

RHYDYFRO PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



**HEADTEACHER
MRS L. GARLAND**

**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
MR J. DAVIES**

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to present this report, which highlights the many achievements of our school community over the past academic year. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Headteacher, Mrs. Garland, and the entire team for their dedication, tireless efforts, and unwavering commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our children—values that remain central to everything we do at Rhydyfro Primary School.

This year, Mrs. Garland has continued to lead the school from strength to strength. Under her leadership, and with the support of the Governing Body, the school's management remains strong and effective. I am fortunate to work alongside a group of governors whose diverse expertise and commitment have been instrumental, and I thank them all for their support throughout the year. Looking ahead, we anticipate a number of challenges, particularly in relation to the school budget. However, we are confident in our ability to face these challenges head-on and work together to find solutions that benefit both our staff and pupils.

Our teaching, support, catering, cleaning staff, and governors are united in their commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment where every child is valued as an individual. We place each child at the centre of their learning journey, celebrating their unique potential and supporting them to thrive.

We are proud that the school continues to operate at a high standard, with visitors regularly praising the positive atmosphere and quality of education. As a Governing Body, our primary focus remains the wellbeing and happiness of our pupils and staff, and we are pleased with the school's continued progress. We also ensure that appropriate challenge and support are provided to the Headteacher and all stakeholders.

One ongoing concern is parking outside the school. We kindly ask all parents and carers to be mindful of where they park, as this remains a significant issue.

If you are interested in joining the Governing Body and contributing to the future of our school, please contact the school office. Your involvement would be greatly valued.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful pupils and staff for their hard work and achievements this year. You continue to make us all proud.

John Davies
Chair of Governors



THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governors have a responsibility for the effective management of the school acting within the framework set by Government legislation and the policies of the Local Education Authority. They determine the aims for the curriculum and have increasing responsibility for the financial management of the school.

The school governors do their work voluntarily and put in a great deal of time to ensure the school is managed efficiently and to the benefit of the children.

For information on requesting a meeting with the Governing Body, please contact the school office.



Type of Governor	Governor name	Term of office start date	Term of office end date
CMA	Stephen Todd	11/10/2022	10/10/2026
Community	VACANCY		
Community	Gemma Morgan	06/02/2025	05/02/2029
Community	Philippa Bolton <i>Vice- Chair</i>	29/01/2024	28/01/2028
Headteacher	Mrs L Garland	05.06.2023	N/A
LA	VACANCY		
LA	VACANCY		
LA	John Davies <i>Chair of Governing Body</i>	01/09/2024	31/08/2028
Parent	Mr D Jones-Isaac	22/05/2025	22/05/2029
Parent	Mrs N Richards	20/11/2022	19/11/2026
Parent	Ms P Bending	10/11/2023	09/11/2027
Parent	Mrs C Hanney	16/04/2024	15/04/2028
Staff Teacher	Mr R Williams	22/06/2023	21/06/2027
Staff non-teaching	Mrs J Davies	01/10/2024	30/09/2028

GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS FOR PARENTS

The Annual Governing Body meeting for parents was arranged for 4th November 2024 which Governors attended. No parents/carers attended the meeting. No additional meetings with the Governing Body were requested throughout 2024/2025.

SCHOOL VISION

Our school is a safe and happy place, where every child has the opportunity to thrive and become resilient, ambitious, capable learners, who are valued members of society.

All children are exposed to a nurturing, inclusive learning environment, where their needs as individuals are met through putting the child at the centre of their learning. We understand that every child has unique potential, and will celebrate their personal learning journey.

We aim to inspire children to take measured risks, using their imagination and creativity in their enquiry and application of knowledge and skills.

Throughout their time at Rhydyfro, we hope the children will become equipped with the skills and values to become intrinsically motivated, independent learners.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum Summary

Our school provides an accessible and engaging curriculum based on pupil voice that capitalises on our outdoor learning environment. We inspire pupils to take measured risks and use creativity in their enquiry and application of their knowledge, skills and conceptual understanding. Our pupils experience a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes intra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary working both within and between the Areas of Learning and Experiences (AoLEs); this is explored through termly concepts. Our curriculum provides a platform for pupils to be ethically informed citizens of Wales and the wider world by offering pupils opportunities to understand their geographical heritage, both locally and nationally, which then spirals out to the wider world as the maturity of their learning increases. Ultimately, through the realisation of the Four Purposes, we want our pupils to be mentally, emotionally and physically prepared to be life-long learners and valued members of society.



