

# ST ETHELWOLD'S VA SCHOOL

## GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS SEPTEMBER 2018 - JULY 2019

Dear Parents

Outlined in this document is the annual Governors' Report to Parents, which covers a broad range of items that we are required to provide on an annual basis. There will be a Parents' Meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 4.15pm if you would like to discuss the report further. If you intend on joining us at the meeting, please could you complete the slip on the back page of the booklet or email the School Office.

We were delighted with the outcome of our Section 50 Church Schools Inspection which picked out the following strengths.

- Relationships within the school community are embedded in the school's caring and inclusive Christian ethos and the good standard of behaviour in the school reflects the school's Christian values well
- The pupils' understanding of the school's values and how they impact on their daily lives
- The way the pupils of St Ethelwold's are supported by all adults to secure their full potential
- Collective worship makes a valuable contribution to the children's growing awareness of spirituality and how Christian values help them to lead better lives
- The high standard of RE teaching in upper key stage 2 which has resulted in pupils using and developing good quality thinking skills in RE

The school have continued to work very hard over the last few years. We have seen great progress in many areas of the curriculum, especially in the way we teach maths, adapting to a mastery approach to teaching. This has been excellent training for staff and we should begin to see the results of this in the coming years. We have been making preparations for the new curriculum following the report written by Professor Donaldson – Successful Futures.

Whilst we have had a difficult ESTYN inspection in October 2018, the seismic change that the school went through and is still going through will ensure that all pupils have a first rate education, today and in the coming years. All of the ESTYN recommendations are being actioned through the School Development Plan and we are receiving excellent support from GwE and the local authority.

As well as picking out areas where we need to make improvements, ESTYN also picked out many strengths of the school and we should not forget to celebrate the strong elements of the school.

*Mr Alan Rainsforth*

Chair of Governors

The Governors' Report and Estyn Report are available on our school website: <http://stethelwolds.co.uk>

**Governing Body Governor Appointments**  
**Academic Year 2018-2019**

The Instrument of Government states that the total number of Governors is to be 12

<b>Headteacher</b>	<b>Mr. Paul Oliver</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr. Alan Rainsforth</b>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Mr. Terry Axon</b>
<b>Clerk</b>	<b>Dr Lisa Peters</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>Head Teacher or Clerk</b>

<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Elected</b>	<b>Valid Until</b>
School	Headteacher Governor	Paul Oliver	01.09.08	Note 1
	Teacher Governor	Lianne Blackburn	01.04.15	31.03.23
	Staff Governor	Pam Weaver	23.05.17	22.05.21
	Parent Governor	Terry Axon	18.11.14	17.11.22
Flintshire County Council	LEA Governor	Gary Cooper	30.06.15	28.06.19
Shotton Town Council	Community Governor (also Foundation Governor)	Cllr Stephen Davies	04.04.17	03.04.21
Parochial Church Council (PCC)	Foundation Parent Governor (1)	Sarah Owen	19.3.19	18.3.23
	Foundation Parent Governor (2)	Vacant		
	Foundation Governor (1)	Martin Fuller	23.01.18	22.01.22
	Foundation Governor (2)	Alan Rainsforth	28.04.15	27.04.23
	Foundation Governor (3)	David Lloyd	20.3.18	19.3.22
	Foundation Governor (4)	See Note 2		
<b>Ex-officio Members</b>				
Governing Body	Clerk	Dr Lisa Peters	22.10.13	
Bishop	Incumbent	Rev. Steven Green	30.04.07	Note 2

Note 1: Paul Oliver remains a member throughout the term of his appointment as Head Teacher.

Note 2: Rev. Steven Green remains an ex-officio member throughout the term of his incumbency. He also serves as a Foundation Governor.

All correspondence for Governors, including Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk should be sent care of St Ethelwold's VA School.

**Future Parent Governors (3)**

At the end of a term of office for all Parent Governors and Foundation Parent Governors we will always inform all parents of the opportunity to put their name forward as a Governor.

