



"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."

"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

Blackwood Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents 2022-2023 Adroddiad Blynyddol y Llywodraethwyr i Rieni 2022-2023

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 proud to present the 2022-23 Governors Annual Report to Parents.

Teaching staff at Blackwood Primary have continued to deliver excellent progress on developing Blackwood Primary's Inspire curriculum, ensuring that it fully meets the needs of all pupils. Further improvements to the pupils' learning environment have continued throughout the year with extra flower and vegetable planting areas at the front of the school and a wonderful transformation of the forest school area at the bottom of the school yard. The school continues to deliver as a Regional Lead Pioneer school, working hard to lead the way in embedding the new Curriculum for Wales. We also continued to welcome students from Cardiff Metropolitan University in our role as Lead School. In March of this year the School had a very successful visit from Education Advisory Services where they conducted a Celebrate, Support, Share, Refine visit to the school. Feedback was extremely positive and the team were impressed by the confidence of Blackwood Primary Learners and the pride that they have in their school environment.

It has been wonderful to see parents back at school for a full programme of book looks, parent consultations, family/community workshops, sports day and PTA events. Next year we will be working hard with the school to improve communication with parent, carers and the community. You will have already received some information about the parent/carers forum to be introduced in September and we look forward to working with you all on that.

We ended the year with an absolutely fantastic school fete, the first in a long time at Blackwood Primary. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Friends at Blackwood for all the hard work and dedication that went into making it such a successful event. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces around the school. The fete included some fantastic sale and game stalls, a bouncy castle, ice cream van and a visit from the Police and Fire Service. All money raised will go toward creating more exciting events at Blackwood primary and towards improving the learning environment for all children.

Please head over to the School's wonderful new website which now holds all the information you need about the school, including a fantastic new events calendar which can be downloaded for your convenience.

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.



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

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 2023, was 416, which includes nursery provision. For the 22-23 academic year, Blackwood Primary School had 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 2023, 4.40% of pupils used English as an additional language. 34% of our children were eligible for free school meals (Y1-Y6). Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) have their needs met through either universal or targeted support in line with the new Welsh Government ALN Act.

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 October 2023 in person events were held at school on the INSPIRE curriculum, as part of the 'Meet the Teacher' days. 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 2022-2023

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

Term Dates – year ahead 2023-2024

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Term Ends	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2023	Friday 1st September 2023	Monday 30th October 2023	Friday 3rd November 2023	Friday 22nd December 2023	
Spring 2024	Monday 8th January 2024	Monday 12th February 2024	Friday 16th February 2024	Friday 22nd March 2024	
Summer 2024	Monday 8th April 2024	Monday 27th May 2024	Friday 31st May 2024	Friday 19th July 2024	

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 outlined in the [National Professional Learning Entitlement](#), Blackwood Primary School support the professional learning of all staff to further develop reflective, enquiring and collaborative education professionals and a culture of mutual responsibility in relation to professional learning. Time allocated to INSET is used effectively to develop staff within the context of [schools as learning organisations](#).



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n-ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

The INSET sessions at Blackwood Primary School may take place on the school premises, off site via a variety of online mediums, or using prior worked Twilight sessions. Professional learning for staff is linked to school priorities as detailed in the school development plan as well as covering the mandatory training required.

INSET sessions in 2022/2023 focused on the development of the Curriculum for Wales through our INSPIRE curriculum and self evaluation processes, further work towards the ALN reform and well being and equity procedures and practices.

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 Andy Baker 10/02/2027 Mr Philip Diamond 05/07/2025 Mrs Claire Milton 13/10/2025 Mrs Catherine Ashcroft 13/10/2025 (Chair)
LA Appointed / Penodwyd gan yr ALI	Mr Richard Wilks (Vice-chair) Rev Heulwen Rees
Parent Representative / Cynrychiolydd Rhiant	Mr Chris Owen 06/11/2026 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.



