

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Governors' Report to Parents



2024/2025

An Introduction from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

The governors and all the school team are fully committed to providing a caring and nurturing environment for all your children adopting an inclusive approach to meeting their unique needs. St Mary's, with its strong Catholic faith-based ethos focussing on a 'person-centred thinking' approach across the whole school, understands the varying needs of each child and values and strives to develop their personal individuality.

This strategy has proven to be successful based on developing individual learning plans and objectives (value-adding steps) for each of your children recognising that everyone's learning starting point is not the same but helping them on that road to achieve their full potential. The school continues a process of ongoing critical self-evaluation along with adopting an evidence-based approach to identifying key areas of whole school academic learning improvement. This helps the wider school team, supported by specialist educational advisors along with the school governors, to agree and formulate key focus elements to be included in the current and future School Improvement Plan.

Philip Leddy (Chair of Governors)

Plan to reorganise Catholic Education in Flintshire

As you are all now aware, earlier this year a joint proposal from the Diocese of Wrexham and Flintshire Local Authority was formally communicated which involves the closure of our school along with St Davids, Mold, and their subsequent amalgamation within a new All Through School (pupils 3-18) to be built on the St Richard Gwyn site and due to open in 2030.

We have now entered a third phase where feedback has been received on the impact of this proposal from all stakeholders and is currently being evaluated by the consulting

body before a final decision is made in January 2026 on whether the proposal is accepted or not.

Without a doubt, we have truly reached a fundamental crossroads in Catholic Education and are faced with a momentous and radical proposal affecting the future of all our local Catholic schools and our children.

The number of children at St Mary's has increased over the past four years clearly highlighting the excellent standing of St Mary's as the "school of choice" for local Parents/Carers. As governors we recognise and remain committed to protect the unique nature of your school.

Earlier this year, we as governors held an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss, debate and make known collective views on this proposal to the consultation group just as I am sure many of you have also done.

Review of School Improvement Plan (2024-25)

Last academic year, the team widened the scope of key improvement opportunities by reviewing the results from our ongoing self-evaluation process. The outcome of that latest review was to place special focus on enhancing whole school higher-order language skills along with seeking to improve the digital competency of all our pupils recognising how this area of learning is becoming increasingly important and relevant in all aspects of today's society.

We also continue to embrace and develop our distinctive Catholic learning ethos with a special focus on developing the value of pupil-led prayer and liturgy along with a continuing recognition of the importance and value-adding benefits in expanding our range of outdoor learning initiatives across the whole of the school.

To support the delivery of this plan, we appointed link governors for each of the four priorities who worked directly with the designated school teams to help monitor progress and provide constructive feedback along with funding resources when needed.

The following reflects on the school's progress on the SIP objectives to date and a realistic reflection that further work is still required.

Priority 1: DCF: To ensure that clear progression in digital competency is planned for and pupils improve in digital competency across the curriculum

Key actions:

- The school has adopted and adapted a skills map that is shared across the cluster.
- The school has introduced a DCF tracker to identify where digital skills are being used across the curriculum and where there were gaps.
- Investment in CPD - external speakers have trained staff on use of physical devices - Spheros, Micro:bits all introduced this year
- Training on e-portfolios. We introduced different types of e-portfolios to different aged pupils (based on good practice seen at another school).
- Staff training on Adobe, J2E and Hwb apps via Hwb Digifest and Adobe online training
- Purchase of Chromebooks and iPads

Impact of actions:

- Staff know what skills to be teaching at which progression steps and DCF tracker ensures coverage across the AOLEs. Pupils develop skills in a progressive way. Pupils are given opportunities to use digital skills across the curriculum. Evidence in books and on portfolios
- Pupils can apply digital skills to physical programming. Evidence in books and on digital portfolios.
- Pupils have portfolios in which to keep their digital work.
- Pupils receive better instruction on how to use a wider variety of apps and tools giving them a wider base from which to choose when deciding how to present their work.
- The quality and reliability of the devices being used is better. Pupils are able to choose how to present their work digitally independently.