The one vacant Foundation Governor position is currently awaiting a response from the Mission Area Committee.

The Parent Governor term of office expires on 16-11-22.

- Parent Governors are nominated by and when appropriate elected by parents of pupils currently at school.
- LEA Governors are nominated by the local County Council.
- Staff Governors are nominated and when appropriate elected by members of staff.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019

<b>Carry Forward from 2017/18</b>	£8219
Total Budget for 2018/19	£415,075
<b>Income – including WG grants</b>	£96251
<b>Costs 2017/18</b>	
All staffing inc. Supply Costs	£408427
Premises	£17457
Supplies	£36838
LEA Costs	£23434
Adult Meals	£0
Travelling Expenses	£538
<b>Total Costs</b>	£405,773
<b>Carry Forward</b>	£8,223

## NATIONAL CURRICULUM ASSESSMENTS

The Welsh Government has recently decided not to publish the Core Data Packs for schools in Wales following the recommendations from Professor Donaldson. This is based on the increasing importance and focus upon the progress and value added for individual pupils as well as the year group. This is also the focus now for Estyn, individual pupil progress.

However, we have still decided to produce the school's comparative data, but are only able to do so against national data.

Our data shows a clear trend of strong performance against other schools and comparing well to similar schools, the LA and all Wales data over time. Our value added and progress data is also very positive. This is scrutinised closely by the School Leadership Team, the LA, GWE and, of course, the School Governors. The school data plays a central part of the school categorisation process.

The Core Subject Indicator and Foundation Phase Indicator is given if a child makes the expected level for their age in all subjects assessed. In the FP this is Outcome 5, and in KS2 is Level 4.

### End of Foundation Phase Teacher Assessments for 2019 (Year 2 at Outcome 5+)

	St Ethelwold's	National
Personal & Social Development	100%	93.4%
Language, Literacy & Communication	87.5%	84.0%
Maths	75%	86.6%
Foundation Phase Indicator	75%	82.6%

### End of Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment for 2019 (Year 6 at Level 4+)

	St Ethelwold's	National
English	91.7%	91.1%
Maths	83.3%	91.8%
Science	83.3%	92.1%
Core Subject Indicator	83.3%	89.5%

### Targets for Future Years

Moving forward, we have decided to set an expectation of performance for both the Foundation Phase and KS2 to give us a target to aim for. Whilst we are in a period of change with our new curriculum and assessment process, we feel this is important to focus expectations. Our targets are:

#### Foundation Phase

Personal & Social Development	90%
Maths	90%
LLC	90%

#### KS2

English	90%
Maths	90%
Science	90%

Further information can be seen on the Mylocalschool website.

## ATTENDANCE 2018/19

At St Ethelwold's VA School we have a rich, diverse cultural and ethnic background to our families. We work very hard with all of our families and children to monitor and improve attendance. Every few weeks staff meet with our Inclusion Welfare Officer to review every child's attendance in school providing support where needed. However, many of our families may be returning to Europe to visit family. This does affect our overall school data when we are compared to both local and national averages. Our attendance for the year 2019/19 currently is:

Attendance	-	93.6%
Authorised Absence	-	5.8%
Unauthorised Absence	-	0.6%

We are beginning to see the result of the hard work that we are putting into improving attendance and are pleased to see a 2.1% increase from last year's figure of 91.5%

We agree and set targets each year with the LEA and our Inclusion Welfare Officer. Progress towards these targets is monitored closely throughout the year. We carefully scrutinise holiday leave requests before authorising the leave. In order to grant requests of holiday leave, your child's attendance needs to be above 95% over a 1 year period. **(Please do not book your holiday before seeking leave of absence).**

Our target for 2019/20 is 94%.  
Our target for 2020/21 is 94.5%.

