



The Annual Governors' Report to Parents 2024 - 2025

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents and carers. Instead new arrangements were introduced to enable parents and carers to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with a governing body.

If parents and carers wish to use their rights under the Act to hold a meeting, four conditions must be satisfied:

- 1) Parents and carers will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting.
The parents and carers of at least 10% of the school's registered learners will need to sign the petition. There were 242 pupils registered with this school in September 2024. Exact roll numbers at any time during the year may be obtained from the school office.
- 2) The meeting must be called to discuss matters which affect the school.
The meeting cannot be called to discuss such matters as individual pupils, or to make a complaint against a member of the school's staff or governing body.
- 3) A maximum of three meetings can be held during the school year.
The law allows parents and carers to use their rights to request up to 3 meetings with a school governing body during the school year.
- 4) There must be at least 25 school days left in a school year.
A 'school day' means a day when school is open to pupils; it does not include staff training days.

The Governing Body meet at least once per term to discuss and determine the strategic direction of the school and to discharge its legal obligation. Any parental concerns or issues are to be addressed to the Head teacher in the first instance.

Any correspondence for the Governors or the address for service of a petition requesting a meeting with the school's governing body is:

Mrs Vanessa Griffiths Chair of Governors c/o Barker's Lane Community School Barker's Lane Wrexham LL13 9TP	OR	Mr Simon Hill The Clerk to the Governors Barker's Lane Community School Barker's Lane Wrexham LL13 9TP
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Email: mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk

Further advice / information is available on:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/parents-meetings-statutory-guidance/?lang=en>



The Chair's Address

Dear Parents / Carers

The Governing Body would like to welcome you to the annual report as we share with you some of the key messages for the year ahead. It is once again my pleasure to present as the Chair of Governors, the annual report to parents which will highlight some of the activities, work and achievements of the school for the academic year 2024-2025.

Barker's Lane Community School is managed by the Headteacher, Mrs Chris Harrison-Edwards and as a governing body we are responsible for supporting, challenging and gaining a strategic view of the school performance. I would like to express my sincere thanks to her, along with all of the teaching and support staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to the education and care of all our pupils in Barkers Lane school.

Our role as a Governing body is to make sure that our school is a friendly, supportive and successful place of learning, and that all our young people are given every opportunity to succeed. The School Development Plan and Self Evaluation continue to provide strategic direction for the school and provide the Governing Body with a real opportunity to challenge and support all members of the school leadership team. Our main SDP priorities are focussed on the recommendations from Estyn following our very successful school inspection during the summer of 2024.

Education in Wales is changing fast and we have implemented the new curriculum known as 'Curriculum for Wales' and this is embedded in the school across the six learning areas. The Curriculum, Wellbeing and Pupil Progress Sub-Committee governors receive regular updates on the design of the curriculum and its implementation in lessons across our school.

At the heart of the school community is the voice of the learner. This is gathered in a range of ways including surveys, pupil leadership group meetings, events with staff, and meetings with governors. Our Governors are invited to regularly attend school and speak with staff and children, along with termly full governor meetings and responsibilities are delegated to sub-committees to allow for greater scrutiny, challenge, and informed discussion to take place

As the new educational year is now in full swing, so is the need to reflect on the budget set by the Government in Wales for all our schools and colleges and once again we are facing challenging times for this and future years. Our Governing body's finance sub-committee regularly meets with the school senior leadership team to discuss finances and ensure that the school budget plan is reviewed and monitored. We continue to have the full support and expertise of our Local Authority school finance officer.

Along with all other educational establishments across Wales, we will need to be mindful of the restrictions the budget imposes on us in relation to school trips, activities and events. This continues to be a challenging period for schools across the county borough because of the well documented budget restraints in education. The lack of funding is a concern for us all and I assure you that it will be on our agenda going forward, as we focus on Barkers Lane priorities for 2025-26.

Our supportive small group of PTA volunteers continue to hold successful fund raising events throughout the year, and my thanks go out to them for their support and invaluable monetary contributions to the school, allowing for purchases of additional equipment and support expressive



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arts activities for all children. I would encourage you all to support these events as it is in the best interest of our children.

Our Harvest festival took place in the hall before half term. In pairs, classes shared a poem, song or presentation for other classes in school. It was a lovely celebration reinforcing a sense of belonging and thanks. Thank you for donating such a fantastic amount of food items / toiletries which Mrs Bayley kindly dropped off at Wrexham Foodbank.