Priority 2: Outdoor Learning: To ensure the outdoor areas are used to develop pupils' independent learning skills

Key actions:

- Whole staff training on role of adults, authentic experiences, setting up outdoor areas to provide appropriate challenge
- Two teachers (one in older year groups; one in younger year groups) completed Outdoor Learning Practitioner qualification
- Investment in resources for outdoor areas to provide literacy/numeracy opportunities outdoors.
- Support provided for teachers to incorporate outdoor areas into medium and short term plans
- Pupils designed outdoor area in Y2/3 garden and decided on what activity areas they would like; staff resourced this
- Better storage (welly store, bike shed) introduced

Impact of actions:

- Teachers and TAs understand their role; pupils have more appropriate challenge outdoors.
- Staff are more confident in providing appropriate learning opportunities to pupils
- Pupils have opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy skills outdoors. Data from NPEP project completed by a member of staff demonstrated pupils benefited from use of manipulatives in

outdoor area.

- Use of outdoor areas is authentic, meaningful and related to pupils' learning in other areas. Pupils designed areas outdoors resulting in them having ownership of it and it being appropriate to their needs.
- Pupils can access outdoor equipment independently

Priority 3: Reading: To develop pupils' higher order reading skills across the school

Key actions:

- Reading spine introduced to ensure pupils encounter different types of text on a more regular basis.
- All teachers had training on guided reading
- 5 members of staff visited another school to share best practice
- A change in the approach to the teaching of reading has been adopted from Yr 2 upwards and this has led to pupils being frequently exposed to more sophisticated vocabulary in their daily reading sessions.
- Introduction of Microsoft Reading Accelerator to identify areas for development of reading
- Library displays and book recommendations introduced
- Volunteers invited into school (some Y13 from high school and some parents) to listen to readers and to work as librarian

Impact of actions:

- Analysis of the summer term reading data shows we have more competent, capable and therefore more independent readers in each year group.
- Observations demonstrate that pupils are able to infer well, summarise well and synthesise answers based on their independent reading.
- Book looks demonstrate that pupils are beginning to apply taught vocabulary in their independent writing.
- Through changing our approach to the teaching of reading, pupils are now much more exposed to 'book talk' e.g. author's intentions, story arcs, features of genres
- Pupils who are not regularly reading at home have the opportunity to read to adults at school
- Pupils more likely to visit school library
- More appropriately targeted support and intervention provided

Priority 4: RE: To embed the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory

Key actions:

- External training for RE leaders on prayer and liturgy
- INSET for all teachers on how to lead Celebrations of the Word
- Assemblies about the organisation of Celebrations of the Word and resource booklets/boxes provided to lead Celebrations of the Word
- Mission Team established
- Parish priest and organist invited into school to work with pupils
- Increased links with chaplain from local secondary school

Impact of actions:

- RE leaders better able to lead Celebration of the Word and better able to train pupils how to lead Celebrations of the Word
- Teachers more able to lead Celebrations of the Word in line with our Prayer and Liturgy Directory

- Pupils able to lead Celebrations of the Word themselves
- Pupil impact on our Mission increased
- Better links with parish and priest. Pupils know a wider variety of hymns and parts of the Mass sung in parish
- Familiar face for those going up to high school; greater expertise in terms of prayer means a wider variety of prayer experiences for pupils.

New School Improvement plan 2025-26

Building on last year's successes, and learnings, along with a robust self-evaluation process, we have just agreed with the school team a new set of four priorities (see below) for this current academic year. This continues to build on the delivery of last year's plan following a process of seeking continual improvement and educational learning supported by specialist counsel and guidance from our Local Educational Authority advisors. We have set the following priorities –

Priority 1: RVE: To further develop the teaching of religious education and to develop robust assessment processes

Priority 2: Challenge and Independence: Further develop the level of challenge for all children and empower pupils to shape aspects of their learning

Priority 3: Attendance: Improve the attendance of all children, especially those eligible for Free School Meals

Priority 4: Numeracy: To develop effective assessment and tracking that informs the planning and teaching of numeracy skills across the curriculum

School Improvement Plan (SIP) LINK GOVERNORS

Priority Area	Link Governor 2025-6
RVE	Canon Adrian
Challenge/independence	Rebecca Ellis
Attendance	Phil Leddy
Numeracy	Ian Evans

We continue to be fully committed to provide a safe, caring, and compassionate school environment for your child that offers a listening ear and practical support when needed.

Maintaining School infrastructure/Safety and Safeguarding

All governors have completed safeguarding courses with both the chair and designated safeguarding governor trained to Level 3 having completed mandatory refresher training in early 2025. Risk assessments and all policies are regularly reviewed by the governing body along with reported safety incidents and remedial action. The safeguarding of your children and the staff is our number one priority with regular Health & Safety tours involving governors and the school team. Routine fire evacuation and lockdown (internal and external) procedures are in place and regular drills have helped strengthen the practices through a robust process of evaluation of learnings. The governors are also represented on the school's on-line safety group with the chair communicating to

Parents/carers an open letter outlining the dangers of unrestricted online media along with recommendations to help protect their children from online abuse.

