



Tyfu gyda'n gilydd, dysgu am byth
Growing together, learning forever

Dear Parents / Carers

Maes yr Haul Primary School
Governing Body Annual Report to Parents 2024-2025

This is the full Governing Body annual report to parents for the academic year 2024-2025 which has been emailed to all parents and is available on request by email request to the school.

Under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) the Governing Body is no longer required to hold a meeting for the purpose of discussing the attached report.

However, under this legislation, if a Governing Body receives a petition from parents of registered pupils at the school requesting that a meeting takes place this request must be acceded to if the following conditions are met;

- The petition contains the signatures of (either) ten percent of the parents of registered pupils or thirty of the parents of registered pupils at the school (whichever is the lower number).
- The meeting must be for the purpose of discussing a matter relating to the school.
- Should meetings be requested/held there will be no more than three meetings held during the school year in which the (initial) petition is received.
- There are enough school days remaining in the school year for the meeting to be held in line with the requirements of the Act.

Should a meeting be held it will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, the Headteacher and other persons invited by the Governing Body.

Yours sincerely

John Orchard

**Chairperson of the Governing Body,
Maes yr Haul Primary School**

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS' ADDRESS

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the School Community,

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Governing Body, to introduce the Annual Report for Maes yr Haul Primary School. This report provides an overview of another successful and inspiring year in the life of our school — a year marked by continued academic achievement, creative learning, a successful Estyn report and a strong sense of community spirit.

The governors are immensely proud of the dedication and professionalism of our staff team, who continue to provide the highest standard of teaching and care for every child. Their commitment ensures that Maes yr Haul remains a place where pupils not only reach their potential academically, but also develop confidence, kindness and curiosity about the world around them.

We would also like to recognise the invaluable partnership between home and school. The encouragement and support you give your children — and the way you engage with the school — make a tremendous difference. Our thanks also go to the Parents & Friends Association of Maes yr Haul for their tireless efforts in organising events and raising funds that enhance the experiences of all pupils.

The Governing Body has continued to work closely with Mr Stroud and the Senior Leadership Team to support the school's improvement plan, including curriculum development, wellbeing, and the ongoing improvement of our learning environment. We are encouraged by the school's clear sense of direction and its commitment to providing every pupil with the best possible start in life.

However, it is evaluating & implementing policy where I think the governing body has made some of its best contributions. We consider a range of policies each year, including several which are issued via the Local Education Authority that they recommend the school adopt. The governing body is made up of people with a diverse array of professional skills, all of whom take seriously their responsibility to scrutinise these policies. One recent example was the safeguarding policy, in which the governing body found numerous inconsistencies, and also referenced the local authorities' revised arrangements to end the renewal of DBS checks for existing school staff. The governing body felt strongly that this did not align with either the school's or parents' expectations and so, following discussion with the LA, ultimately lead to the creation of our own, more robust, safeguarding policy, which includes the requirement to maintain current DBS checks for existing staff.

We hope you will find this report both informative and encouraging. It reflects the hard work, enthusiasm and collaboration that make Maes yr Haul such a special place to learn and grow. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

John Orchard

**Chairperson of the Governing Body,
Maes yr Haul Primary School**

This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions since the last report was published.

THE GOVERNING BODY

- The Clerk to the Governing Body is Simone Delaney, School Governance Solutions Ltd
- The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Mr John Orchard

Both the Chair and the Clerk can be contacted through the school address:

Maes yr Haul Primary School, Ffordd Tirion, Broadlands, Bridgend, CF31 5EG

- The following people are currently members of the Governing Body:

Name	Category of Governor	Appointed By	End of Term of Office:
Mrs L. Clarke Mr J. Orchard (Chair) Mr J. Firmin	Local Authority	Council Members	05/11/2028 25/11/2028 06/05/2029
Cllr C. Davies (Community) Mr H. Lucas (Vice Chair) Mrs D. Ellis Mrs R. Miller	Community Governors	Governing Body	15/01/2028 30/01/2027 19/06/2027 29/09/2029
Mrs K. Hopkins-Sparkes Ms C. Lavis Mrs S. Tyler Vacancy	Parent	Parents	16/02/2026 09/01/2028 16/02/2026
Mrs H. St Amand	Teacher	Teaching Staff	18/10/2026
Mrs S. Gwyther	Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	03/09/2029
Mr K. Stroud	Headteacher		

When fully constituted this Governing Body is made up as follows

LA Representatives	3	Teacher Governor	1
Community Governors	4	Staff Representative	1
Parent Governors	4	Headteacher	1
		Total	14

The next election of parent governors is due in November 2025.

SCHOOL AIMS

School motto: “Growing Together, Learning Forever / Tyfu gyda'n gilydd, dysgu am byth”

Curriculum Vision: Our goal is to nurture, inspire, support and challenge all pupils to reach their full potential.

