**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

**Governing Body of Darran Park 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 Mrs Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

**2. Chairperson of the Governing Body**

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Mr Roy Maddox c/o Darran Park Primary School, Brook Street, Ferndale, CF43 4LE*.*

**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 J Asquith  Mr P Barnes  Mr R Maddox | **LEA** | **Council Members** | 25.11.2024  17.04.2026  27.06.2027 |
| Mrs D Evans  Miss N Evans  Mr D Jones  Mrs J Phillips | **Parent** | **Parents** | 23.03.2025  26.09.2026  28.01.2026  03.01.2025 |
| Mrs D Gibbins  Ms C Silver  Miss K Wilding | **Community Governor** | **Governing Body** | 13.10.2024  15.11.2025  08.03.2027 |
|  | **Minor Authority**  **(If applicable)** | **Community Council** |  |
| Mrs C Jones | **Teacher** | **Teaching Staff** | 24.09.2027 |
| Mrs J Richards | **Staff** | **Non-Teaching Staff** | 30.09.2024 |
| Mr C Coole | **Headteacher** |  |  |

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LEA Representatives** | 3 |  | Community Governors | 3 |
| **Parent Governors** | 4 |  | **Teacher Governor(s)** | 1 |
| **Staff Representative** | 1 |  | **Minor Authority (if applicable )** | 0 |
| **Headteacher** | 1 |  | **Total** | 13 |

**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 on 4th January 2025. However, if there are any parent governor resignations before this date, arrangements will be made for an election to take place to fill the vacancy.

**6. School Performance Data**

The New Curriculum for Wales provides progression information for the pupils. National tests for years 3 and 6 are still undertaken. The school is performing at a satisfactory level.

**7. Financial Statement**

Enclosed, as appendix A is a copy of the school’s financial statement for the Financial Year 2022/23. Further breakdown of the information is available upon request

**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 Infant to Junior school or Junior/ Primary to Comprehensive School.

**9. School Development Plan**

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the School Development Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take over a three-year period, in delivering the curriculum. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements.

The School Development Plan for the 2022-2023 academic year was approved by Governors. The targets set included short, medium, and long-term aims, and were regularly reviewed by the Governing Body,

The Curriculum for Wales is centred around the Four purposes which involve developing pupils as: ambitious, capable leaners; ethically informed citizens; enterprising, creative contributors and healthy and confident individuals. It provides rich opportunities and authentic learning experiences to develop the key concepts, knowledge and skills as described in the statements of what matters. The Curriculum comprises of six defined ‘Areas of Learning and Experience’ which include: Language, Literacy and Communication; Numeracy and Mathematics; Expressive Arts; Humanities; Health and Well-being; and Science and Technology.

We provide pupils with broad and balanced whole school themes that focus on developing deep learning in a particular AoLE using concepts to make meaningful connections between them in an engaging and challenging way. Themes will provide opportunities for cross cutting themes to be incorporated throughout allowing learners to consider local and global issues; develop an understanding of Relationships and Sexuality Education, learn about Human Rights Education and Diversity and learn about Careers and work-related experiences. Children who learn in this way will be actively involved in the learning process and will inspire our curriculum through pupil voice.

Our curriculum will develop the mandatory cross curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence. Our curriculum will enable learners to develop competence and capability in these skills when taught discreetly and applied across all areas of learning.

**Our curriculum will support learning through designing learning opportunities that draw upon the pedagogical principles. Our curriculum,supported by effective learning and teaching enables learners to make meaningful progress. Over time our learners will develop and improve their skills and knowledge. The knowledge,skills and experiences that our children will gain through our Curriculum will be mapped out progressively by using the Statements of What Matters along with the principles s of progression to consider what it means to make progress in each AoLE and its disciplines. Our curriculum focuses on understanding what it means to make progress in a given Area or discipline and how learners should deepen and broaden their knowledge and understanding; ,skills and capacities; and attributes and dispositions and is informed by the Progression Code.**

Please see our ‘Curriculum Summary’ for further information

**10. Use of the Welsh Language – Communication (for English medium schools only)**

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 using incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day.