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n-ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

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 2022-2023 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 blackwoodprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk.

Governor Interaction

This year, our governors have been hands on in school through a variety of activities including class talks, Assemblies, Concerts and STEM activities. Here are some examples from Heulwen, Andy and Richard.

Heulwen:

As part of my role as a governor in this school I was delighted to visit year 4 children in the Autumn term. At a previous governor meeting I'd noticed they had been researching the word "Advent", and what it meant. So, I was delighted to come along and bring a large model of a Christingle Orange to share with them the story of what a Christingle service is all about. They were brilliant – they knew so much! Recently I was in again to take assemblies for reception to year 2 and year 3 to 6. Different time of year, different theme, now it was all about the world they lived in and caring for all around. This time I told them the story of the star fish (Sea Star) and although as individuals we don't think we can make a difference to our world, if we all work together, we can.

You can be assured that children of this school are the BEST! - (as a previous teacher of this school, I might be biased.)



Blackwood Pri
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

Andy:

I became a new Governor in 2023, but before I was appointed I was asked as the new minister at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Blackwood, to take the Harvest assembly. It was a full school hall with loads of food brought to support the local food bank. The children had learned poems and songs, which were awesome! I was able to watch the enthusiastic singing, and then I brought about 10 children to the front.

I divided a large water melon, very unequally between these children. One small child received a full half of the melon and the biggest boy had just a morsel. The faces revealed the unfairness of the 'sharing' and children were rightly cross.

I used the illustration to talk about the poverty and unfairness of world wealth and food distribution, and about how the richer nations take far more than the fair share of the world's harvest.



I was also pleased to host the children at our church for the Christmas concerts which were very well attended and full of great songs – ancient and modern.



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

Richard:

Our STEM link governor held a session with Year 6 pupils in November linking engineering and science to the topic of materials and matter that the pupils were studying. States of matter were explored and discussed with hands on examples of solids, liquids and gases with children literally bouncing off the walls acting as gas. How materials change from one state to another were discussed with reference to boiling, freezing and melting. Elastic, plastic and natural materials were examined and the processes involved to improve material properties.

Groups then undertook a final experiment involving solids (plastic bottle), liquids (oil, food colouring and water) and a gas (utilising a vitamin tablet) to create lava lamps.

Pupils found out that oil and water don't mix and water is more dense than oil, thus keeping the oil on top. They then witnessed the vitamin tablet change from a solid to a gas through a chemical reaction with the water with the bubbles floating up through the oil as they are less dense. The real-life properties of density were discussed with examples given of floats helping people swim. Where appropriate, this was further explored into engineering uses, such as dense concrete in marine environments to anchor things like wind turbines to the seabed.



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n-ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

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 active role that pupil leadership take to contribute towards this priority.

Pupil Numbers on Roll

Nursery to Y6

Class	April Class Count 2023
Nursery	63
Reception	49
Year 1	40
Year 2	38
Year 3	59
Year 4	48
Year 5	55
Year 6	64
Total	416



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n-ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

Financial statement 2022/2023

OLAS	OUTTURN BUDGET 2022/2023
EMPLOYEES	£
Teachers	975,402.07
Support Staff	527,643.00
Other Staff related costs	203,275.62
Sub Total	1,706,320.69
PREMISES RELATED	
Building Maintenance	49,843.55
Grounds Maintenance	
Gas	14,943.28
Electricity	11,765.05
Rates	29,692.50
Water	5,410.32
Cleaning Contract	31,914.64
Cleaning Materials	2,620.94
Refuse Collection	11,219.88
Insurance	9,055.08
S.Units/H. Driers/C. Hygiene	1,572.55
Fire Fixtures	71.46
CCTV	350.00
Alarms	1,723.41
Sub Total	170,182.66
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	
Computer Costs	9,865.22
Furniture	1,448.63
Postage	
Capitation/Stationary	46,575.53
Medical	560.40
Licences	866.72
Music Support Services	5,710.95
Telephone Charges	1,024.48
Photocopying	10,330.80
Transport Hire / Swimming	4,597.60
Uniform/Protective clothing	84.99
Activities / Trips	9,864.68
Long Service Award	
Exam Fees	
School Meals / Foods	3,383.37
Data Protection costs	60.00
In Year Clawback SEN	
Sub Total	94,373.37
All Services	36,751.06
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,007,627.78

