

Gilwern School

Governors'

Annual Report to Parents

Academic Year September 2023 - July 2024



Gilwern Primary School
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GILWERN PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURTURE - EMPOWER - ACHIEVE

Dear Families,

The Education Act (No.2) 1986 requires all Governing Bodies to prepare an Annual Report on their work. This attached report is a summary of the excellent work and outstanding achievements of the school during the academic year 2023-2024.

Under the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 the Governing Body is no longer required to hold a meeting for the purpose of discussing the attached positive report. However, if 5% of parents wish to request a meeting in writing then one can be convened.

Our experience from previous years indicated that parents contact members of the Governing Body freely during the course of the year and this more informal approach works well.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Davies QPM, B.Sc. Dip. App. Soc. Sc
Chair of Governors



Gilwern Primary School
NURTURE EMPOWER ACHIEVE

Vision

Our children will be nurtured and empowered to be independent with a core sense of wellbeing enabling and maximising their achievement.

Mission

Our CLIMB curriculum ensures learners are:
Creative, life long learners who are independent, motivated and belong and contribute to our community.

Aims

The whole school community aims to develop individuals who are:
Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.

Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.



Learning and Teaching

Academic Year 2023-2024

Our newly appointed headteacher focussed on developing and embedding the teacher habits of: rigour, challenge, probing, innovation and joy. This has ensured consistency in teaching and learning across the primary phase. Following staff training and staff meetings the planning process is clearly defined and consistent across the school. Learning journeys are purposeful and mapped from a 'big question' that guides learning experiences. Learners initiate interests and questions to support the learning theme. Learning outcomes are clear and anchored in an authentic context. Questions such as 'What impact can children have on the world around them? Can all mysteries be solved? And where would we be without imagination?' these broad engaging questions allow for learner interests to be harnessed and for practitioners to provide a broad and purposeful learning experience that builds on prior knowledge and skills development.

Teachers have engaged well with professional learning opportunities and have worked collaboratively with a range of partners to secure their understanding of effective lesson planning. Learning time is maximised through clear routines. Many teachers have a good understanding of what a good lesson should include and demonstrate pace, skilful questioning, and clear differentiation in their lessons. School leaders continue to work closely with staff to ensure consistency across the school. Progressive literacy and numeracy working walls are evident in all classrooms which support learning effectively. Learners are more confident in sharing their learning experiences. Learners are able to talk with confidence about how they read and the broad range of strategies that support them.

Attendance

Target 95.5%

Whole School - 94.4%

FSM - 93.5%

ALN - 92%

EAL - 92.3%

eFSM - 93.5%

eLAC - 86.3%

Ethnic Minority - 92.9%

Forces - 95.4%

IDP - 92.2%



Curriculum for Wales

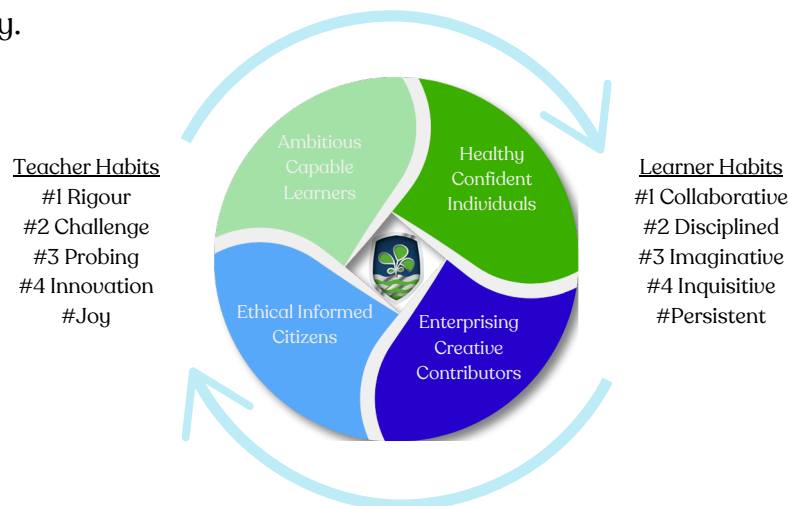


Our CLIMB curriculum is everything our learners experience in pursuit of the four purposes. We plan learning themes that support the development of knowledge, skills and experiences through our interdisciplinary approach where possible and ensure appropriate pace and progression for our learners. Our Gilwern community involvement enhances quality of learning for all children. A shared responsibility for the community and world around us is central to our vision, aims and objectives. Our community is the golden thread through our curriculum offer.