The governors were pleased to be able to support the completion of several enhancement projects to the school's external security/ internal building/outside learning resources during the year including: -

- Internal door replacement along with door security stops (following feedback from lockdown exercises)
- Remedial work on roof flashing and fascias along with convector heater replacements throughout the school.
- Pedestrian crossing completed at both the front and rear of the school (Coed Onn Road)/Traffic/pavement control bollards at the front entrance

Pastoral/Church Links - Mission Statement 'Live, Learn and Grow together in Jesus'

The governors and the SLT would also like to acknowledge the ongoing pastoral support of Canon Adrian. Termly whole school/end of year Masses have been led by Canon Adrian, supported by our children who helped in the preparation, along with the staff. Canon Adrian also continues to provide invaluable counsel both as parish priest to both the children and the staff along with providing support and guidance in his prime role within the governing body. On behalf of the governors and school team I would like to personally thank him for his commitment and ongoing spiritual guidance.

Sacramental preparation

The school/parish link remains strong and effective including direct support and liaison for sacramental preparation.

13 children from Year 3 made their first confessions at church and first communion in mid-June. The children were prepared by Kate Dooley along with parish catechists and former teachers Bev Barnes/Liz Turner who is very kindly volunteering to lead the weekly sessions with the children.

Jubilee Pledges

As part of the Jubilee year, everyone in school has made a pledge to look after our planet. The Mission Team decided on the content of our pledges and they are aligned to our work on the Live Simply Award. We celebrated this on our Pledge Day at the start of July.

Lenten Charity Fundraising /Mini Vinnies

Once again, this year's Lenten fundraising appeal was for CAFOD. All children took part in the Big Lent Walk which challenged them to walk 200km over the 40 days of Lent.

Children added up how far they had travelled when doing their 'Daily Mile' (which is often less than a mile!). The walk culminated with the celebration of a whole school Mass at the St Mary's church.

The Mini Vinnies continued their outreach when they visited Rhiwlas to spend time chatting and playing board games with some of the residents. This has become a regular event reaching out and listening to the past stories of the older members of our community. A unique opportunity to listen to important social stories from the past in the spirit of St Vincent DePaul. The school also fully embraces the Jesuit Values into our catholic teaching curriculum with a specific theme chosen throughout the academic year. The school also continues to receive invaluable support from the catholic "Ten Ten" organisation in terms of resources supporting our focus on the value of pupil led Prayer and Liturgy.

Year 6 Leavers' Mass

The Year 6 children went up to St Winefride's, Holywell, for the diocesan Year 6 leavers' Mass. This made a change from previous years when they have gone to Wrexham Cathedral for Mass. After Mass, all of the Year 6s in the diocese made a short pilgrimage to the well where there was a further short prayer service.

Financial Management

Balancing the books remains a challenge but the governors and the SLT have continued to look for a range of opportunities (grants etc) to ensure we provide the best possible environment (Infrastructure/teaching resources) for both the pupils and staff. Therefore, the governor Finance and Personnel Committee take every opportunity to fully access supporting grants for projects through either the Diocesan finance team (85%) or local government organisations or Businesses (e.g. Tesco project grants). We want to continue to promote St Mary's as a school of choice for local families through prudent spending decisions and thankfully we continue to see a significant increase in pupil numbers year on year across all the class ages which directly helps our budget funding and partly offsetting the impact of the county wide educational budget cuts which currently have reduced our overall funding by 2.5% in the year 24/25.

In terms of wraparound care, we continue to operate our breakfast club along with our After School club (Clwb Hwyl - registered with Care Inspectorate of Wales). Numbers of children attending has remained steady, but Trustees remain very much aware of the very real cost of living crisis and the intense financial pressure facing parents and carers, The Trustees continually monitor its effectiveness and ensure resources are appropriate whilst we try to maximise available support grants, we must be always aware of maintaining financial viability.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team led by Mr Phillips along with Mrs Jones, ably deputising during Mrs Perrin post maternity leave, and Mrs Diane Morris who took on the role of acting assistant headteacher and all the teaching and support staff for all their hard work and dedication to St Mary's especially during the current period of uncertainty . Also, my sincere thanks to all who support the school in a wide range of different ways (especially the PTA) through fund raising and practically assisting our classroom teachers and pupils to purchase much needed resources.