Mission Statement: Our mission statement illustrates how we will work towards the achievement of our vision statement. It demonstrates our commitment to the curriculum reform agenda for Wales and our firm intention to secure the four purposes at the centre of our life and work as a school.

- To embed a safe, supportive and stimulating environment to nurture and promote the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff.
- To engage fully and responsibly as active, respectful citizens of an inclusive local, national and global community.
- To encourage creative, critical and collaborative skills, embracing challenges and celebrating achievements of all pupils and staff.
- To establish a learning community where all pupils and staff are confident to express ideas, take risks and reflect, whilst acquiring new knowledge and skills to challenge themselves to achieve the highest standards.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024

Appendix A is a copy of the school’s financial statement for the Financial Year 2024-25

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

A school prospectus is updated annually in line with Welsh Assembly Government guidelines and is initially distributed to every family when their child enters Maes yr Haul Primary. Any family wishing to receive an additional copy of the school prospectus may request a copy from the office or can be downloaded from the school website www.maesyrrhaul.com The prospectus is updated annually.

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY LINKS

- Our pupil committees met throughout the year; this being the School Council, Criw Cymraeg, Digital Leaders and Eco-Committee. These groups continue to play a valuable role in the continual development of specific areas of pupil interest across the school. Some of their work is published on the school website.
- Links with the community are strong with very good partnership work between Maes yr Haul and Broadlands Residents Association, local health and social services, our local PCSOs and the all Wales police core programme provision.
- Staff recognise and celebrate the achievement of pupils through weekly award assemblies held on Fridays. Class teachers select at least one Seren yr Wythnos (Star of the Week) and pupils also earn certificates for progress in areas such as literacy and numeracy programmes.
- Our pupils benefit from a wide range of visits to local venues during the school year to enhance and deepen their learning and experiences, linking in with learning from our topics. During 2024-5 these included visits to Techniquet, Bryngarw Country Park, St Fagans, Cardiff Castle, Big Pit,

Sherman Theatre amongst many others. Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a range of challenges as part of their residential trip to PGL Liddington.

- Many junior pupils took part, either on stage or back-stage in the summer performance of Frozen. The pupils put on an amazing performance over several shows with over 300 people coming to watch.
- Pupils took part in a range of sporting activities: Years 4 – 6 attended swimming lessons at Ynysawdre Pool, Year 3 and 5 pupils enjoyed tennis lessons with Bridgend Tennis Club and our Year 6 pupils visited Bryntirion Comprehensive School to take part in a cluster Mini-Olympics.
- Across the school, we had another successful year in competitive sporting events, taking part in various inter-school matches and tournaments including rugby, netball, football and the cross-country league.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION

Maes yr Haul provides all children with a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the school. We use a variety of strategies and methodologies to develop a broad range of knowledge, skills and understanding for all pupils. Children are given opportunities to develop their learning through combinations of whole class, group, paired and individual activities.

Through these, we want all our children to enjoy their learning and experience success and achievement at school. We aim to achieve this through high standards of learning and teaching within a happy, structured and caring environment.

‘Curriculum for Wales’ provides a common framework and approach throughout the whole school that promotes a more holistic approach to achieving the four purposes for education for all learners. Staff have continued to develop and refine aspects of the new curriculum, identifying relevant skills, concepts, knowledge and ideas across the areas of learning and experience and bringing them together in a cohesive way.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The school is mainly Christian in character and recognises a broad range of other religions, faiths and beliefs. There is a collective act of worship each day which may be either in one of our halls (‘assembly’) and on some days in class. These are structured around our school values, which are reflective not only of Christian values, but also of many core values in other world religions. Children may be withdrawn from collective worship on religious grounds if their parents so request in writing.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

Provision for pupils with ALN (additional learning needs) is a real strength of our provision at Maes yr Haul with an experienced ALN staff team and a wide range of support strategies to help support our pupils. The local authority and Estyn recognise the quality and rigour of this work. Our ALN policy statement explains agreed procedures for identifying, assessing and teaching children with additional needs. Each child has an individual learning plan with specific objectives and targets which are regularly monitored. Parents and pupils are included in the regular review meetings which focus on pupil progress and future educational provision.

Additional learning needs financial resources this year were allocated to;

- 25% of support for Special Needs Support Assistants
- Non-contact time for the ALNCo to carry out her role
- Additional resources to support differentiated work

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) represents the vision for improvement in the form of targets and actions and ensures a commitment to raise achievement in all areas of school life. The improvement plan targets for 2024-25 were:

Target 1 Pupil Progress

Continue to improve pupil progress in cross-curricular skills.

Target 2: Pedagogy

Consolidate and improve pedagogy to promote effective learning behaviours and integral skills in line with Curriculum for Wales ethos.