WELSH

At Rhydyfro Primary School, we have continued to develop and promote the Welsh language and culture through a wide range of initiatives. A weekly Welsh assembly supports children's language development, with the Criw Cymraeg leading traditional songs such as Sospan Fach and Daw Hyfryd Mis. Each week, we celebrate Siaradwr yr Wythnos (Welsh Speaker of the Week), who receives a certificate and takes home their class dragon with a 'Yma o Hyd' bucket hat, recording their use of Welsh sentence patterns either in a dragon diary or on ClassDojo. These achievements are shared and celebrated in assembly. Staff have also engaged in professional learning. Our commitment to Welsh culture has been celebrated through our annual Eisteddfod, where children excelled in handwriting, art, and our new photography competition, 'Fy Nghymru'. St David's Day was marked by each class performing a song or poem, and we also celebrated Dydd Miwsig Cymru, Shw Mae Su'Mae, St Dwynwen's Day and the Welsh Women's Euro Tournament. With the Urdd Eisteddfod being held locally in Margam, we organised an Ein Cymru Ni day, where children mixed across age groups to explore different regions of Wales through activities linked to the AoLE. These included designing and tasting ice cream in 'Swansea' with Mrs Garland, creating dragon tails in 'Margam Forest' with Mr Langford, and playing football in the 'Principality Stadium' with Miss Kieran. Additionally, we celebrated the Urdd Eisteddfod by entering the local competition to 'dress up' our school with beautiful artwork, Welsh symbols and lots of Mr Urdd! The Criw Cymraeg also planned for artist Rhys Padarn Jones (Orielodl) to design and paint a mural at the school entrance, capturing Rhydyfro's landmarks, values, and children's voices. This ensured that Year 6 left a meaningful legacy and purposefully linked to our school concept of 'Impact' to celebrate the impact that our school has in our local community. Altogether, it has been a fantastic year for strengthening Welsh as both a language and a culture, nurturing a sense of identity and national pride across the school.

FINANCE

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH						
COUNCIL	Department of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning					
Rhydyfro Primary School						
FINANCE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
Department of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning						
APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025						
BUDGET	£	EXPENDITURE	Actual			
Formula Allocation	£682,832	Teaching Salaries	£508,668			
		Payroll Costs	£393,883			
		Other Payments	£2,917			
TOTAL	£682,832	Administration	£7,984			
		Local Authorities	£70,108			
		Contract Costs	£13,206			
		Premises Costs	£75,790			
		Capitation Costs	£20,671			
		GROSS EXP	£1,093,227			
		Less Income	£323,466			
		NET EXP	£769,761			
Projected Overspend			-£86,929			
Principal Investment						
1.4.24			-£55,733			
31.3.25 total investment			-£142,661.00			

As you can see from the table above, our school financial situation is an extremely challenging one due to the funding that we receive.

The support of our PTA is invaluable along with grants that Mrs Garland and Mr Williams apply for each year in order to improve provision and environments for pupils. As parents / carers, your support towards PTA fundraising is greatly appreciated as without our PTA, the opportunities our pupils are offered would be greatly impacted.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Governing Body and staff worked towards:

- Improving pupil attendance.
- Developing a systematic approach to the teaching of problem-solving across the school and increase numeracy and problem-solving opportunities across the curriculum.
- Developing consistency in the teaching of writing and improve opportunities for high quality writing activities to raise the standard of pupil's writing skills across the curriculum.
- Ensuring pupils make increased progress in line with the expectations of Curriculum for Wales by continuing to develop a shared understanding of progression.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for Academic Year 2024-2025 was 91.33%

Over the course of the year we aimed to improve pupil attendance each term by setting termly targets: Autumn Term target 91%, Spring Term target 91.5% and Summer Term target 92%. These targets were achieved in the Autumn and Spring terms but unfortunately we did not achieve our target of 92% for the summer term.

Over the course of the academic year there were:

- XX days, XX% authorised absences
- XX days, XX% unauthorised absences

Even though it was disappointing not to reach our 92% target in the summer term we are delighted that attendance rose by 1.05% during 2024/2025 which is the highest it has been since 2020/2021. Thank you all for your continued support.

Individual pupil attendance will continue to be monitored by the school and the Education Welfare Officer. Where appropriate, attendance letters are sent, meetings arranged and referrals submitted. If attendance continues to be a concern the Local Authority may then proceed with Fixed Penalty Notices and possible Court Proceedings in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.

Information regarding attendance can be found on the Neath Port Talbot website
<https://beta.npt.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-attendance-and-welfare/school-attendance/>

SAFEGUARDING

Rhydyfro Primary School recognises its responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and takes care to protect and support all of our pupils. The designated safeguarding officers at Rhydyfro are; Mrs. L. Garland, Mr R. Williams and Mrs K. Taylor . The designated safeguarding Governor is Mrs P. Bolton. Ms. Anneliese Donovan is the Local Authority Safeguarding Officer and can be contacted on 01639 763363

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

At Rhydyfro Primary School we are proud of the support that we offer our pupils with Additional Learning Needs. We recognise that all pupils come to school at different stages of development and with different needs. Whilst many factors contribute to the range of difficulties experienced by some children, we believe that much can be done to overcome through collaboration between parents, teachers and pupils working together. Rhydyfro Primary school values the abilities and achievements of all its pupils. All children are valued, respected and nurtured. We endeavour to provide the best educational opportunities for each child and strive to maximise their potential. We use the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales: 2021 to underpin the provision and support that is offered at Rhydyfro.