INCOME	
Reimbursement School Meals	8,231.27
Supply Compensation	41,268.32
LA Income	75,511.08
Miscellaneous (Not vatable)	19,577.50
Rent	
Donations	410.90
EIG/PDG Funding	264,229.00
Grant Funding	139,340.48
GTC & other training grants	45,041.00
LEA Fees	
Cashiers Over / Under	
Early Years Funding	
Retrospective Funding Other	
TOTAL INCOME	593,609.55
NET EXPENDITURE	1,414,018.23
TOTAL SURPLUS/CONTINGENCY	350,918.65
TOTAL	1,764,936.88
TOTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL	
FUNDING	
Formula Allocation (net of retro. adj)	1,373,986.45
Retrospective Adjustment from prev. yr.	15,035.02
Total Formula Allocation	1,389,021.48
Total Carried Forward from prev. yr.	375,915.40
TOTAL FUNDING	1,764,936.88
BUDGET SHORTFALL	

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



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

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.

Blackwood Primary School is proud to be part of the Welsh Government Period Dignity Plan. We have free period products available for pupils if required. We ensure that our toilets have accessible period products for anyone who needs them.

School Development Plan – Priorities 2022-23

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.



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

**"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n-ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."**

Welsh Language Provision Datblygu'r Iaith Cymraeg

Blackwood Primary is committed to improving the Welsh used within school. The Criw Cymraeg meet on a regular basis to support us in this aim. Once again they helped to make this year's St David's Day / Dydd Gwyl Dewi celebrations a success, where certificates were awarded for challenges set in different categories such as cooking and creative tasks. The Criw Cymraeg wrote the school prayer this year and taught us all through weekly assemblies. They also gave us phrases to learn and use incidentally. All year groups have a 'Cwtsh Cymraeg' where Welsh books, magazines, dictionaries, language mats and activities are incorporated to make Welsh learning fun.

Healthy Eating, Drinking and Living

Blackwood Primary works hard to promote the importance of good nutrition and healthy eating and drinking. Pupils are asked to bring only healthy food and drink into school and water and milk is readily available to all pupils throughout the day. A daily healthy snack is available for a small fee of £1 per week and all pupils are encouraged to take up the offer of Free School Meals which is available for all year groups at Blackwood Primary from September 2024.

Healthy living is embedded within Blackwood's Inspire curriculum, for example, vegetable growing in the school allotments, nutritious cooking activities, forest school, outdoor learning, weekly PE sessions and cycle safety training. A range of extra-curricular activities that promote healthy living are also on offer to all pupils, such as after school cookery clubs, a wide range of sporting clubs and tournament opportunities that are available throughout the school year.

Extra-curricular clubs

Extra-curricular clubs were back in full swing this academic year and it has been lovely to see the range of extra-curricular activities available to the pupils, from Cooking to Lego and STEM to Yoga. Taekwondo, Football and multi-sports were also delivered by external agencies. 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

Here are just some examples of the events and community engagement that the pupils have been involved with this year:

- Meet the teacher and Curriculum Design open day.
- Whole school Charity Days – Children in Need, Red Nose Day, Anti-bullying week.
- Celebration of Harvest, donating good to local food banks.
- Whole school local library visits.



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

- After school clubs including lego, craft and cooking.
- Look at a Book

The following PTA Events were held:

- Disco's, Supper with Santa
- Inspirational Women's Day
- Inspirational Men's Day
- School Summer fete.