Adults, experiences and environments enable highly effective practice and provision encouraging breadth and balance in learning through which we achieve our purpose. Our research informed, reflective and responsive teaching and learning strategy enables the development of positive learning and teaching habits.

In improving, we are not collecting tools, we are seeking to change our habits... the things we do automatically every day.

(Dylan William)



Our curriculum offer is learner initiated, with learners ideas, questions and curiosity leading pedagogical development. Practitioners harness learner engagement and plan for knowledge and skills development within the six areas of learning: Health & Wellbeing, Languages, Literacy & Communication, Mathematics & Numeracy, Science & Technology, Expressive Arts and Humanities. Health & Wellbeing, Languages, Literacy & Communication, Mathematics & Numeracy remain a constant focus with each term taking a lead from the remaining areas of learning. Following each school holiday learners undertake a 'back 2 basics' learning approach to revise and reinforce learning and ensuring wellbeing is a focus to settle back into school routine.

Assessment and progression is part of your child's every day learning. Together with the teachers and teaching assistants in their classroom they will gain a deeper understanding of their next steps in learning and develop as learner. There will be a blend of formative and summative assessments.

This will focus on ensuring that all pupils understand where they are and what they need to do next in order to progress. The blend also includes a transition to online Personalised Assessments from National Tests.

Autumn Term Focus	Spring Term Focus	Summer Term Focus
Humanities	Expressive Arts	Science & Technology



Gilwern Primary

School Development Plan Priorities

2023-2024

Our development plan priorities are based on school self-evaluation using our teacher habits (Rigor, Challenge, Probing, Innovation & Joy), the National Resource: Evaluation & Improvement prompts and guidance, Welsh Government, Local Authority priorities and Estyn recommendations.

Each element of our School Development Plan has priorities that are linked to grant funding, evaluation of progress and the needs of our learners and the continuing professional development of our staff. Through our rigorous self-evaluation processes, we have developed our School Development Plan so that there is a 'Golden Thread' and improvement is cohesive. We are collectively building on our CLIMB Curriculum design and development and our shared understanding of learner progress is a priority within our school and the cluster.

Priority 1 Learning & Teaching
To develop teaching practices to ensure progress and challenge for all
Priority 2 Standards
To embed pedagogy to improve reading and writing skills throughout the school
To review and develop the teaching of mathematics to raise standards in learner procedural fluency
Priority 3 Leadership
To develop the new leadership team to ensure the school vision is realised
Priority 4 Safeguarding & Family and Community Engagement
Improve the site safety issue that was identified during the inspection
Develop community and family engagement to support learner wellbeing and realise curriculum vision

Creative, life long learners, who are independent, motivated and belong to our community

*Together we **CLIMB***

Estyn Recommendations:

R1 Improve teaching, particularly for pupils from Year 3 to Year 6

R2 Improve pupils' reading and writing skills, especially from Year 3 to Year 6

R3 Improve processes to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of teaching

R4 Address the site safety issue that was identified during the inspection

As reported in December 2023 Estyn's review of Gilwern Primary School's progress deemed that the school had made sufficient progress towards the recommendations and no follow up is required.

The Governing body continue to strive for Gilwern Primary to be the best it can be and welcomes support from the local authority and consortia to support whole school improvement. The Governors are very proud of the learners, staff and community for all their dedication and hard work ensuring that whole school improvement is a continuous ongoing process.



Staffing

The school has a Headteacher, six full time teachers, five part time teachers, eleven support staff and one peripatetic music specialist. Curriculum teams reflecting the areas of learning experience of Curriculum for Wales are established, enabling staff to collaborate to improve standards for all. Support staff are integral to the foundation of Gilwern Primary School and their role in developing learners to reach their full potential is vital. The school has the services of two administrative officers and a full time caretaker and part-time cleaner. These play a vital role in the day to day operation of the school.

