



**Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon**

**Governing Body Annual Report to
Parents 2021-2022
Adroddiad Blynyddol y Llywodraethwyr
i Rieni 2021-2022**

Board of Governors Annual Message to Parent/Carers of Blackwood Primary School

Neges Blynyddol Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr i Rieni/ Gofalwyr plant Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are, once again, delighted to present you with the 2021-22 Governors Annual Report to Parents. After the challenges of the COVID pandemic it has been wonderful to return to the normality of pupils able to attend their school for a full academic year and to continue their learning journey together whilst inviting parents and carers back onto the school premises.

Blackwood Primary staff have continued to work extremely hard to prepare the school for the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales with September 2022 being a key milestone date. The school has worked throughout 2021-22 academic year to fully design the school's Inspire curriculum and continue the excellent work on maintaining inspirational learning environments for all pupils. The school continues to deliver as a Regional Lead Pioneer school, trailblazing the way in embedding the new Curriculum for Wales. We are also very pleased that the school has continued to work as a Lead School for Cardiff Metropolitan University which has enabled us to welcome trainee teachers to the school, providing a great benefit for the school, teaching staff and pupils. Additionally, the strength of the Blackwood cluster's collaborative working has been recognised as excellent practice and they have presented to others on their collective progression on the Curriculum for Wales work.

The 2021-22 academic year has continued to see improvements at the school in the outdoor learning environment. A new kitchen and community room has been completed and work on the outdoor learning environment has continued with improvements made in Nursery and Year 1 to ensure an all-weather outdoor classroom environment. The Inspire Radio Station was also installed at the school providing a fantastic opportunity for Blackwood pupils to run their own radio shows across the school.

The academic year ended on a high as families were invited back into the school to experience the welcome return of the annual Sports Day event. Friends of Blackwood Primary and governors set up a collective stall offering refreshments. It was such a pleasure to see the happiness and enjoyment on the faces of all the pupils and of parents, carers and grandparents as they watched.

Looking ahead to the 2022-23 academic year we look forward to the opportunity for more engagement with families and the Blackwood Primary Community.

The Governing Body would like to thank all staff at the school for all their relentless hard work and for the achievement of another successful year.

School information

Blackwood Primary is a local authority maintained primary school within Caerphilly County Borough Council and the school sits within the Islwyn region, working in a cluster with Blackwood Comprehensive School and five other primary schools – Cefn Fforest, Fleur-de-Lys Primary, Libanus, Markham and Pengam. At Blackwood Primary school we share a commitment to the development of the whole child. Our total class count of pupils, as at 30th April 2022, was 441, which includes nursery provision. Blackwood Primary School has 15 classes and has a two-form entry (Nursery Am and PM are counted as one class). Nearly all children come from non-Welsh speaking families and, as at 30 April 2022, 4.08% of pupils used English as an additional language. 31% of our children were eligible for free school meals (Y1-Y6) and the Free School Meal status was 24.7% of statutory school age. Additionally, 15.9% of the school population were recorded as having Additional Learning Needs.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive primary school family, supporting and encouraging all our staff and pupils to achieve their potential. We ensure all stakeholders have a voice in decision making and have the opportunity to improve all aspects of school life. We aim to ensure that everyone has the same chances and opportunities irrespective of race, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, class or disability. We believe that by working together and consulting with all our stakeholders, everyone feels valued and included - a key factor for school improvement. Our school mission statement continues to be 'United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge, Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio.' We strive in all aspects of school life to be a continuous, self-improving learning community, aiming for excellence in all we do

Curriculum

Blackwood Primary is leading the way on the roll out of the New Curriculum for Wales. In July 2023 parents and carers were sent details of our INSPIRE curriculum and this has been followed up with in-person events in October 2022. Blackwood Primary's INSPIRE curriculum has been designed with the involvement of all key stakeholders. The four purposes are fully reflected in the design to ensure that our learners are ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy citizens. Health and wellbeing is a priority and learning environments at our school have been designed with this in mind. Further information for parents can be found at [220208-parents-carers.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)



Term Dates – reporting year 2021-2022

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2021	Thursday 2nd September 2021	Monday 25 th October 2021	Friday 29 th October 2021	Friday 17 th December 2021
Spring 2022	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Monday 21 st February 2022	Friday 25 th February 2022	Friday 8 th April 2022
Summer 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022	Monday 30 th May 2022	Friday 3 rd June 2022	Friday 22 nd July 2022

Term Dates – year ahead 2022-2023

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2022	Friday 2nd September 2022	Monday 31 st October 2022	Friday 4 th November 2022	Friday 23 rd December 2022
Spring 2023	Monday 9 th January 2023	Monday 20 th February 2023	Friday 24 th February 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023
Summer 2023	Monday 17 th April 2023	Monday 29 th May 2023	Friday 2 nd June 2023	Friday 21 st July 2023

Session Times

- Foundation Phase & Key Stage 2: 8:55am – 3:00pm
- Nursery: AM session, 8:55am - 11:15am PM session: 12:40am - 3:00pm

Inset Days

As per Welsh Government legislation the entitlement to a set number of non-teaching inset days forms part of the statutory 'School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (Wales) Document (STPC(W)D)'. Inset days are used for a variety of professional learning and school development activities. These activities may take place on the school premises with specialist external training consultants, off site via a variety of online mediums, or using prior worked Twilight sessions.