Our caretaker Mr Keith Lewis retired in September from his school crossing patrol, cleaning and caretaking roles. We have a new caretaker, Mr Phil Edwards and I am sure you may already have seen him out and about during the school week. The role of school crossing patrol is being managed by the Local Authority under their responsibilities. May I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers who drop off or collect their children from school, to be mindful of their safety when parking your vehicles. Barkers Lane is a busy road and we really must consider safe parking and be mindful of road signage. We are supported by our local Policing team who visit periodically to ensure legal parking is adhered to.

I would like to thank all of our Governing body for their continued support and extraordinary commitment throughout the year which is all on a voluntary basis. Thank you also to Mr Simon Hill who attends every meeting as our Clerk.

Yours faithfully,

V Griffiths

Mrs Vanessa Griffiths
Chair of Governors



The Governing Body

The governing body usually meets termly, with sub-committees meeting between full meetings. The governing body comprises of a range of representatives from the local authority, community, parents and carers, teachers and school staff.

Name	Governor Type	Position	Office Expires
Mrs S Cheesbrough	Parent		25/01/2028
Mrs C Edwards	Head Teacher		-
Mr I Edwards	Community		13/01/2029
Mrs P Fitzhugh	Community		28/01/2026
Mrs V Griffiths	LA	Chair	28/02/2029
Cllr R Hardy	Additional Community		18/11/2028
Mr C Jones	LA	Vice Chair	30/11/2026
Mrs L Jones	Community		18/11/2028
Mrs A Jarvis	Staff		02/10/2027
Mrs R Keen	Parent		13/02/2026
Vacancy	Parent		
Mr S Petett	LA		08/11/2027
Mrs E Richardson	Teacher		18/11/2028
Mrs A West	Parent		30/01/2029

Clerk to the Governors: Mr Simon Hill

Governor Changes

Mrs Wendy Rintoul, a community representative stepped down from the governing body.

Mrs Lindsay Jones, a parent of many years and established parent governor transferred membership to community governor in November 2024.

Cllr Ralph Hardy, Vice Chair of Acton Community Council joined the governing body as an additional community governor in November 2024.

Mrs Alicia West joined the governing body as a parent representative in January 2025. She has children who will be in Blwyddyn 1 and Blwyddyn 5 in September 2025.

Mr Ian Edwards joined the governing body as a community governor in January 2025. Mr Edwards is a previous parent governor and observer / support to the governing body of many years.

Parent Governor Elections

The next request for nominations for a parent governor are scheduled for Autumn 2025 unless there are any changes.



Previous Governors Report to Parents

No parent questions remained unanswered or resolutions put before the Governing Body as a result of previous reports.

No meeting was requested in 2024-25.



Governors' Curricular Aims

As part of the work to develop our new curriculum which became statutory in September 2022, all stakeholders were consulted about our vision and values.

Our values and aims for learners at Barker's Lane Community Primary School are:

Happiness and curiosity	We value the voice of individuals and our school community. We provide positive experiences every day to promote enjoyment, happiness and independence and a love of learning. We promote freedom to explore, ask questions, be creative and be curious about our learning.
Care, kindness and respect	Through a culture of mutual respect and tolerance, we listen and take actions to ensure everyone feels safe and cared for. We are all unique, have equal worth, can share our opinions which are listened to and this is celebrated. Our golden rules 'Be ready', 'Be respectful' and 'Keep everyone safe' underpin our high expectations.
Compassion and empathy	The Barker's Lane way is to be emotionally honest and non-judgemental. We are welcoming, think of the feelings of others and offer support to all, nurturing positive relationships.
Confidence and pride	Recognising 'we can do' and sharing and celebrating 'the best we can be' is important to each individual. This fosters a sense of pride and self-confidence. Everyone has high expectations of themselves and each other.
Self-belief and resilience	We promote opportunities that support and challenge to develop self-belief. Taking risks in a safe, secure environment allows for problem solving and perseverance to develop resilience. A growth mindset is promoted.
Trust and honesty	Trust in each other underpins everything that we do. We nurture open, honest relationships between all members of the school community.
Leading a healthy lifestyle for mind and body	We encourage everyone to make healthy choices about their own mind and body, our school, local community and the planet. We encourage everyone to be a good citizen and think about how our actions affect ourselves, others and our environment.