Target 3: Wellbeing

Consolidate approaches to improving pupil and staff wellbeing.

Target 4: Leadership

Continue to strengthen high quality leadership throughout the school.

The school was inspected by Estyn in October 2024. Governors and staff were pleased with the recognition from inspectors of the many strengths of the school and their recommendations reflected priorities that had already been identified in the school's own improvement planning. These were:

R1 Ensure learning experiences challenge all pupils sufficiently

R2 Review the school's curriculum to ensure it reflects the purposes of Curriculum for Wales

R3 Improve pupils' Welsh oracy skills

THE LANGUAGE OF CURRICULUM DELIVERY

Whilst the main language of instruction is English, pupils throughout the school are encouraged to speak Welsh to their peers and other adults whenever possible. There is a comprehensive development and progression programme in place for Welsh language development. The teaching of Welsh language is largely focussed on the development of oracy skills, through daily 20 minute 'Cymraeg Bob Dydd' sessions, but with an increasing emphasis on reading and writing in Welsh as children mature and gain confidence. Across the school, we continue to work to improve pupils' confidence in use of the Welsh Language and we are currently working towards achieving the Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus Silver Award.

We give pupils the opportunity to experience Welsh culture and heritage wherever possible. Welsh is taught as a second language, there is no provision for any subject to be taught through the medium of Welsh. Pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) are catered for according to their needs with input from appropriate personnel.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The staff are the most important resource of the school and all staff attended courses and in-service training in line with the priorities in the school improvement plan. A firm commitment, led by the Headteacher, is given at school to continuing professional development for all staff members.

SCHOOL POLICIES

The school has a large number of policy documents covering both curriculum and non-subject areas. These documents are reviewed and revised by staff and governors on a rolling programme to reflect changing legislation, procedures and approaches. Further information is available by contacting the office during school time.

SCHOOL SESSION TIMES:

Our normal school session times are:

Nursery – Year 2 8:50 am - 3:20 pm (3:10 pm Nursery)

Year 3 – Year 6 8:50 am - 3:30pm

All year groups have a one-hour lunch break – start times are staggered between 11:40 am and 12:20 pm to allow for the number of pupils receiving school meals in the main hall, which is steadily increasing with the gradual increase in entitlement to Universal Free School Meals.

COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS

A community-focused school is one that ‘provides a range of services and activities’, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. Across Wales many schools already provide some community services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes’.

The development of community-focused schools is not just a short-term project or initiative, but a real opportunity for schools and communities to work together in new ways for the future benefit of children, young people and adults.

Maes yr Haul Primary School, positioned in the centre of Broadlands, engages in a range of community focused activities. These include but are not limited to: breakfast club, a range of after school clubs, police involvement, family literacy and numeracy activities, transition activities with Bryntirion Comprehensive, cluster activities and outdoor adventurous activities amongst many others. The school website is available at www.maesyryhaul.com.

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL

The Parents and Friends Association continues to provide a range of activities for pupils to enjoy, such as discos, pop-up shops and Christmas / Summer Fetes. These, together with other activities during the year help to raise valuable funds which greatly support the school in providing improved opportunities and facilities for pupils. During 2024-25, the PFA have continued to raise valuable funds with a further contribution towards maintaining and improving our outdoor provision in discussion for next year. The PFA also provided funds for our Year 6 leavers end of year event and autograph books. The governors would like to extend their thanks for their continuing efforts and valuable contributions to the life of the school.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISABLED PUPILS

The Governing Body is mindful of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in drawing up the School Improvement Plan and the day-to-day operation of the whole site.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information are included in the planning process to ensure that disabled pupils or adults will not be treated less favourably than other pupils and adults.

ATTENDANCE

The school places strong emphasis on good attendance. REMEMBER - Success starts by being in school. Parents should note that Welsh Assembly guidelines state that taking children on holidays during term time is not an entitlement for parents and all such absences need to be applied for in advance.

In 2024-25, our attendance of statutory aged pupils was as follows:

Total number of possible sessions:	378	% Statutory attendance	94.2%
% Authorised absence	4.2%	% Unauthorised absence	1.6%

The attendance of eFSM pupils is around 3% lower than the overall school attendance figure.

ADMISSION / TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Admissions are made in line with the Local Authority's admissions procedures. Every school has a published admissions number (PAN) which determines the number of school places available. Many year groups are over the published admissions number. Bridgend County Borough Council is the Admissions Authority for Maes yr Haul Primary. The school's admission arrangements are therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions.

Pupils will usually remain in the school until they complete year six and then transfer to secondary school. This school is a feeder school for Bryntirion Comprehensive School, however, pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy.

COMPLAINTS

The governors sincerely hope that any concerns and problems can be addressed by discussion with either teachers, the Headteacher and/or admin staff prior to becoming an issue for the attention of the Governing Body and the local authority. The complaints policy sets out the agreed procedures for handling complaints and is available on the school website or directly from the school upon request.