In the year groups from Nursery to Year 2:

• pupils are immersed in language experiences and activities with skills being developed through talking, communicating and listening;

• pupils are encouraged to communicate their needs, feelings and thoughts, retell experiences and discuss individual and group play;

• some pupils will communicate by means other than speech. Pupils will refer to their intentions by asking questions, voicing/expressing opinions and making choices through a variety of media, and by building on previous experiences;

In Year groups 3-6, pupils build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired during the earlier year groups. The progress will be achieved through an integrated programme of oracy, reading and writing.

The term Curriculum Cymreig is used to identify those aspects of the

curriculum, which are unique to Wales. In supporting a Welsh ethos

in our school we aim to enable our pupils to:

* become aware of the Welsh experience;

• develop a sense of place and understanding of the factors which have

shaped their local and national community;

• have access to the particular Welsh histories and cultural inheritance;

• explore the Welsh identity;

• become aware of the part played by language and literature in the

history and life of Wales.

We promote this part of the curriculum in a variety of ways, including:

• Developing a Welsh ethos in the school;

• Teaching of the Welsh language to all pupils;

• The inclusion of Welsh examples where appropriate in areas

of the curriculum;

• Extra-curricular activities, i.e., Criw Cymraeg club

* Visits to places of historic interest, e.g., St. Fagans, Castell Coch

Caerleon, etc.;

• Our annual school eisteddfod.

• Receiving support from the Urdd

* A Year 5 Urdd Residential trip to Cardiff Bay

• Entering the Urdd competitions

**11**. **English as a second language (EAL)**

Should parents request that their child is taught at this school in a language other than English this request will be given due consideration.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are supported appropriately according to their needs.

**12. Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) – if applicable**

Governors are responsible for drawing up the Action Plan to address any key issues raised by Inspectors during the ESTYN inspection of the school. Parents are provided with a copy of the summary report produced by the inspectors.

**13. School Holiday Dates 2023-2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Begin | Half term | | End | No. of School |
|  |  | Begin | End |  | Days |
| Autumn  2023 | Monday  4 Sept  2023 | Monday  30 Oct  2023 | Friday  3 Nov 2023 | Friday  22 Dec  2023 | 75 |
| Spring  2024 | Monday  8 Jan  2024 | Monday  12 Feb  2024 | Friday  16 Feb  2024 | Friday  22 Mar  2024 | 50 |
| Summer  2024 | Monday  8 April  2024 | Monday  24 May  2024 | Friday  31 May  2024 | Monday  22 July  2024 | 70 |
|  |  |  |  | TOTAL | **195** |

Mon 4 Sept 2023 and Monday 22 July 2024will be designated INSET days for **all** LA Maintained Schools. The remaining three INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school following appropriate consultation with staff**.**

All schools will be closed on **Monday 6 May 2024** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates: Christmas Monday 25 December 2023

Easter Good Friday 29 March 2024

Easter Monday 1 April 2024

May Bank Holidays Monday 6 May 2024

Monday 27 May 2024

The Welsh Assembly Government may decide to allocate additional INSET days, schools will be informed of these at the appropriate time.

The School day is organised as follows;

**Morning** - 8.45a.m. to 12.00pm (N – Yr2) /8.45a.m. - 12.10pm (Yr 3-6)

**Lunch break** -12.00pm to 1.00pm (N-Yr2) 12.10pm – 1.00pm (Yr3-6)

**Afternoon** - 1.00p.m. to 3.00pm

**14. 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. The school’s has further developed and strengthened it’s links with the Community in the following ways:

The pupils from different classes have been on visits to places such as: St Fagan’s; Porthcawl; Castell Coch; Techniquest; the local Food Bank; the Fire Station; a Year 6 residential in Mid Wales and a Year 5 residential in Cardiff Bay

The visitors to the school have included: Cardiff City coaches; Rhondda Rugby coaches; Missy Lender has been coaching the children to improve their basketball skills; Cricket Wales; external companies who provided workshops to enrich the children’s learning on topics including the Romans, Animals, Space and Ancient Egypt. The School Police Liaison Officer has spoken to classes throughout the school on topics including internet safety and bullying. We have also had many visitors who have enhanced the children’s knowledge of the cultures of different countries around the World.