Working together we support each other to achieve our shared school vision:-

'DYSGU EFO'R GILYDD'

'LEARN TOGETHER'

'Let's learn to enjoy, aspire, respect and nurture together'

Our full curriculum rationale, policy and practice is published on the school website:

<https://www.barkerslaneprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Curriculum-Rationale-Policy-and-Practice-June-24.pdf>

Curriculum for Wales

Curriculum for Wales became statutory in September 2022. This is an exciting development for schools and gives us an opportunity to develop a curriculum for learners in our school in our context.

Our curriculum is central to our school. It is how we realise our vision to ensure our pupils become ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy citizens.



These are the four purposes which are the aspiration for all children in Wales. They underpin our vision, values and the learning experiences for each learner enabling them to become:

- 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 ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The curriculum is broad, balanced and inclusive providing appropriate progression through a range of provision for all. It is the why, what and how we learn.

Further information for pupils is available: <https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/9db0a2c4-aa34-4498-9187-d92fc6bbf676/220208-children-young-people.pdf>

Further information for parents and carers is available:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/a-new-curriculum-in-wales-a-guide-for-parents>

At Barker's Lane, the curriculum introduces pupils to skills, knowledge and experiences through the six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) encompassing the Statements of What Matters and reflects the Principles of Progression.

There are six Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLEs) are:

- Expressive Arts
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Science and Technology
- Health and Wellbeing
- Humanities



Mandatory cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competency are embedded along with integral skills – creativity and innovation; planning and organising; personal effectiveness; critical thinking and problem solving.

There are mandatory elements of the curriculum:

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) which we usually teach through themes.

English and Welsh which are taught discretely.

Further information about Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) is available from WCBC:

<https://www.barkerslanepprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Community-primary-A-Parents-and-carers-guide-to-RE-in-CfW-2022.pdf>

The curriculum incorporates five cross cutting themes which are mostly taught as part of themes, a focus for assembly and for whole school theme weeks:

- Careers and work-related experience
- Human rights
- Diversity and respecting differences
- Local, national and international Contexts
- Relationships and Sexuality Education





Further information for parents / carers about Relationships and Sexuality Education is available: <https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/fee3ae57-1593-4275-a726-fcf82357794f/rse-info-22.pdf>

Welsh Language Development

Barker's Lane is an English medium school where Welsh is taught to all pupils as a second language. Pupils have positive attitudes towards our Welsh ethos and many enjoy responding to simple Welsh language during the school day.

Additional Learning Needs

The school complies with its statutory obligation and follows the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021. The school has an approved policy in place for the teaching and learning of any learners with additional needs. The ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator) liaises closely with the class teacher and the Headteacher to monitor the learner's progress. The learner's needs will be identified and a programme of work will be compiled and administered by the class teacher. Those learners who have difficulty with literacy or numeracy, primarily, will be targeted and this information is shared with parents and carers. Learners who may need further support will have access to Targeted Universal Provision, usually delivered by additional staff.

Where a learner is identified to have additional needs, additional learning provision which is additional to or different from their peers may need to be put in place.

Identified learners are reviewed on a regular basis involving consultation between parents / carers, teachers, learners and external support. We have developed good relationships with the Local Authority and associated agencies who provide us with practical support as necessary. Access around and throughout school has been improved to facilitate ease of use for any disabled visitors, staff or learners.

We have a dedicated page on our school website which outlines the above and shares all of the Universal provision available to all children on <https://www.barkerslaneprimary.co.uk/class-pages/new-curriculum-2/>

Further information for parents and carers is available: <https://gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-aln-system-guide-parents-and-families>

Further information for learners is available: <https://gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-aln-system-childrens-guide>

SNAP Cymru provides impartial support for children and young people, parents and carers throughout Wales. They work closely with professionals from Education, Social Services, Health, Schools, Early Years Providers, Social Care providers, Careers Wales and Third Sector partners. They offer a range of services for families as recommended in the ALNET Act (Wales 2018) including Impartial Information and Advice, Disagreement Resolution and Advocacy. Further details can be found: <https://www.snapcymru.org/>



More Able and Talented

Teaching and learning is planned in such a way as to provide a differentiated, engaging, creative and challenging curriculum which enables each learner to reach for the highest level of personal achievement. We use a range of strategies to identify more able and talented learners. The identification process is ongoing and begins when the learners join our school. Our comprehensive tracking systems ensure that progress and wellbeing is carefully monitored.