The decision on the dates of the inset days is made by each individual head teacher and will vary from school to school. They are sometimes governed by the availability of external training availability. Our inset days are notified to our school community in advance via our school Newsletter, school website and via the Caerphilly Council website."

Our Governing Body and Terms of Office

The Governing Body and the Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic management of the school. Whilst the Governing Body provides strategic leadership, challenge, and support, the Headteacher is responsible for internal organisation, management, and control of the school. The full Governing Body meets at least once a term, usually more frequently. In addition, sub-committees meet to discuss specific issues and report back to the Governing Body on a regular basis. School and LA policies are reviewed by the Governing Body each term on a rolling basis.

Type of Governor	Name
Clerk to Governors	Mr Lewis John
Headteacher / Pennaeth	Mrs Karen Davies
Community Gov appointed by GB / Cymunedol, penodwyd gan BLI	Rev Mark Thomas 13/10/2025 Mr Philip Diamond 05/07/2025 Mrs Claire Milton 13/10/2025 Mrs Catherine Ashcroft 13/10/2025 (Vice-chair)
LA Appointed / Penodwyd gan yr ALI	Mrs Zoe Lewis (Chair) Rev Heulwen Rees
Minor Authority / Man Awdurdod	Cllr Kirsty Williams 05/07/2026
Parent Representative / Cynrychiolydd Rhiant	Mr Richard Wilks 29/11/2022 Miss Sarah Jones 20/03/2023 Miss Aimee Jervis-Watkins 23/02/2024 Mr Mark Conant 27/06/2026 Ms Amy Osborne 27/06/2026
Staff Representative / Cynrychiolydd Staff	Mrs Kelly Morgan 18/05/2026
Teacher Representative /Cynrychiolydd Athrawon	Ms Hayley Davies 02/02/2026 Ms Kathy Lohmus 16/05/2026

Parent Governor Vacancies

When a vacancy for a parent governor becomes available, invitations for nominations will be sent home with every pupil and balloting will take place in accordance with statutory requirements.

Parent Meetings with the Governing Body

It is important that parents are able to engage with governing bodies on issues that matter to them, and parents may request up to 3 meetings in any school year with a governing body, on matters which are of concern to them. Further advice on this is available on the Welsh Government's website at: <https://gov.wales/parent-meetings-guidance-governing-bodies>. There were no parental petitions for meeting in the 2021-2022 academic year. To contact the Chair of Governors or the Clerk, please write or email the school using our address Blackwood Primary School, Apollo Way, Blackwood. NP12 1WA or email for the attention of the Chair of Governors to blkpa@caerphilly.gov.uk.

Governor Learning Walks

With the COVID restrictions eased, Summer Term 2022 gave the Governing Body an important opportunity to attend the school to undertake learning walks and engage with staff and pupils.

Governors were split into two groups and explored both the Early Years and Key Stage 2 learning environments. Checklists were completed to record the results of the learning and provide suggestions for improvement. The overall conclusion was that the learning environments, both indoor and outdoor were extremely impressive, Blackwood Primary's INSPIRE curriculum was evident throughout all classrooms and pupils were fully informed, aware of and engaged in their learning.

At the end of the learning walks governors had the opportunity to sit down with representatives from the Pupil Parliament. Pupils displayed the work that they had undertaken throughout the year, and it was absolutely wonderful to see the motivation and pride on their faces.