Transition

The schools that Year 6 children moved on to at the end of the last academic year were as follows:

King Henry VIII - 3 children

Crickhowell High School - 26 children

Home School - 1 child

We work closely with our secondary schools to ensure a smooth transition from Year 6 at Gilwern Primary School to Year 7 at the secondary school. Links between the schools have been forged and many opportunities have been developed to further aid transition from primary to secondary education.

We continue to work very closely with the pre-schools in the local area to ensure that the transition for those children starting at Gilwern Primary School is made as smooth as possible. This includes the children attending taster days, Christmas Concert and transition days including staying for lunch. This year we have hosted several open days for parents to come and explore the learning prior to choosing Gilwern Primary School.



Learner Voice & Activities

The learner voice groups are as follows:

- Senedd - links to leadership
- Values Ambassadors - promoting whole school values
- Digital Leaders - supporting skills development and promoting digital citizenship
- Super School Squad - Promoting healthy life styles and wellbeing
- Get Out Doors Group - enhancing our outdoors and connecting with the local community
- Eco Warriors - leading environmental practices to maintain platinum flag status
- Criw Cymraeg - promoting and developing welsh language and culture
- Good to Give - supporting charity through Gilwern Around the World

Learners are able to choose which group they would like to be part of and as a collective voice they create an action plan which is shared with the whole school. Half termly meetings allow for regular updates and evaluation of their goals and targets. All the groups have had a positive impact in improving their chosen area of improvement.

Criw Cymraeg
supported welsh
language
development
through
fortnightly
assemblies

Senedd -
supported the
appointment of
the new Deputy
Head Teacher

Get out Doors
Have focussed work
on developing the
school farm space
and working with
businesses to get
equipment

Eco Warriors -
achieved the
platinum Eco
Schools status.

Values
Ambassadors -
held monthly
assemblies to
share the focus
value

Digital Leaders
Have supported
and promoted
online safety
across the
school

Super School Squad
Ensured healthy
eating remains a
whole school focus

Good to Give
Have planned
events to support
Gilwern
Association of
Parents



Learner voice is an integral part of the day to day learning and through regular opportunities for classroom reflection learners initiate classroom based learning and feed into whole school learning themes and events.

Community Links

Governors recognise that Gilwern Primary School continues to value the importance of developing community links through visits, assemblies, inviting visitors into school, concerts, and special events. They involve pupils in the local community, not only to enrich their education but also so that they learn how to participate in a practical way in the life and concerns of their neighbourhood and communities. Working with parents, local residents, the business community, public services, and voluntary services continues and teaches the children to become ethically informed citizens.

Healthy Schools

Healthy Eating and Drinking Gilwern Primary School has remained during 2023-2024. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. All learners are able to use their water bottles, from Reception onwards. Learners are encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables at play time. Other unhealthy snacks are not permitted. A choice of healthy meals are prepared and cooked on the school premises by our kitchen staff. These are prepared in line with Monmouthshire and Welsh Government catering guidelines around healthy eating. Special diets and food allergies can be catered for. Beakers of water are also provided for the children. Our universal provision of Free School Meals to all our pupils was successfully rolled out in 2022-2023 and there has been an increase in seen since this in learners taking up free school meals. Upper learning phase worked closely with the local authority catering department to support the sourcing of locally grown vegetables to be cooked for school meals.



Organisation & Contact Information

Hopscotch Childcare - After School Club - £8.50 per session

Manager : Miss R Knights

Contact: gilwern.childcare-online-booking.co.uk

Hopscotch Nursery	Ms. V Trevett Tel: 07935335663
Hopscotch Nursery is a <u>committee run</u> charity offering high quality childcare in a warm and friendly atmosphere for children from 2 1/2 years old within the grounds of <u>Gilwern Primary School</u> .	
Opening hours are 9:00-3:00 Monday-Friday term time only.	
In <u>addition</u> sessional care is available from 9:00-12:00 for <u>pre school</u> children and 12:45-3:00 for younger children.	