Equality

Equality of opportunities is always observed regardless of ability, age, appearance, culture, gender, disability, religion, race, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity or sexual orientation. Together with the Local Authority we work against all forms of discrimination. The Strategic Equality Plan is available on the school website or on request from the school office.

Provision for toilet facilities

The school has ample toilet facilities and disabled access facilities for learners / staff / visitors. All toilets for learners have been refurbished in the last three years. They are maintained to a high standard by cleaning staff, and are monitored by school staff during the day. Up to Y2, toilets are all cubicles for mixed use. In Y3-Y6, toilets are all cubicles but are gender segregated.

One of the adult toilets in school has recently been refurbished to create a child size toilet and washing facilities in a classroom to enable this room to become self-contained.

Pupil Voice

The school has a number of learner leadership groups which include the School Council, Eco-Committee, Criw Cymraeg, Digital Leaders and Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Anti-Bullying

A strong ethos of respect for all members of the school community, including respect for difference and diversity underpins our commitment to providing a happy, safe and secure place for learners to learn and thrive.

Bullying is defined as 'Deliberate behaviour by one person or a group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts or harms another person or group either physically or emotionally'

It is the school's intention to create an atmosphere where learners can disclose bullying, be taken seriously and rely on appropriate action being taken. All allegations of bullying are taken seriously. All allegations are investigated.

If following an investigation, there is evidence to say that bullying has been taking place, the parents / carers of the target of the bullying and the perpetrator who has been bullying will be invited into school to discuss a course of action. The outcomes of these meetings address support for the learner who has been bullied and support / actions to ensure the learner/s doing the bullying learn not to harm others.

Full details of the Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures are displayed on the school website or available on request from the school office.

Healthy Eating & Drinking

Barker's Lane complies fully with the Welsh Government Healthy Eating in Schools regulations 2013.



School Meals

Since September 2023, universal free school meals have been available for all full-time pupils. Around 80-90% of families take up this offer.

Improvements to kitchen facilities were made and new seating was provided in Autumn Term 2024.

The kitchen has been awarded the highest Food Hygiene rating 5 by the Food Standards Agency.

Packed Lunches

A healthy packed lunch may be brought to school which we recommend on the advice of the Food Standards Agency to contain at least:

- 1 portion of fruit or veg
- 1 portion of dairy eg. cheese or yoghurt
- 1 portion of protein eg. meat, fish or other source
- 1 portion of starchy food eg. bread, pasta, rice

Parents and carers are asked to limit the crisps / biscuit snacks and sugary drinks provided for lunch during the week to help reduce salt and sugar intake. Advice is also given about savoury snacks e.g. meat products like sausage rolls / pies are only included in lunchboxes occasionally. We also ask that parents and carers refrain from including **carbonated drinks in bottles or cans** within a packed lunch.

Mid-morning snack

School policy is that all learners have the opportunity to bring a piece of **washed fruit / vegetables** from home to school everyday for a mid-morning snack.

All learners can have a healthy snack provided by school for a small charge.



Biscuits / crisps / other snacks are **very strongly discouraged** for morning break.

Free School Milk

Nursery to Y2 learners are provided with free school milk each day. Nearly all learners in Nursery – Year 2 take up free school milk under the Welsh Government scheme.

Water

We encourage learners to drink a regular supply of water throughout the school day. School policy is that learners may bring a fresh bottle of water to school each day which they can refill at anytime. All parents and carers are asked to please encourage each child to bring their water bottle to school every day.

No juice or flavoured water is permitted for regular consumption throughout the day.

Extra Curricular Activities & School Sports

Staff at the school give willingly of their time to run extra-curricular activities. We also participate in a wide range of school sports each year. A list of extra-curricular activities and sporting events / achievements for 2023-24 is included at the end of the report.

School Prospectus

The school prospectus is updated annually. Changes to the prospectus in 2023-24 were staffing details, curriculum updates and school term dates. A copy is displayed on our website.



Wider Community Partnership

Schools

Rhosnesni High School and its family of feeder primary schools meet regularly to share good practice. We usually welcome learners from Rhosnesni High School and a number of other secondary schools to undertake their work experience at Barker's Lane every year.