## PUPILS LEAVING OUR SCHOOL IN YEAR 6

Destinations of Year 6 children in September 2019 -

Hawarden High School	5
Elfed High School	4
Connah's Quay High School	3

All of our local High Schools are of a very high quality and the feedback from parents is always very positive. Although we maintain close links with all of the High Schools in our area, we are regarded as a feeder school to Hawarden High as the majority of our children transfer to Hawarden High each year after the closure of John Summers High School.

## LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Our links with the community continue to grow and we are now involved with a broad range of community events and local industries. They are outlined below:-

- Hawarden High cluster of schools - We have strengthened our links with not only the High School, but our consortium of primary schools. As teachers we work together on joint projects. The consortium now offers a broad range of more able and talented activities, After School Clubs and joint transition days at the High School.
- St Ethelwold's Church – Father Steven Green has developed very strong links with school. He attends weekly assemblies and events. This link with the Church and community is having a significant impact on our children's wellbeing and attitudes to life.
- North Wales Police - We continue to strengthen our links with North Wales Police who visit school to cover a broad range of topics such as Drug Abuse, Anti Social Behaviour and Keeping Safe, which includes Internet Safety. In addition to this we also work closely with our local Community Police Officers based at Deeside Police Station. PC Hayley visits the school regularly and the pupils warmly welcome her visits.
- Toyota - We continue to develop our links with Toyota who have funded the planting the circle of trees in school. We have continued to take part in management courses based at the Toyota Lean Management Centre. Joined by an exclusive group of schools from across North Wales, we looked at management systems used in Toyota and how these can improve systems in our school. An excellent programme of training and development.
- Airbus UK – we have continued to establish and maintain strong links with Airbus UK. Airbus have for many years worked with us to send volunteers to school to listen to children read. Many of these volunteers stay on with us even after leaving Airbus.
- Deeside Hospital – Our pupils continue to work alongside the hospital and its patients, singing at Christmas and to celebrate 70 years of the NHS.
- Aston Hall Residential Care Home – Our pupils have formed a strong link with the residents of the old people's home with the choir visiting and also groups of pupils to discuss the residents memories and achievements
- Keep Wales Tidy – Foundation Phase pupils worked closely with Keep Wales Tidy to develop a garden within the school grounds which is producing a variety of fruit and vegetables for the pupils to try.

## **SCHOOL TRIPS, AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND RESIDENTIAL TRIPS**

### ***Y3/4 Kingswood Colomendy Residential***

Sadly the Kingswood trip did not go ahead due to lack of numbers.

### **Y6 Pilgrimage**

Scheduled for July – pictures to be displayed on our Twitter account: @st\_eths

The school continues to offer a broad range of After School Clubs which this year were:

- Coding
- Young Writers
- Welsh
- Multi Sports
- Singing

### ***More Able and Talented***

We have had lots of events once again for the more able and talented children within our local consortium of schools.

Pupils have been involved in:

- Forest School
- Shakespeare
- Welsh
- International Culture

### ***School Trips***

School trips this academic year included:

- Caernarfon Castle
- Sea Life centre
- Dangerpoint
- RAF Cosford

### ***Senedd y Plant (School Council)***

The school council were involved last year in raising money for charity and had a big say in interviews and questions when appointing new staff. Currently they are working on projects to discourage smoking outside of the school grounds and starting a foodbank within school.

### ***'Designed to Smile'***

This is a daily tooth brushing programme designed to be a major initiative aimed at helping to improve the health of young children's teeth in Wales. Parents'/Guardians' consent is obtained before each child enters the programme and records are updated regularly.

We introduced this into St Ethelwold's approximately 10 years ago with monitoring checks being carried out at least once a term by NHS staff.

The programme is run from Nursery through to Year 6 encouraging children to brush their teeth at our Breakfast Club. It has also been introduced to our Foundation Phase department. Each child has their own tooth brush which are stored in racks, all equipment is cleaned thoroughly on a weekly basis, this is carried out by a dedicated team of TA's.