The PTA provides vital support to the school and currently there is always the need for more parents to support the PTA.

I would also like to recognise the role and importance of the school council within our community. All our children have the right to be heard, and the council provides a powerful example of Pupil Voice. The Governing Body continues to support in both a listening and proactive way to help the pupil's ideas and suggestions become reality. As we start the new 25/26 academic year there is a fresh impetus to move St Mary's forward, and despite the current uncertainty of the outcome of the reorganisation proposal St Mary's Governors along with the school team remain totally committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for your children within a faith based caring and nurturing community.

The school website (www.stmarysflint.wales) is regularly refreshed and provides regular monthly newsletters and regular updates reaching out to parents/carers via email/social media.

Annual Parents' Meeting

Governors meet termly and committees meet two weeks in advance of each Full Governing Body Meeting to discuss Finance, Curriculum, Health/Safety and Environmental issues and report back to the full board of Governors.

Any issues concerning the schools Mission and Purpose is discussed by the full Governing Body whilst panels are in place covering admissions, appeals, complaints along with staffing/pupils disciplinary.

If you have specific questions that you would like to be answered, please send them into school. Please note that anonymous questions will not be answered.

Aims and Mission of the School

‘We Live, Learn and Grow Together in Jesus’

‘Ryda ni’n byw, dysgu ac tyfu efo’n gilydd yn Iesu’

Our primary aim as a Catholic Voluntary Aided School is to enable the children to become aware of God's presence in their lives and encourage their response to His invitation to enter a personal relationship with Him.

All that occurs in our school gives us the opportunity to show God's loving care for each other and for everyone involved with the family of St. Mary's.

Our school is committed to the development of the whole child. We hope that by fostering a caring Christian inclusive community with a secure, happy, stimulating environment linked with a broad,

balanced, differentiated curriculum, each child will fulfil their potential spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. It is our belief as teachers in a Catholic school that every child and adult in our care is unique and created in the image and likeness of God and possesses special characteristics and qualities, which it is our task to bring out to the full.

Religious Education is the core of our Catholic School. We use specific Catholic educational schemes to encourage and support children to further develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith.

In a normal year, we relate to the cycle of the Church's year with liturgical celebrations and assemblies. Canon Adrian visits school to share Mass with us every term and on special occasions so that we can celebrate all our achievements during the term and ask God to bless us in all that

we strive to do in our school and parish community. The school joins with the parish to prepare and celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. More can be found our parish on the parish website, here:

www.flintcatholicparish.org.uk

St Mary's Financial Outturn 2024-25

BUDGET HEADING	BUDGET 2024/2025	EXPENDITUR E 2024/2025	DIFF + OR (-)
BALANCE FROM 2023/2024	67,657	-	67,657
EMPLOYEES	951,961	1,230,342	-278,381
PREMISES	80,382	76,071	4,311
SUPPLIES	34,596	43,152	-8,556
ADULT MEALS/LINK COURSES		855	-855
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	58,852	58,432	420
INCOME	-	-275,835	275,835
TOTAL 2024/25	1,193,448	1,133,017	60,431

* balance includes £11,337 to be reserved for ICT replacement (Hwb wave 4)

Separate from the main operational budget, the governors are also responsible for the control of the St Mary's voluntary school fund (objective educational enhancement) which is run by the school admin team under the control of the head. This fund covers public donations (e.g. PTA projects) along fund raising proceeds and voluntary contributions for school trips

The fund balance as of 30th July 2025 was £32,631.73.

TERM DATES 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

1 September 2025 - Training Day 1 - school closed to children
2 September 2025 - Training Day 2 - school closed to children
3 September 2025 - 23 October 2025 - School open
24 October 2025 - Training Day 3 - school closed to children
27 October 2025 - 31 October 2025 - Half term - school closed
3 November 2025 - 19 December 2025 - School open

Spring Term 2026

5 January 2026 - Training Day 4 - school closed to children
6 January 2026 - 13 February 2026 - School open
16 February 2026 - 20 February 2026 - Half term - school closed
23 February 2026 - 27 March 2026 - School open

Summer Term 2026

13 April 2026 - Training Day 5 - school closed to children
14 April 2026 - 22 May 2026 - School open
25 May 2026 - 29 May 2026 - Half term - school closed
1 June 2026 - 17 July 2026 - School open
20 June 2026 - Training Day 6 - school closed to children