Trainee Teachers / Ancillary Support Staff

We welcome trainees on a regular basis. The school has contracted to work in partnership the North & Mid Wales Centre for Trainee Teachers (Bangor & Aberystwyth) to offer the necessary school-based experience for the initial training of teachers. The school has designated trainee mentors providing support and guidance for the trainee teachers. All staff continue to work and plan closely with trainee teachers to ensure quality of learning for our learners. We also work closely with Wrexham University who request observational placements and Coleg Cambria who provide courses for ancillary staff at school.

Other Community Links

St John's Church

Local Solutions / Save the Family / Wrexham Foodbank – supported by our Harvest Festival.

T4C – Shoebox Appeal

Police Community Support Officers.

Acton Park

Miners Rescue and Gresford Colliery

Wrexham Library & Museum

Community Council Campaigns

AVOW

Our chosen local charities Hope House Hospice and Nightingale House Hospice.

Throughout the year the school, with support from you as parents, donates to a variety of other charities eg the sale of daffodils for Marie Curie Cancer Care, Poppy Day Appeal, NSPCC, etc.



Business / Industry Links

We have links with a number of partners, for example:

Tesco

Virgin Money

Lloyds TSB

Pets at Home

Dee Valley Water

Scottish Power

Davies Development Testing

Any parent / carer with business / industry knowledge who would like to share this with the children is invited to contact the Headteacher.



School Inspection – June 2024

The school was inspected by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate 24th-27th June 2024.

The full report is published on <https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2024-07/Inspection%20report%20Barker%27s%20Lane%20C.P.%20School%202024.pdf>



An overview was published in the parent and carers report:

Pupils, staff and parents are proud of being part of Barker's Lane Primary School. By working together, everyone contributes to the caring ethos of the school. Under the effective leadership and direction of the experienced headteacher, all staff contribute to an environment where pupils are nurtured and encouraged. Relationships based on respect between staff, pupils and their parents are a key strength of the school. There are strong lines of communication between school and home and parents feel engaged in their children's education.

Most pupils make good progress in developing their literacy, numeracy and digital skills. As pupils progress through the school, they speak and write with confidence, developing a rich and sophisticated vocabulary. However, pupils do not make enough progress in developing their Welsh language skills over their time at the school.

Teachers monitor pupils learning well, using worthwhile strategies to assess progress both during and over the course of a series of lessons. They provide constructive feedback to pupils. As a result, most pupils know what they do well and how to improve their work. Teachers deliver learning experiences across the broad range of the curriculum. However, there is no coherent whole-school plan to ensure that pupils build on prior learning across every area of the curriculum.

Leaders, including governors, know their school well. Self-evaluation processes are robust and informative, ensuring that they have a good understanding of the school's strengths. There are systematic and realistic actions in place to address any identified areas for development. School leaders value professional learning, ensuring that their staff take advantage of opportunities to observe good practice both within and outside of their own school.

The recommendations were:

- *Improve pupils' Welsh skills*
- *Develop a whole-school approach to the planning for progression of the curriculum, which builds developmentally on pupils' previous learning and experiences*

The two recommendations for improvement from Estyn together with areas identified through self-evaluation formed the School Development Plan for 2024-25.

School Self Evaluation & Progress with School Action Plan

School self evaluation processes are well embedded and focus on the progress pupils make, standards of teaching, the curriculum and leadership. The information gathered is evaluated and informs targets for our School Development Plan.

A summary of progress with key priorities from 2024-25 is outlined below:

KEY PRIORITY 1: Language, Literacy & Communication – Cymraeg

- Develop consistency and progression in speaking and listening skills in cymraeg, to develop more confidence in a variety of situations***
- Improve reading skills in Y3-6***

- Overall good progress is being made with this priority, however further work is needed to extend and begin embedding the approach.



- Nearly all staff who would have described themselves as having little or no language, show an increase in confidence to use basic phrases with pupils in a variety of contexts as a result of targeted regular training sessions.
- Many staff model a range of target language and have more consistent expectations and as a result most pupils ask and answer questions using a progressive range of vocabulary and sentence patterns in cymraeg sessions and daily Helpwr Heddiw sessions.
- As a result of reorganisation and sharing of practice in Meithrin to Blwyddyn 2, there are increased opportunities for pupils to practise their language.
- Many pupils use an increasing range of incidental Cymraeg language independently.
- Reading skills 'yn gymraeg' are being steadily developed through simple games, however this is an area that needs further development.
- The developing school culture is beginning to have a positive impact which is resulting in increased engagement and interest of pupils.

