rose significantly.

7. Financial Statement – Period Covered 2013 - 2014

Enclosed, as appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2014/15

8. 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.

9. School Improvement Plan (Post Inspection)

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP). The plan identifies the direction the school will take, is regularly monitored and this year was written to take account of outcomes from the recent Estyn inspection and any changes to curriculum requirements.

The PIAP for the 2013/14 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. Following the Estyn Inspection in November of this year, targets were reviewed by the Governing Body.

10. 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.

11. Post Inspection Action Plan

We were inspected by Estyn in November 2013. Parents were able to access a copy of the report from January 2014 and school will be provided with copies of the summary report produced by the inspectors.

Governors monitor progress of the plan at their termly meetings. More detailed information on the progress made will be given at the meeting if required.

12. Term Dates and Holidays 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2014	Monday 1 September	Monday 27 October	Friday 31 October	Friday 19 December
<i>75 Days</i>				
Spring 2015	Monday 5 January	Monday 16 February	Friday 20 February	Friday 27 March
<i>55 Days</i>				
Summer 2015	Monday 13 April	Monday 25 May	Friday 29 May	*Monday 20 July
<i>65 Days</i>				
TOTAL 195				

*Monday 20 July 2015 will be designated INSET days for all LEA Maintained Schools. The remaining four INSET days to be taken, will be at the discretion of each individual school.

All schools will be closed on Monday 4 May 2015 for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates:	Christmas Day	Thursday 25 December 2014
	New Year Bank Holiday	Thursday 1 st January 2015
	Easter	Good Friday 3 April 2015 Easter Monday 6 April 2015
	May Bank Holidays	Monday 4 May 2015 Monday 25 May 2015
	Summer Bank Holiday	Monday 31 August 2015

The School day is organised as follows;

Morning -	8.45 a.m. to 12.00p.m. (11.45 Foundation Phase)
Lunch break -	12.00p.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Afternoon -	1.00p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

13. 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 are supported by Darranlas Communities First.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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. These included:

- Refurbishment of SEN (Rainbow room)
- Movement of ICT equipment to classes

- Building of school greenhouse
- Alteration of Foundation Phase class, joining Year 1 class to Discovery room
- Nursery canopy and new outdoor railing for Early Years Unit
- As part of the Welsh Assembly initiative to improve IT Infrastructure within schools in Wales, Darrenlas became wireless

18. Target Setting

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

FOUNDATION PHASE					
	2013		2014		2015
	School Actual	School Target	School Actual	School Target	School Target
PSD	91.9	93.9	97	87.5	96.2
LLC (Eng)	81.1	81.8	90	78.1	73.1
MD	78.4	72.7	87	75	84.6
FPOI	75.7	72.7	87	75	73.1

KEY STAGE 2					
	2013		2014		2015
	School Actual	School Target	School Actual	School Target	School Target
English	87	81.8	85	80.8	80
Mathematics	87	81.8	89	84.6	83.3
Science	87	81.8	93	80.8	86.7
CSI	87	77.2	81	80.8	80

All targets were exceeded this year. More accurate target setting is a priority for the school this year.

19. Attendance Information

Listed below are the pupil attendance figures for the last three completed school terms.

Autumn 2012	Autumn 2013	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Overall annual attendance 2012-13	Overall annual attendance 2013-14
94.3%	91.89%	91.2%	95.17%	91.3%	93.83%	92.7%	94%

Attendance continues to fluctuate between terms but overall attendance is improving. 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. From January 2015, as directed by the Local authority, school will no longer be able to authorise 5 holidays and parents will be subject to a fixed penalty notice if 10 or more sessions are taken as holiday. Weekly celebrations continue to be 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. Staff

There have been several changes in staffing in 2013-2014.

We welcomed two new members of staff, Mrs Sarah Brooks and Miss Elisabeth Thomas. After several operations and months of recovery we also welcomed back Miss Anstee in September, who has taken up the role of ALNCO.

This summer, after 31 years at the school, Mrs Libby Young will retire in July. She has made an enormous contribution to school and her commitment to the community of Darrenlas has been tremendous. The governing body expresses its gratitude for her many years of service to the school. She will be greatly missed

Sadly we also lose two Level 3 Teaching assistants to redeployment due to budget restraints.

23. After school Activities

Darrenlas Primary After School Club continues to be a successful organisation. Many parents are now using the facility

Other after school clubs include:

Football	Welsh	Netball	Choir	Gardening
Art	Film Club	Recorders		

24. 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

Children' Christmas Disco

Children's Easter Disco

Easter Egg Raffles

Christmas Hampers

A huge thank you goes to the Parents association, who raise a great deal of money throughout the year and supported the school in purchasing a new school website this 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

Well attended parents evenings were held in October

25. Educational Activities outside the classroom

Yr 6 to Atlantic College in June 2014. Barry Island

Cardiff Castle Caerleon

Techniquest, Cardiff St Fagans

Garwnant

Dare Valley Country Park

We are looking forward to our school trip to see 'The Lion King ' in November

2014

22. Healthy Eating

In Accordance with the Appetite for Life initiative, promoting healthy eating and drinking in the school has been a priority this term. We held a 'Healthy Schools Week' where the children tried various sporting activities including a dance workshop with 'Chantelle's Dance School'. They also prepared some healthy meals with the 'Taste Buddies' group. The new school 'Healthy Tuck Shop' has been a big success. The school has recently been awarded 'Phase Three' of the healthy schools awards system and has already started working towards Phase four.