Attendance and Absence

Absence and Attendance Levels

Attendance since September 2024 to July 2025

	Target	Total
Attendance	95%	90.6%
Authorised		5.3%
Unauthorised		4.1%
Persistent absence (>10%)		26.2%
Approved Educational Activity		1.4%
Late		1.4%

In 2024/25 73 children had attendance of less than 90%

As the governing body of St Mary's, we have a legal obligation to provide both an inclusive first-class educational experience along with encouraging parents and carers to value the real and tangible benefit of striving for 100% attendance of your children during the school term.

The decision as to whether the absence can be authorised lies solely with the head teacher. Parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupils from school during the school term **for a holiday as this is not considered an “exceptional circumstance”**. Both the headteacher and the Chair of Governors have once again directly written to Parents/Carers reminding them of this important obligation. The headteacher will make the decision and will consider the following contributory factors:

- The time of year
- The length of the proposed time away from school
- The child's prior attendance (rolling 12 months)
- The impact on the child's learning

The saying "You cannot learn if you don't attend" is very true and when we look back at our own school days, they remain a short but extremely important and formative part of our lives that we need to value.

We kindly ask that all medical and dental appointments are made after school hours or during school holidays. We would expect, where possible, pupils to be able to come to school before and after their appointments to minimise the impact of lost learning opportunities.

Action Taken by the Governing Body

Prospectus

The school prospectus is updated annually and is available on the [school website](#).

Action Taken to Review School Policies

Policies are reviewed and updated by governors on a rolling scheme to ensure they are both current and relevant. Selected policies are available for view on the school website. There have been several recent updates and in particular those relating to all aspects of safeguarding within school along with those for Health, safety and wellbeing. The school website provides an insight into many of the key policies that are fundamental to the way we effectively run our school.

Action taken to implement and review specific school strategies.

All staff and governors have completed training on the implementation of the new ALN reforms and on prevention of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

Community Links

There are informal links with the local community at different times throughout the year:

Links with Church of the Immaculate Conception:

- Sacramental Programme for Year 3
- Beginning and end of term Masses – Cn. Adrian visits school and Mass is celebrated in the school hall; these are always a very dignified celebration and a great success with increasing parental support.

- Feast Day Masses and other celebrations such as the Crowning of Mary and Stations of the Cross followed at Immaculate Conception church.
- Visits from Cn. Adrian who is a Link Governor to provide specific oversight of the religious education element of our School Improvement Plan and whenever RE topic learning benefits from his input e.g. vocation
- Visits to church whenever RE topic learning benefits from this

Links with Local Community:

- Links with St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School - there are regular meetings, discussions about standards and a co-ordinated approach to pupil transition.
- Flintshire Food Bank, local vulnerable families – all receive harvest products in the Autumn Term along with regular donations of food.
Vouchers distributed from the local SVP conference along with annual donations of Christmas presents from a regular appeal to Flint parishioners.
- Support of another local charity, Giddo's Gift
- Presence at Flint Festive Fair - children make wares to be sold at a stall and the choir perform
- Visits to the Flint Town Hall - Year 6 presented to audiences about WW2 in Flint
- Mini Vinnies visit the local nursing home regularly
- All classes visited schools around the town on their Big Lent Walk
- Staff and pupils visit the library and staff from there come to talk to pupils about holiday reading projects.
- Community Police and Fire service visit school each term and lead sessions on various topics that relate to the curriculum.

Links with the Global Community

World Gifts – this has been a fabulous success and has grown over the years. Children are asked to send only one Christmas card to the whole class and donate the surplus for a World Gift. Annual Teams2U Shoebox appeal

Organisation and Policies

Headteacher Paul Phillips

Chair Phil Leddy (Foundation)

Deputy Chair Mike Leonard (Foundation)

Foundation Cn Adrian Wilcock

Foundation Ian Evans

Foundation Clare Hansen

Foundation Carol Royston-Tonks

Teacher Leanne Davies

Staff Karen Dalton

Parent Rebecca Ellis

LEA Judith Garner

Community Vacancy

Clerk Carol Sheane

Governors regularly attend training provided by the Diocese and the LA. Governors are all active members of the supporting sub-committee.