FABRIC OF THE BUILDING / TOILETS

The school is a modern well-resourced building offering good learning spaces and adequate play areas including a sports field. There are an appropriate number of toilet facilities for the number of staff and pupils throughout the school, including arrangements for children and adults with disabilities. The school employs contract cleaners to clean all areas of the school.

HEALTHY EATING & DRINKING

The school encourages parents to provide healthy options for pupils in both morning breaks and lunches. Pupils are taught about the benefits of healthy lifestyles including strategies such as '5 a day' and operate a Healthy Tuck Shop. Pupils are also encouraged to bring water bottles to school. School dinners provide a range of healthy choices for pupils, are freshly prepared and well balanced. From the start of September 2024, the roll out 'Universal Free School Meals' to all pupils was completed, offering free school meals for all pupils.

TERM DATES FOR 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
Start: Monday 1 September 2025	Start: Monday 5 January 2026	Start: Monday 13 April 2026
Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 - Friday 31 October 2025	Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 - Friday 20 February 2026	Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 - Friday 29 May 2026
End: Friday 19 December 2025	End: Friday 27 March 2026	End: Monday 20 July 2026

Appendix A - Budget Expenditure for 2024-25

School: Maes yr Haul Primary Budget allocation: £1,876,562		Expenditure
Employee Related Expenses		
AA	TEACHING STAFF	1,268,881
CD	SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS	45,957
CJ	SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT ASSISTANT	4,597
LG	SENIOR LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS	92,726
MB	SCHOOL CLERK	70,617
MC	LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS	283,887
MS	SCHOOL SITE MANAGERS	32,819
MX	COVER SUPERVISORS	39,814
WA & XX99	SUPPLY COVER AND AGENCY STAFF	151,362
XX70	STAFF TRAINING	5,424
XX91	GRATUITIES	0
Total Employees		1,996,083
Premises Related Expenses		
1005	REPAIRS & MAINT (DELEG'D)	37,005
1101	MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS	3,740
1202	GAS (EXCL.LPG)	13,514
1203	ELECTRICITY	23,875
1302	PREMISES HIRE	5,600
1401	BUSINESS RATES	52,282
1501	WATER	3,533
1701	CONTRACTOR PAYMENTS	50,152
1711	CLEANING MATERIALS (BUILDING)	4,029
1721	PREMISES RELATED COSTS	3,537
1805	SPECIAL PERILS INSURANCE	918
Total Premises		217,185
Transport Related Expenses		
2202	VEHICLE HIRE EXTERNAL	0
2401	CAR ALLOWANCES	0
Total Transport		0
Supplies and Services		
3001	PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT	0
3005	EQUIPMENT INSURANCE	4,769
3021	LICENCES (NON VEHICLE)	11,103
3053	CAPITATION	73,372
3202	SCHOOL MEALS & CATERING COSTS	21,894
3615	OTHER HIRED SERVICES/PROF FEES	1,285
3620	POLICE CHECKS	76
3780	PERSONNEL SLA	5,540
3785	CLERK OF GOVERNING BODIES	1,025
3793	EXCLUSION CLAWBACKS	223
3851	CONTRIBUTION TO FUNDS	145
3864	PURCHASE LEDGER SLA	853
3865	CORPORATE LANDLORD SLA	11,477

3866	MATERNITY SLA - SCHOOLS	0
3870	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SLA	11,434
3875	SCHOOLS LEGAL SLA	1,800
3876	CARETAKINGS SLA	1,150
3877	FINANCE SLA	4,945
3878	I.T. SLA	13,720
5226	WASTE DISPOSAL CHARGES	2,655
6802	COMPUTER COSTS: GENERAL	10,133
6804	TELEPHONE CHARGES	0
6821	PHOTOCOPYING	5,592
6871	LIABILITY INSURANCE	348
6873	LTS INSURANCE	10,698
7301	NON IT EQUIP OPERATING LEASES	7,331
Total Supplies and Services		201,566
Total Expenditure		2,395,834
Income		
8003	WG NON DIRECT FUNDING	7,000
8007	GOVERNMENT GRANTS	411,302
8242	OTHER CONTS. ETC.	23,696
8262	EXCLUSION CLAWBACK INCOME	765
8311 / 8312	SCHOOL MEALS SALES	3,158
8462	HIRE OF PREMISES	4,430
8524	COMMISSION / INSURANCE	9,066
8755	SUPPLY COVER	33,000
Total Income		492,416
Maes yr Haul Primary		
Budget Allocation		1,948,122
Income		492,416
Underspend in prior year		82,597
Total Amount Available		2,523,135
Total Expenditure		2,395,834
Carry Forward to 2025-26		127,301