Governance

As in previous years, meetings of the Governing Body have taken place at regular intervals, At each meeting governors considered the Headteacher's report on the school and its work, as well as reports from sub-committees of the Governing Board on specific and wider issues. In addition to these formal meetings, Governors have supported the schools monitoring and evaluating processes including learning walks, listening to learners and monitoring books. Governors have participated in the county sponsored programme of training.

Name

Bryan Davies - Chair Person
CC Grahame Nelmes - Vice Chairperson
Brady Edwards - Headteacher
CC Richard Dixon
Jayne Jones
Eleanor Lewis
Dr. Rachel Callender-Davies
Chante Whatley
Chris Bridges
Michael Crocket
Karen Burton
Bethan Welford
Amy Green

Category

Community Governor
LA

Community Council
LA
Parent Rep.
Community Governor
LA
Parent Rep.
Parent Rep.
Community Governor
Teacher Rep.
Support Staff Rep



Financial Statement 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

Grant	Amount
EIG	£73,894
PL	£13,499
PDG	£20,700
EYPDG	£3450
WEG	£1089
RRRs	£12,194
ALN implementation	£5087
Creative Thinking Work	£2000
HLTA Assessor	£360
Writing Revolution	£1400
Grant Total	£147,172

Total Grants 2021-2022 £176,495

Total Grants 2022- 2023 £147,717

As part of the total income the school received the following grants; Education Improvement Grant (EIG), Pupil Development Grant (PDG), Early Years Pupil Development Grant (EYPDG), Welsh Education Grant (WEG) and Professional Learning Grant (PL). These grants were subsequently costed to provide pedagogical provision, resources and training. Costs are placed against the grants and this is monitored with the Governing Body and Local Authority to ensure they are used appropriately. Gilwern's EAS appointed School Improvement Partner takes a high level overview and approves the grant allocation aligned to the Welsh Government guidelines. The school budget is overseen monthly by the finance team at Monmouthshire County Council and is monitored by the Governor finance committee. No gifts are identified for this financial year and no member of the governing body claimed travel or subsistence.



Additional Information

Equal Opportunities

The Governing Body has a commitment to promoting equality and it seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against. The Governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment provides access for all. Every effort is made by the school to develop respect, tolerance and understanding.

Additional Learning Needs

The school ALNCo. closely monitors progress of those children who are experiencing difficulty with any aspect of their education. Gilwern School is an inclusive school and has made good progress to ensuring provision meets the needs of all learners.

Assessment

Assessment of learners within school takes a blend of approaches including practical assessments and personalised assessment tests available from Welsh government. Teaching and learning moves forward using both summative and formative assessment processes. The school follows a blended approach of standardised testing and teacher based assessments to track progression with each child's progress being discussed with the senior leadership team on a termly basis.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Parents had the opportunity to discuss how learners have settled into school via a telephone appointment in October 2023 and in person during the spring term. During these discussions progress and personalised targets were shared with parents. . Finally, in the summer term a report was sent to parents and parents were given a further opportunity to discuss their child(ren)'s progress. Along with the report the school offered parents the opportunity to feedback on reporting processes to help the self evaluation process and ensure reporting is effective for all stakeholders.

Gilwern's Association of Parents

An active and innovative Parent's Association continue to support the school. Volunteers are needed to help for future events, for more information please go to the following website:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gilwernprimary>



Policies Adopted in 2023-24

During the year the Governing Body adopted a number of policies. Statutory policies must be reviewed and adopted annually by every school's governing body. They detail processes in key areas of the school's work.

Provision of Toilet Facilities

Age appropriate toilet facilities are in place for Reception, Y1- 2, Y3-6. There are two staff toilets and one disabled toilet. The cleaners work through the whole school each day, including the toilets.

Meetings held following a parental petition

No meetings were held under Section 94 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Arrangements for Next Election of Parent Governors

When an existing parent governor comes to the end of their term of office, or if they resign mid- term, the school will hold a ballot to elect a new parent governor. At that time, the school will write to all parents advising of the ballot and seeking nominations for prospective candidates from the parent body.