#Foundation Governors with children in school

Buildings, Health and Safety sub-committee Clare Hansen (Chair), Mike Leonard, Ian Evans, Leanne Hayes, (Carol Sheane (Clerk)

Finance and Personnel sub-committee Ian Evans (Chair), Mike Leonard, Phil Leddy, Judith Garner, Clare Hansen, Rebecca Ellis. Headteacher and Deputy, Carol Sheane (Clerk)

Curriculum sub-committee Jane Talyor (Chair) Philip Leddy, Cn Adrian

Wilcock, Clare Hansen, Judith Garner, Headteacher and Deputy, Carol Sheane (Clerk)

Safeguarding/ALN Governor Rebecca Ellis (Meets formally with the SLT on a termly basis)

Attendance Governor Phil Leddy (Meets formally with SLT on a termly basis)

Admissions, Appeals and staffing/pupil disciplinary sub-committees Appointed as required (quorum 3)

Mission and Purpose – Due to its importance this is discussed by the full Governing Body at each termly meeting

ALN

St. Mary's is an inclusive school. We recognise the uniqueness of every individual and the contribution that everyone brings to our school community and our approach is very much based on applying Person Centred Thinking. We work together with pupils and parents to ensure that all children regardless of any 'additional need' receive the best quality education to meet their individual needs.

All pupils' learning needs are met through a differentiated curriculum (additional learning provision). Sometimes, it may be necessary for pupils to receive additional support to make sufficient progress in their learning. Support may be provided within the classroom or pupils may be withdrawn on an individual/group basis. Parents are always kept fully informed and are an integral part of the process of agreeing and reviewing pupil learning targets. The new Welsh ALN reforms have been implemented and training has been undertaken by all staff and governors.

Equal Opportunities

At St. Mary's we believe that as God's children all people are of equal value and, as such deserve equality of opportunity, thus enabling them to fulfil their maximum potential. To achieve this, we endeavour to promote equality and to minimise discrimination in all aspects of school life. We aim to be a fully inclusive community (pupils/adults) irrespective of race, culture, religion, sex or disability are valued and respected, and treated with courtesy and consideration, so everyone has a true sense of dignity and self-worth.

For disabled pupils there are ramps for access throughout the school and two disabled toilet facilities. Adaptations have been made to allow easy access to all parts of the school buildings.

Sport and After School Clubs

All pupils have at least two hours of curriculum PE during their week. This includes manipulative skills in the younger year groups where cutting and malleable play are included. Swimming lessons for children from Year Three to Year Six have been an important part of Physical Education. Apart from our own Clwb Hwyl (after school club) which now operates from school close to 6pm, there is an increasing variety of after-school clubs available for the pupils which are led by staff based on good will. We are really pleased to be able to offer a wide range of after school clubs. We are delighted to see that many pupils have signed up for them and that the school has enjoyed considerable competitive success especially in netball, football and athletics. We are grateful to all the staff who are offering these extra-curricular opportunities during their own personal time and governors would like to recognise their commitment to the wider school community.

Language Category

The school language category is English medium. Bilingualism and the teaching of Welsh as a second language is a priority in St. Mary's Catholic School. All staff, including support staff, secretary and midday supervisors are encouraged to support the school in developing the use of incidental Welsh in all aspects of the school day.

The school's hard work and focus on the Welsh language was recognised when it achieved the Cymraeg Campus bronze award, an excellent recognition and our Welsh lead teacher, Kate Clements, has also been successful in gaining fully funded Sabbatical training starting in September 2025.

Toilet Facilities

4 blocks of toilets are available for use, all of which are maintained to a high standard on a regular basis with ongoing repair and maintenance programmes in place.

School Council

St. Mary's have a very active School Council who meet at least once a term to discuss issues that their classes raise, their class representatives who are voted for then represent their views at the meeting. They take responsibility for typing the minutes and e-mailing them to the Chair of Governors, who supports any direct request for help from the School Council. The children lead the meetings and Mrs Osiac attends. Each year, the children, who are as young as six, surprise the adults with their ability to share information and listen to other points of view.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our children is always our top priority. We recognise that we are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children and young people. Every member of staff and all governors have regular training in how to safeguard the children in our school and our safeguarding team receive further training on specialised cases and circumstances.

Both the Chair of Governors and the designated Safeguarding Governor (Rebecca Ellis) have undergone formal safeguarding training to Level 3 and have recently completed refresher courses. This allows them to provide independent proactive support and oversight into the effectiveness of all aspects of safeguarding within St Mary's school.