Trips and visits included:

- Nursery – Visit from Animal Interactions, picnic and games hour, butterfly release.
- Reception – visit to Raglan Farm and making plum jam.
- Y1 – Visit to Collier Farm, butterfly release and nurturing stick insects.
- Y2 - Visit to Dunraven Castle, working with Blackwood Rotary Club and Asda community to create an amazing outdoor space.
- Y3 – Visit to The Wild Place Project
- Y4 - West Midland Safari Park and City Sleepover.
- Y5 PGL Brecon, intensive swimming course, Heddlu Bach, mini Olympics with Blackwood Comprehensive
- Y6 Llangranog, Visit from International HeadTeachers

Sports Events

Pupils have been involved in a huge amount of sporting events this year, thank you to Mr Grandin for making those happen. We are so proud of the successful Year Blackwood Primary has had:

- Whole school Sports Day

Companies that came into school:

- Dragons rugby - year 6
- Chance to shine cricket - reception to year 6
- Taekwondo - after school club
- Rhiannon Henry - athlete visit for whole school

Sporting fame 2022/23



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

Event	Result
Netball cluster league	Winner
Football cluster league	Qualified for finals day
Cross country	Winner (year 6)
Game on girls football	Winner
Netball final day	4 th placed out of all Caerphilly schools
Football final day	3 rd in group stage
Year 3 boys tennis	Winner
Year 3 girls tennis	2 nd place
Year 4 boys tennis	Winner
Year 4 girls tennis	Winner
Year 5 boys tennis	Winner
Year 5 girls tennis	4 th place
Year 6 boys tennis	Winner
Year 6 girls tennis	Winner
Golf	2 nd place
Rugby with Newport Dragons	3 rd in group
Boys rugby with the Urdd	Quarter finalists
Girls rugby with the Urdd	Quarter finalists
Year 3&4 cricket	Festival (no winner)
Year 5&6 boys cricket	Festival (no winner)
Year 5&6 girls cricket	Festival (no winner)
Athletics	N/A
Hockey	Festival (no winners)
Year 3 boys South Wales Final Day	4 th on the day
Year 4 boys South Wales Final Day	3 rd on the day
Year 4 girls South Wales Final Day	7 th on the day
Year 5 boys South Wales Final Day	8 th on the day
Year 6 boys South Wales Final Day	8 th on the day
Year 6 girls South Wales Final Day	6 th on the day
Girls football world cup	Festival (no winner)
Game of girls football	Runner up



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfog i feithrin a herio."

Final Message

Pupil voice is integral to our success at Blackwood Primary School. Therefore, we would like to conclude this report with a message from our Pupil Leadership team for the academic year 2022-23.

Message from the Pupil Leadership

It's been a pleasure working as Pupil Leadership in Blackwood Primary School and we have thoroughly enjoyed our time here. We will miss everyone here, both the pupils and the teachers. Our time together has been very enjoyable, and we are sad that we have to leave; but we are certainly looking forward to comprehensive school. It will be a new experience for all of us. We have achieved many things in our wonderful school, some of them include renovating the House Points system and hosting the Buddy Bench competition. We have also hosted a charity day with events like a bake sale and a staff car wash. The charity day was to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation. We will definitely miss our amazing teachers, another thing we will miss our weekly assemblies and announcing the house points and attendance. One of the best bits about being in the pupil leadership team is the people, the experience and challenges.

Diolch, Thank you.

Henri, Chloe, Alicia, Gracie, Jacob, Krystal, Mason, Millie, Imogen and Ruby

Message from the Head Boy & Head Girl

It's been a pleasure being Head Boy and Girl this year, and we've really enjoyed the experience. We have boosted pupil voice massively and we had a big influence on wellbeing. We have also given a presentation of our amazing school in front of Dutch Head Teachers. We would like to thank all the teachers and staff of Blackwood Primary, we loved our time here.

Henri & Alicia