The school provides pupils with extensive opportunities to perform and present to different audiences, including showcasing their creative skills. Our school choir performed with the Morlais Choir at St Dunstans for a Christmas concert and also sung at the Ferndale Christmas Parade. Our pupils also had the opportunity to compete in our school Eisteddfod and then selected pupils represented our school in the regional Urdd Eisteddfod finals.

The school is successful in supporting parents to ensure the best possible outcomes for their children. We held an E-Safety workshop for parents to raise awareness of how they can support their children in keeping safe online. Our School Police Liaison officer attended this to provide advice to parents. We also held workshops to support parents of pupils who have additional learning needs and a workshop to support parents of pupils for whom English is an Additional Language. Our after-school reading club for parents and their children was well attended. We also held a Well-Being club on a Tuesday where a group of parents undertake craft and cooking activities. Our ‘Baby Bugs’ group for children of pre-school age continues to run successfully. We held a meeting, ran a workshop and also link up sessions for the parents of the new starters in our Nursery class. We held craft workshops for parents before Christmas and this was very well attended. We have also run yoga classes, a cooking club and oraganised a First Aid course for parents at the Arts Factory. The parents of our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a sponsored walk up Llanwonno on a Saturday in May as part of the pupils Skills Award where they walk 10.000 steps. We also had a sponsored walk/run around the lake for each class and it was very pleasing to see a number of parents join their children for this. We had a very good attendance of parents at our Christmas Concerts, the Easter Parade and a significant number of entries for the Darran Park Bake Off. A number of classes shared their learning with parents in different ways. The Squirrels Class performed a class assembly for parents linked to their termly inquiry, the Dragonflies Class presented the ‘Pride of Ferndale Awards’ which was attended not only by parents but also the Fire Service, the Police, the School Nurse, the Fern Partnership and some of our Governors. The Butterflies class held a ‘Stay and Play’ workshop for the grandparents of the pupils. The Parent-Teacher meetings were very well last year.

The school has worked well with a number of community partners to help further support the learning and well-being needs of our pupils. These include:

Ferndale Guild: The ladies in this group ran cooking and craft sessions and took our pupils for a history walk around the local area

Ferndale Court: The residents have read with our pupils, ran craft sessions, put on an Easter Egg hunt and a Teddy Bear’s picnic and have also raised money the school.

Co-op – Our pupils decorated their shop windows and they have donated plants to the schools and food, which we distributed to parents. The also donated £150 towards cookery workshops for parents

Spar (Blakemore Foundation) – They donated funds to the school which were used to purchase Easter Eggs for the pupils, hire soft play equipment for our Baby Bugs Group and funding provided will also be used for a cookery workshop for parents.

Mabon Trust – They donated money which will be used, along with other donations, to run cookery workshops for parents in the Autumn Term

Keep Wales Tidy – They donated litter picking equipment to the school which we have used to clean up our local community

Llyn-y-Forwyn Welsh School – We asked them to join us on our litter picks of the local area.

Fern Partnership – Our pupils visited their outdoor classroom and planted potatoes and bulbs

The Arts Factory – They have arranged for our pupils to visit their Highfield Community Garden where the children planted vegetables and they also helped develop our outdoor area

Ynysbwl Regeneration Partnership – They carried out gardening sessions with the pupils, planting herbs and also donated a bench for our school yard

Fire Service – Our pupils visited the local Fire Station to find out about Fire Safety and the roles and responsibility of the fire fighters in keeping us safe

Tesco – They approved our application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from the first week of July 2023 until the end of September 2023. The funds raised will be used to purchase equipment that will enhance our outdoor learning experiences and allow us to carry out work with our ongoing intergenerational projects and community groups

Food Banks RCT – Natalie Evans (one of our Governors) is the campaign co-ordinator for Food Banks RCT and arranged for a group of Nigerian ladies to visit the school and teach the children about their culture through delivering cooking, music, dance and craft sessions.

Reading Rhondda – They have helped us run an after-school reading club for families throughout the academic year.

**15. Review of School Policies**

The school has many 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 on the school website or by contacting the Headteacher during school time.

**16. 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 Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales (approved by the Senedd on 23rd March 2021) under section 4 of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

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.

During the academic year 2022/2023 5 mainstream pupils were in receipt of an Individual Development Plan (IDP). The school also has an LA maintained Early Years Observation and Assessment Class that can support up to 8 pupils, all of whom would be in receipt of an IDP.