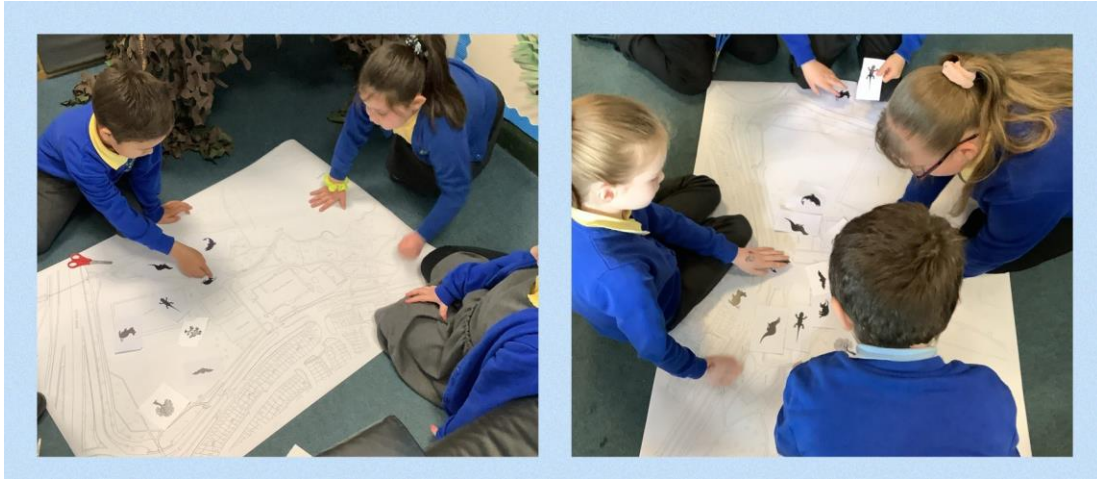
STEM Day

It was great to restart the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) day activities in school with our STEM link governor. Half day sessions were held with year 6 in April and year 3 in May this year. An introduction to engineering and the built environment was provided followed by a series of group activities based on a real project in South Wales. The project was linked with the summer term topics of living things and their habitats and human activities and their impacts on the natural world, with the presentation tailored to each year group.



The first activity tasked the groups to think about what types of plants and animals that may be present on site and after these were confirmed back to the group, they had to place where they would be found on site, using the large-scale printed plans. A discussion followed about the impact of the development on the wildlife and what needs to be considered as designers.

For the next activities, the project brief was explained further, including the provision of new football and rugby pitches together with floodlighting and a new internal swimming pool. Provided with scale cut outs of the proposed pitches, the groups were tasked about where the pitches were best placed to make the best use of the site and to avoid negative impacts on the wildlife. The third task involved further spatial planning to fit a new swimming pool within the existing building. The pupils were tasked with thinking outside the box but to consider the effects of the proposed solutions.



Finally, a discussion on energy use and reducing carbon was held and an experiment demonstrating the impact of improving insulation and air tightness was undertaken. This involved 4 jars – one control jar, one with insulation (a sock!), one with improved air tightness (the lid on) and one jar with both insulation and improved air tightness. The temperature of hot water in the jars was recorded at the start and after a time period. This helped the pupils understand how both insulation and air tightness helps against heat loss, reducing carbon and energy bills. Hopefully the pupils enjoyed the activities as much as us and show that STEM careers are for everyone. We look forward to meeting up with the STEM pupil ambassadors this academic year and linking a project to their term topics for the next STEM activities.

Financial Statement 2021-2022

OLAS	OUTTURN BUDGET 2021/2022
<u>EMPLOYEES</u>	£
<i>Sub Total</i>	1,569,123.66
<u>PREMISES RELATED</u>	
<i>Sub Total</i>	157,801.33
<u>SUPPLIES & SERVICES</u>	
<i>Sub Total</i>	103,829.41
<u>SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS</u>	
All Services	42,491.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,873,246.24
<u>INCOME</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	660,518.86
<u>NET EXPENDITURE</u>	1,212,727.38
<u>TOTAL SURPLUS/CONTINGENCY</u>	375,915.40
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,588,642.78
<u>TOTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL</u>	
<u>FUNDING</u>	
Formula Allocation (net of retro. adj)	1,339,813.63
Retrospective Adjustment from prev yr.	9,801.59
<i>Total Formula Allocation</i>	1,349,615.22
Total Carried Forward from prev. yr.	239,027.56
TOTAL FUNDING	1,588,642.78
<u>BUDGET SHORTFALL</u>	

Note: there were no payments made to governors for expenses. A gift was made to school through the PTFA. They had no business interest

School Attendance

Attendance remains a school priority. We have a full time Family Liaison Officer who focuses on prioritising attendance levels within school, working in collaboration with the Headteacher, Wellbeing lead and the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer. The Governing Body reviews attendance throughout the year and is pleased to see the continued emphasis from school this year, with our friend 'IOAN' the Dragon (Improve Our Attendance Now) making regular appearances at school.

Pupil Numbers on Roll

Nursery to Y6

Class	April Class Count 2022
Nursery	74
Reception	38
Year 1	41
Year 2	62
Year 3	47
Year 4	54
Year 5	62
Year 6	63
Total	441

Provision of and cleaning of school toilets and services

School toilets are cleaned daily at the end of the school day. Toilets are checked by staff and hygiene and cleaning issues are dealt with on a needs-led basis throughout the day. Facilities for disabled staff and pupils exist in the school.