KEY PRIORITY 2: Curriculum for Wales – Progress and Standards

- a. Develop long-term planning in Humanities and Expressive Arts to build on previous learning and experiences.**
- b. Continue to develop understanding of the evaluation of progress learners make in class and over time in literacy and numeracy.**

- The school has a planned timetable of robust monitoring through a range of first-hand activities and as a result able to intervene in teaching and learning to ensure high quality provision for pupils.
- Teachers use a range of assessment information well and as a result most pupils make good progress from their starting points. Where there is limited progress or progress is not as expected, timely interventions are put in place.
- Collaboration to look at specific skills in humanities, in particular historical skills has strengthened knowledge and understanding.
- The review of long-term planning has been impacted by changes to class organisation due to fluctuating pupil numbers and budget constraints. The way we plan for topics will need to be reviewed further and long term planning need to be more year group specific to respond to changing groups, for example Y3/4 becoming Y4/5, whilst maintaining teacher understanding that planning needs to be flexible to pupil needs.
- This will remain a priority in 2025-26, extending to all AoLEs and RVE.

Targets

Targets are set with individual learners based on discussion and teacher assessments.

Parents evenings were held face to face in Autumn 2024 for all classes and nearly all classes in Spring 2025. Where the absence of the class teacher prevented this, a short written summary was provided and a parents' evening was offered in the Summer Term.

Parents were also offered the opportunity to meet virtually if they so wished.

Every parent / carer was provided with a summary report of their child's progress in Summer 2025.



Attendance

The governing body and WCBC are committed to ensuring that regular attendance at school is a priority which will in turn provide learners with the best possible chances in life to succeed and to achieve their goals. Attendance in 2024-25 was 94.8%. Although creeping up slowly, this is just over 2% below pre-pandemic levels and equivalent to around 2,000 lost learning days (absence) in a school year.

Improving school attendance is a national priority. Welsh Government defines **persistent absence** as pupils whose absence level is more than 10% (less than 90% attendance). These pupils may be subject to an action plan to support their return to full attendance. This plan may include a referral to the Local Authority Attendance Officer or Education Welfare Service for additional support for the pupil and their family.

Unless they are poorly, children should be in school every day on time wherever possible.

In the event that your child is going to absent from school, parents and carers should contact school by email or leave a message on the telephone absence service on 01978 357754 (Option 1) before 8.30am on the first day of absence. A full explanation for the absence needs to be given.

Any request for term time leave should be kept to a minimum and in exceptional circumstances wherever possible. Any request should be in writing on the form on the school website after considering your child's current attendance (this information is available from the school office if you are unaware of how many days absence your child has had). A full reason for why the request is being made in term time should be given. 'Holiday' is not sufficient and will lead to the request being declined.

The following will be taken into account when assessing any request:

- Amount of absence your child has had
- The time of the school year (e.g. requests in the first two weeks of September should always be avoided)
- The regularity of requests

Although the headteacher has the discretion to authorise up to ten days leave in term time, this is subject to meeting criteria within Local Authority and governor policy.

Where your child is ill, leave has been agreed or has a medical appointment, for example, these absences are authorised. In some other circumstances, **absence is unauthorised**. Examples of this would be:

- Truancy
- Late after the close of registration
- Staying at home for no reason – condoned absence
- Going shopping / Birthdays
- Holiday not agreed by the Headteacher



Unauthorised absence and in some cases, high levels of authorised absence will trigger intervention from other services such as the Local Authority Attendance Officer or Educational Social Worker.



Punctuality

In addition to coming to school everyday, it is vital that children are punctual. School starts at 8.55am but doors are open from 8.45am for children to be dropped off. Free breakfast club is also available from 8.15am, in addition to early morning club wraparound care from 7.45am. Occasionally, unexpected events can cause your child to be late for school, for example, unexpected traffic issues, car problems first thing that morning, a spillage and change of clothes required, etc

However **regular lateness, even one or two minutes each day is unacceptable**. When this happens, your child has to come in through a different entrance as usual doors and gates are already locked for safety. Their class are already settled and the child who is late is having to walk in late, older children can feel very self conscious about this. They are also missing vital learning routines e.g this can be phonics practise, mental maths or cymraeg on a daily basis.

Being around five minutes late (which does not sound much) every day equates to around half an hour of missed learning a week, the equivalent of a morning per half term and a full day a term.