17. Access for Disabled Pupils

The Governing Body is mindful of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2001 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 Plan 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 to improve the access to the school.

18. Fabric of the Building & Provision of Toilet Facilities

The building is generally in a good state of repair. Over the past year the following refurbishment/repairs have been carried out.

There are suitable toilet facilities for pupils of all ages. There are toilets in the Nursery class, outside the Reception class, toilets for Year 1 and 2 pupils, toilets for Key Stage 2 boys and Keys stage 2 girls. There is also a toilet in the Spiders classroom for our Early years and assessment observation unit. These are in a good state of repair and are cleaned by a private contractor at the end of each school day.

Termly monitoring reports from the contractor confirm the toilets

are kept clean and well maintained

**19. Target Setting**

Targets for the school are noted in the School Improvement Plan. Pupils no longer have targets but are measured on achievement of progression steps.

**20. Attendance Information**

The school attendance was 91.4% for 2022/23. The target for 2023/24 is 91.8%. Attendance of all pupils is closely monitored.

**21. 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 school’s 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 Ferndale Community Comprehensive School however pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose, subject to compliance with the Authority’s admissions policy.

**22. School Leavers**

There were 52 pupils who left school at the end of Year 6 during the 2022-2023 academic year, nearly all moving to Ferndale Community School except for two pupils who moved to secondary schools in England.

**23. Sporting Aims and Achievements**

The school took part in numerous sporting activities throughout the year and was very successful in winning football, rugby, basketball and cricket tournaments. The school also took part in Netball tournaments. The school has provided extra-curricular clubs in football, netball, rugby, multi-skills, dodgeball and athletics. There is also a ‘Fun and Fitness’ after school club for the infant children. The school also brings in numerous outside agencies to develop this area including Cardiff City, Rhondda Rugby, Cricket Wales and a Basketball Coach. All pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 were able to receive two weeks of swimming lessons

**24. Healthy Eating**

At Darran Park Primary we are committed to encouraging our pupils to lead active and healthy lifestyles. We believe that healthy children are best able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities that the school provides. The partnership of home and school is critical in shaping how children and young people behave, particularly where health is concerned. We encourage a whole school community approach to promote healthy eating and drinking. The Headteacher, staff and governing body ensure that food and drink provided in the school and advice given to pupils promotes a healthy and active lifestyle. We take a whole school approach to the provision of healthy food and drink. We provide in partnership:

• Healthy, nutritious, affordable and attractively presented meals as described in Appetite for Life.

• Only healthy snacks at break times are allowed

• Crisps and confectionary is not sold in school.

• An enjoyable eating experience in a quality environment.

• Encouragement for parents to provide healthy lunch boxes.

• Fresh water, available to all staff and pupils, where water bottles are allowed these will be clear and labelled with the pupils’ name. The parents will be responsible for hygiene of the bottles.

• Display materials within and around the dining area that promote the positive relationship between healthy food, drink and physical activity.

• Engagement with pupils where appropriate, in consultation on healthy food, drink and fitness activities through vehicles such as School Councils.

The School Achieved the ‘Healthy Schools Phase 6’ Award during the last academic year.

**APPENDIX A**

**DARRAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2022/2023

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EMPLOYEE COSTS** | **Total Spent** |
|  |  |
| STAFFING COSTS INCLUDING SUPPLY | £1,315,495 |
|  |  |
| **PREMISES RELATED COSTS** |  |
| INCLUDES ENERGY, REPAIRS, CLEANING, BUILDING RELATED SLA’s | £108,388 |
|  |  |
| **TRANSPORT** |  |
|  |  |
| INCLUDES INSURANCE, PETROL, TRAVEL CLAIMS | 0 |
|  |  |
| **SUPPLIES AND SERVICES** |  |
| INCLUDES CAPITATION, ICT, COURSES, PHOTOCOPYING, STAFF INSURANCE, SERVICE SLA’s | £115,776 |
|  |  |
| **GRANTS** |  |
|  |  |
| EIG, PDG, EYPDG, PDGCLA | -£220,110 |
|  |  |
| **ADDITIONAL INCOME** |  |
| INCLUDES WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANTS, MISCELLANEOUS, STAFF INSURANCE CLAIMS, | -£73,597 |