Many children and young people are likely at some point to experience short term issues with their learning, for example because of a period of absence from an education setting caused by a temporary illness, or because they have suffered a bereavement or some other trauma. In these circumstances, schools may need to take action to help the child or young person catch up and / or to prevent the issue from escalating. These situations would not ordinarily amount to ALN on their own; but it is possible that in some cases, this could result in a difficulty in learning which calls for ALP. We feel that all pupils within the school are supported well, and that we have positive working relationships with pupils and their families, as well as other individuals and organisations that work with the pupil. We feel that the support, guidance and inclusive learning provision that we offer for our pupils is tailored to meet the needs of each pupil individually, and that this support is monitored and adapted in a pupil-centred way.

POLICIES / PROSPECTUS

Our school prospectus, statutory safeguarding, curriculum and HR policies have been reviewed and amended, where necessary. All relevant documentation for parents is available on our website or upon request from the school office.

COMMUNITY LINKS

The school continues to build on the successful community links, however, we also created many new links. The school continues to offer pupils new and exciting experiences both in school, locally in the community and further afield. We are lucky to have the opportunity to enhance our children's learning opportunities, giving them the chance to thrive outside of the classroom environment, whilst all the time building lifelong memories.

Some of our 'out of school' activities include:

- Educational visits to; Sony, Llanelli Wetlands Centre, Llandarcy Recycling Plant and Aberavon Beach.
- Year 6 Transition Days to Cwmtawe Community School and Ysgol Bae Baglan
- Sports events; football, tennis, cricket, rugby, netball, basketball
- Urdd events

Visitors to the school include:

West Glamorgan Music Services, Cricket Coaching and Kerbcraft road safety via the Local Authority Road Safety Scheme. Lifesaving skills, sign language lessons, schools nursing team and PC Lewis Jones.

Our supportive PTA have continued to raise money for our pupils to attend educational visits, year 6 Leavers events and trips as well as various charities: Pantri Foodbank, Children In Need, Cancer Research UK etc.



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION - PTA

The Governing Body are extremely appreciative of the events that the PTA have organised over the academic year. These events have provided a wealth of 'lifelong memories' with the colour run being a favourite for both pupils and staff, whilst also providing additional funds that benefit our pupils. The PTA contribute towards Educational Visits to reduce costs for families, Year 6 Leavers celebrations, equipment for classes etc.



SPORTING ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Governing Body are extremely supportive of the sporting opportunities that Rhydyfro offer its pupils. Pupils from across years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are offered sporting after-school clubs which are run voluntarily by staff. The school also provides opportunities for pupils to participate in football, netball, rugby, tennis and gymnastics.

The school is extremely proud of the pupils who represent their local football, rugby and netball teams and to Chloe Davies who represented Wales both nationally and internationally as part of her gymnastics club.

TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Nearly all of our Year 6 pupils leave our school to attend Cwmtawe Community School with very few attending other secondary schools within Neath Port Talbot. During 2024-2025 pupils from Rhydyfro transitioned to 2 different secondary schools.

TOILET PROVISION

The school has toilet facilities positioned within the nursery/reception classroom, alongside the Year 1/2 classroom and along the junior corridor. There are also adult and accessible toilet facilities available in the main foyer. Each of these are cleaned at the end of the school day in accordance with the Local Authority's Cleaning Service.

COMPLAINTS

There are occasions where parents/carers feel the need to make a complaint regarding the school. Our school aims to be fair, open and honest when dealing with any complaints. We give careful consideration to all complaints and deal with them as swiftly as possible. We treat all complaints seriously and respond to them quickly which often means they can be resolved at an early stage and without recourse to additional procedures. We aim to resolve any complaint through dialogue and mutual understanding and, were necessary, we put the interest of the child above all other issues. We provide sufficient opportunity for any complaint to be fully discussed, and then addressed. If you require further clarity about how to make a complaint, please contact the school office.



SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

Full-time hours:

Morning session: 8.55am—12pm / Afternoon session: 1pm—3.20pm

Part-time hours:

Morning Nursery: 9am—11:30am



TERM DATES

2025-2026				
Term	Term Begins	Mid Term Holiday	Term Ends	
Autumn 2025	Monday 1 st September	Monday 27 th October	Friday 31 st October	Friday 19 th December
Spring 2026	Monday 5 th January	Monday 16 th February	Friday 13 th February	Friday 27 th March
Summer 2026	Monday 13 th April	Monday 25 th May	Friday 29 th May	Monday 20 th July

2025-2026 INSET days

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Tuesday 2nd September 2025
- Friday 17th October 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Thursday 7th May 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026

CONTACT DETAILS

Address:

Waun Penlan,
Pontardawe,
Swansea,
SA8 3BB

Phone: 01792 862200

Website: www.rhydyfroprimary.co.uk E-mail: office@rhydyfro.npt.school

Twitter: @RhydyfroPrimary

School Governor Contact Information

Chairperson

Mr J. Davies, c/o Rhydyfro Primary School, Waun Penlan, Rhydyfro, Pontardawe. SA8 3BB.

Clerk to the Governors

Mrs M. Thomas, c/o Rhydyfro Primary School, Waun Penlan, Rhydyfro, Pontardawe. SA8 3BB.

Governor with Responsibility for Safeguarding

Mrs P. Bolton, c/o Rhydyfro Primary School, Waun Penlan, Rhydyfro, Pontardawe. SA8 3BB.