We cannot emphasise enough how important being on time is. Lateness not only disrupts your own child's learning but also the learning of others.

School Policies

All policies are reviewed following a timetabled schedule in consultation with staff and governors. In 2024-25 governors reviewed the following school policies:

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	Attendance Management (Staff)	CCTV
Charging & Remissions	Continuity Plan	Critical Incident Planning
Curriculum, Teaching & Learning	Data Incident Management	Data Protection
Dedicated Headship	Disciplinary Procedures	Educational Visits
Framework of Responsibility	Lettings	Looked After Children (LAC)
Managing Potential Redeployment & Redundancy (WCBC)	Online Safety	Pay
PPA	Professional Development Review (PDR)	Safeguarding and Child Protection
Sheltering and Lockdown	Staff Leave of Absence	Strategic Equality Plan
Substance Misuse	Transition Plan	Whistleblowing
Work-Life Balance		

A number of school policies are on the school website for information.

Staff Professional Development

All staff have opportunities to access professional development over the year. Priorities are identified through performance management / appraisal and school self evaluation.



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In 2024-25 an additional training day (total of six) was provided by Welsh Government to support curriculum and ALN reform.

There are five days allocated for teacher training and one for whole staff training. These are usually undertaken as full days but can occasionally be disaggregated into twilight training sessions to meet the particular needs of the school at that time.

Where possible teaching assistants join additional training days over and above the allocated WG day.

In 2024-25 the planned focus for all our training has been on teaching, learning and Curriculum for Wales. Our training days have focussed on:

Sept 24	Progression in CfW with 3 partner schools (Provider: Impact Wales)
	Safeguarding and Planning
Nov 24	Progression & Planning AoLEs <i>*(Disaggregated to extend staff meeting sessions for SDP Pr.2)</i>
Jan 25	Progression & Planning <i>(this was adjusted to online due to heavy snow)</i>
April 25	Progression in AoLEs
July 25	Progression in digital skills – cluster working <i>*(Disaggregated to three twilights in Oct / Feb / May)</i>



Finance

Delegated Budget Expenditure Statement 01/04/2024 – 31/03/25

Amount of delegated budget to the school: £1,003,277

Description	Annual Budget Plan set by the school	Actual Expenditure
Employees	1,122,437	1,182,106
Premises	76,676	66,318
Transport	100	0
Supplies & Services*	33,842	38,747
Contingency	32,046	32,046
Support Services	41,660	42,664
Hwb IT Sustainability Payment		429
Total Expenditure	1,306,761	1,362,310
Income / Grants	-183,298	-278,166
Total Net Expenditure	1,123,463	1,084,144
Surplus / Deficit	120,186	80,867

* Supplies and services includes monies spent on educational resources.



In March 2025, the closing balance of the school budget was a deficit of -£80,867 which was a reduction of £39,319 than the planned budget deficit which was projected as part of the budget plan at -£120,186.

In April 2025, the school have had to again plan to set a deficit budget as part of a three-year plan due to meet pupil needs. A deficit budget plan with a projected out-turn of -£37,788 was set.

School Funds Year End 31st March 2025 (*school fund current and school trip account*)

	£	£
Accounts B/F	10,319	
Receipts	22,803	
Expenditure		23,755
Close of Accounts	9,367	

The Governors did not claim any expenses for travelling or subsistence whilst discharging their duties throughout this current year.

PTA Account Year End 31st August 2025:

	£	£
Accounts B/F	11,607	
Receipts	7,530	
Expenditure		10,380
Close of Accounts	8,757	

The governing body would like to again extend thanks to the Parent Teacher Association for the hard work they have undertaken raising funds for the school, particularly during this difficult time. The PTA is a much valued, small but active group who would welcome any new members. We all know how much of a difference this makes, particularly in our current financial climate.

In 2024-25, the PTA funded:

- AmaSing Creative sessions throughout the year
- Water bottles for each pupil
- Leaver Hoodie for every Y6 pupil

Complaints Policy & Procedures

From time to time as a parent or carer you may not be happy with something at school. The best way to resolve concerns is to talk to someone. We value a strong home-school partnership and members of staff are happy to discuss matters on appointment. Parents who wish to make a complaint with regard to any aspect of the school are advised of the following procedure:

1. Informally with class teacher as most things can be resolved immediately
2. If unresolved, informally with Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher by making an appointment to discuss your concerns
3. If you continue to be unhappy, formally in writing to the Headteacher (Stage A) (*or to the Chair of Governors if your complaint is about the Headteacher*)



4. It is very rare that a complaint will progress any further. However, if you still feel that your complaint has not been dealt with fairly, you should write, through the school's address, to the chair of governors setting out your reasons for asking the chair of governors (Stage B) to review your complaint or the governing body's complaints committee (Stage C) to consider your complaint.