Tooth brushing for most classes happens in school at 9am.

We were one of the first schools in Flintshire which offer this programme from Reception to Year 6 which has been a huge success here at St Ethelwold's. This has helped enormously to educate our children in the importance of keeping your teeth healthy.

If you would like any further information please visit the website:

[www.designedtosmile.co.uk](http://www.designedtosmile.co.uk)

### ***PE and School Sport***

In addition to the broad range of clubs, trips and sporting events, the children also take part in weekly PE lessons. These include games, gym, dance, movement and swimming. All children have access to all activities and are encouraged to take part.

We also participate in many Dragon sport events that are thoroughly enjoyed. These have included boxing, Tag rugby, rounders and swimming. This year we are also beginning the process of implementing The Daily Mile.

## **POLICY REVIEWS**

To ensure the smooth running of the school, the Governors are responsible for reviewing and adopting School Policies.

Each year we update various policies with Governors. This year we have updated or introduced the following:

- Staff Grievance
- Staff Discipline
- Dignity at Work
- Admissions
- Feedback & Marking
- Handwriting & Presentation
- Supply Staff
- Staff Handbook



## SCHOOL TERM DATES & TRAINING DAYS

### Autumn Term

<b>Monday 2nd September</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 3rd September</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
Wednesday 4th September	School reopens
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half-term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	School reopens
Friday 20th December	School closes for Christmas holiday

### Spring Term

Monday 6th January	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens
Friday 14th February	School closes for half-term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens
Friday 3rd April	School closes for Easter holiday

### Summer Term

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed for May Day bank holiday
Friday 22nd May	School closes for half-term
Monday 1st June	School reopens
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for summer holiday
<b>Monday 20th July</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>

## THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The School Prospectus has been updated in the summer term of 2019 to reflect small changes in staffing and the way we operate in school.

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018/19

Priority 1 of 5	To improve pupils numeracy and Welsh oracy skills
Priority 2 of 5	To improve pupils' spelling and their ability to use punctuation accurately
Priority 3 of 5	To ensure that teaching challenges all pupils at an appropriate level
Priority 4 of 5	To improve the balance of learning and effectiveness of independent learning activities in the foundation phase
Priority 5 of 5	To ensure that improvement processes focus on identifying and addressing shortcomings in standards

### THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM, THE DONALDSON REPORT

The Welsh government are introducing a new curriculum over the next few years. This is called "Successful Futures" or commonly "The Donaldson Report" after its author Professor Graham Donaldson.

The main points are:

- Incorporates all learners aged three to 16, from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4 (GCSE).
- Bids to develop: ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives; enterprising creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work; ethical informed citizens of Wales and the world; and healthy, confident individuals ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society. They are the core purposes.
- Replaces existing key stages with "progression steps", relating broadly to expectations at ages five, eight, 11, 14 and 16.
- Progression steps to provide reference points for teachers and parents, while providing a "road map" for pupils according to their individual needs.
- Organised into six "areas of learning and experience": expressive arts; health and wellbeing; humanities; languages, literacy and communication; maths and numeracy; and science and technology.
- Introduces three "cross-curriculum responsibilities" – literacy, numeracy and digital competence – that would be expected of all teachers.
- Teacher assessment remains the "main vehicle for assessment before qualifications".

- Teaching of the Welsh language remains compulsory up to the age of 16, but new expectation that learners gain “transactional competence” by end of studies.
- Welsh-medium schools to act as hubs for the Welsh language, supporting teachers and practitioners in English-medium schools.
- All teaching and learning to be directed to achieving the four curriculum purposes.
- External, standardised testing to provide important benchmarking information – but its frequency “kept to a minimum” in view of its impact on the curriculum and teaching and learning.
- Programme of professional learning to be developed to ensure that the implications of the review for the skills and knowledge of teachers are fully met.
- Wales’ national school categorisation system to be adjusted to reflect the recommendations of the review.