School Development Plan – Priorities

2021/2022	Priority <i>Blaenoriaeth</i>
1	Embed professional learning and leadership in line with the National Mission.
2	Further develop Universal and targeted provision that supports all learners (including vulnerable pupils and those with ALN) in line with the Transformational Curriculum
3	Further develop collaboration of the school community in supporting and developing the wellbeing of all stakeholders.
4	Continue to engage in curriculum reform.

2022/2023	Priority <i>Blaenoriaeth</i>
1	To develop effective self-evaluation and school improvement with a focus on supportive professional learning for all staff.
2	Further develop pedagogy through universal provision and the Blackwood INSPIRE curriculum
3	Use ALN reform and well-being and equity to develop school processes to identify and support learners that need targeted provision.
4	To fully engage with the transformational curriculum to prepare BPS for Curriculum for Wales.

Welsh Language Provision Datblygu'r Iaith Cymraeg

The Criw Cymraeg meet on a regular basis. This year they helped to change the display in the main hall to showcase different Welsh artists with contributions from each year group. The Criw also helped to organise this year's St David's Day / Dydd Gwyl Dewi celebrations where certificates were awarded for challenges set in different categories such as cooking and creative tasks. To promote the use of Welsh Language in the classroom, weekly certificates, designed by Criw Cymraeg, have been awarded to the best Welsh speaker in each class. All year groups have a 'Cwtsh Cymraeg' where Welsh books, magazines, dictionaries, language mats and activities are incorporated to make Welsh learning fun. We also have a map of Wales where year groups will be given mini projects to complete and present e.g. castles, places and people.

Extra-curricular clubs

Due to COVID restrictions there were limits on extra-curricular activities during the 2021-22 academic year. However, school were able to commence Taekwando and Football clubs during the summer term. The Autumn term of 2022 has started with a full and exciting suite of extra-curricular clubs which has been extremely popular with all pupils. The Governing Body would like to extend a big thank you to the school for their work in offering these opportunities which help to stimulate pupils learning and improve social skills.

School Events & Community Engagement

- Whole school parents open day
- Whole school Charity Days – Children in Need, Red Nose Day
- Ukraine – liaison with local organisations to arrange a collection of donated items to be sent to the people of Ukraine.
- NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe Programme.
- Inspire Blackwood Radio Station.
- Eco Committee – Great Big School Clean Up.
- Fire Service visit.
- Nursery – visits from the Owl Sanctuary, Tonto the Tortoise and Nugget the chicken.
- Reception – visit from the Owl Sanctuary, local Blackwood environment walks.
- Y1 – local Library visits.
- Y2 - Blackwood Rotary Club visit, Asda community food donations.
- Y3 – International student virtual visits.
- Y4 - Roots of Empathy, St Fagans virtual visit, Sirhowy River summer visit, Techniquet trip.
- Y4-6 Music lessons – Flute/Saxophone/Ukelele.
- Y5 & 6 Bronze Ambassador Training.
- Y6 - Active Minds Programme, Swimming, residential trips to PGL.

Sports Events

- Girls & Boys football tournament
- South Wales Tennis Finals
- Gwent Cricket finals
- Athletics
- Hockey event
- Whole school Sports Day

Final Message

Pupil voice is very important at Blackwood Primary School so we would like to end this report with messages from our Head Girl and Head Boy for the academic year 2021-22.

Message from Head Girl:

Hi, my name is Molly and I left Blackwood primary school in 2022. I'm going to be telling you about my time as head girl in year 6. Being head girl was a really great experience and was a lot of hard work.

Some of my responsibilities were doing presentations, representing the school in front of governors, visitors, and staff. There were a lot of perks that went with being head girl. I got to do special jobs for the headteacher, for example doing the SERYN YR WYTHNOS (star of the week) and giving them out to the children after.

Also on foodie Fridays in year 5 and 6, I would get to go around, take orders and sometimes cook the food. I am very proud to have been the head girl of Blackwood Primary.

Message from Head Boy:

Being Head Boy was the highlight of my time at Blackwood Primary. It gave me responsibility and so many opportunities to develop leadership skills, I think this is why I felt confident to put my name forward and win the vote for Form Captain. I worked with lots of different teachers and governors, and I felt like I had a voice in the school.

I loved all of my teachers, even though two of those years were disrupted with COVID. My favourite time was a Friday when my teacher in Year four, Mrs Davies, phoned me to see how I was and to have a chat. My favourite learning journey was in Year three, creating the Formula One journey which allowed me to compete in Swansea. Me and my friends still talk about that, we thought we were the new Top Gear hosts! The radio station was my all time favourite and I loved helping the younger children of the school learn how to use all the tech equipment! I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Year 6 Leavers assembly! We all had so much fun when we all were feeling sad about leaving Blackwood Primary.

United we Empower, Nurture, Challenge will stay with me forever! I loved being a pupil of Blackwood Primary School and I hope the new Head Boy enjoys his role as much as me!

Diolch, Theo Thomas