A full copy of the complaints procedures are on the policy page of the school website and an advice sheet 'I have something to say to the school' which details this procedure, is available from the school office.

School Calendar 2025 – 2026

Term	School Opens	School Closes at End of Day
Autumn 1	Wednesday 3 September	Friday 24 October
Autumn 2	Monday 3 November	Friday 19 December
<i>Staff Training Days – school closed to pupils</i> <i>Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 September;</i>		
Spring 1	Tuesday 6 January	Friday 13 February
Spring 2	Monday 23 February	Friday 27 March
<i>Staff Training Days - school closed to pupils</i> <i>Monday 5 January</i>		
Summer 1	Tuesday 14 April	Friday 22 May
<i>Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils</i> <i>Monday 13 April & Thursday 7 May</i> <i>May Day – Monday 4 May – school closed</i>		
Summer 2	Monday 1 June	Friday 17 July
<i>Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils</i> <i>Monday 20 July</i>		



Appendix: School Events / Activities 2024-25

Visitors / Visits	
Nursery & Reception visit to Xplore	Y3&4 First Experiences with Music
Nursery & Reception Park Hall Farm trip	Y3-Y6 Enterprise Games / Project in aid of Nightingale House Hospice
Reception – Y4 Tennis sessions with Wrexham Tennis Centre	Y3&Y4 visit to Erddig Hall
Reception – Y6 Don't Touch Tell presentations on the dangers of substances	Y3&Y4 visit to Chester Zoo
Reception – Y6 Drumming workshop	Y5 light workshop at Xplore
Y1&Y2 visit to Delamere Forest	Y5&Y6 visit to Blue Planet Aquarium
Y1&2 visit to Eureka Discovery Centre	Y5&Y6 French sessions
Y1-Y6 Make Some Noise music performance	Y6 Wrexham Miners Rescue and visit to Bersham Colliery
Y2-Y6 Presentations and Reception-Y6 assembles from PC Ellis-Williams, police liaison officer	Y6 Cycle Safety training
	Y6 residential visit to Pentrellyncymer



Whole School Activities	Extra-Curricular Activities	Fundraising - <u>PTA for School Funds</u>
Harvest Festival	Y1 - Y6 Pro Skills Soccer	Festive Shopping Evening
Remembrance Assembly	Y2-Y6 AmaSing performing arts club	'Break the Rules' Day
T4C Shoebox Assembly	Y3 Recorders	Sale of knitted decorations
Spooky Fun Learning Day	Y3&Y4 Art Club	Christmas Raffle
Odd Socks Day - Anti-Bullying Week	Y4&Y5 Eco Club	Christmas Bingo
Spotty 'Spotacular' Day	Y3-Y6 Girls and Boys Football Club	Christmas Fayre
Community Christmas Card competition (Y3-6)	Y5&Y6 Netball Club	Sale of knitted chicks
Christmas Concerts		Easter Bingo
Coverdale Puppets		Recycled Clothes Bags
Gemau Buarth		Summer Raffle
Gwasanaeth Santes Dwynwen		Summer Games & Disco
	School Sports	Fundraising - <u>Charity</u>
Day in the Dark	N&R and Y1&Y2 Sports Day	Wrexham Foodbank
Whole School Diwrnod Su'mae	Y3-Y6 Sports Day	T4C Shoebox Appeal
Children's Mental Health Week, 'Know yourself, grow yourself'	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Swimming	Royal British Legion
Gwasanaeth Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant and 'Cymru am Byth' celebrations	Y5&6 Football Tournaments at Rhosnesni	Children in Need
World Book Day - Book Swap	Y5&Y6 Netball Tournament at Rhosnesni	Hope House Hospice
80 th Anniversary of VE Day commemorations	Y5&6 girls football tournament at Colliers Park	Nightingale House Hospice
Weekly expressive arts sessions with AmaSing	Y6 sports festival at Rhosnesni	NSPCC Schools Service



BARKER'S LANE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS 2019-20