Over the next few years we will start to incorporate these messages in our curriculum and School Development plans.

A full copy of the report is available here.

<https://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150225-successful-futures-en.pdf>

## **ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

Our Additional Learning Needs Policy was updated in March 2019. It outlines our commitment to inclusive education for all.

Our school strives to support each child to reach their potential in all areas of development, whatever their need.

Recent training topics include Emotional development, Social Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Selective Mutism, Speech and Language, Bereavement and Attachment. We have recently obtained a defibrillator and are arranging staff training on its use. Throughout school we continue to ensure there is a focus on well-being and supporting all of our pupils to feel comfortable, valued and ready to learn. We are always keen to develop our knowledge and skills to provide the best support for all pupils.

Nurturing and family engagement continues to be very successful in empowering and developing the emotional and social skills of some of our pupils so that they are able to reach their potential in all areas of life. Activities are often based around art or craft, outdoor learning and games that focus on specific skills like being able to identify and manage emotions appropriately and developing self-confidence. Mrs Weaver also works with small groups of pupils each week to boost motivation and confidence. These groups are very popular and the impact they have on the pupils who attend is very positive.

The school is committed to the early identification and provision for all children requiring additional support. This starts as early as Flying Start Provision and on admission to school information is gathered from parents and any professional already involved in supporting the child.

The ALNCO works with school staff and outside agencies to co-ordinate effective additional support for pupils with additional needs. Support is bespoke to meet the needs of individuals and may be in the form of 1-1 support, small group interventions or in class support. We are very keen to ensure the pupils have a voice and take part in developing their plans.

Our Accessibility Plan sets out our proposals to increase access to education for disabled pupils as required by the Disability Discrimination Act.

This Accessibility Action Plan sets out our short and long term aims that will ensure we are working towards these proposals.

In terms of developing the building, the County has a rolling program for alterations to make school accessible for all. Any alterations needed for pupils are identified as soon as possible and passed onto County so that they can assess the need and plan the alterations.

Evacuation procedures are in place to ensure all pupils' safety. Pupils with a disability may need an Individual Evacuation Plan.

Although funding cuts meant we were no longer able to facilitate family Learning Signature, we still hold strong to those principles and work very closely with all families.

### **Family Support Officer – Mrs Pam Weaver**

This year I have continued to develop and maintain relationships with many parents, which has had a positive impact on the children's learning, attendance and wellbeing. These successful relationships with parents has enabled me to support families both at home and in school. Working one-to-one with parents has helped me to signpost parents to the most appropriate agencies to meet their own needs or the needs of their children. Many agencies have been successful in supporting our families this year, some of which include:

- The Foodbank – providing vouchers for families in need.
- Housing/Benefits - filling in forms and offering advice.
- CAB – offering advice.
- EAL Services – offering language support.
- TAF – supporting families.
- Flintshire Information Service – signposting families.

In addition to the one-to-one support, I have focused on delivering a wide variety of Parent Support Groups such as: literacy and numeracy through the well-received PEEP group, Forest Schools and ICT.

## **LANGUAGE CATEGORY**

Although there are a broad range of languages spoken in school such as Polish, Romanian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Hungarian and Slovak, our main language is English with Welsh being taught as a second language.

We embrace and celebrate all languages spoken in our school.

Welsh is taught throughout the school as a second language with all of our pupils. This is often done via staff as incidental Welsh in all lessons with instructions from staff, requests from pupils, answering the register or playing games at break times.

e.g. Can I go to the toilet? – Ga i fynd i'r toiled?  
Listen carefully - Gwrandewch  
Stand up - Sefwch  
Sit down - Eisteddwch

This is reinforced via daily Helpwr Heddiw lessons led by the pupils.

The core content of the lessons are taught in English as this is our first language for nearly all of our pupils. This approach to Welsh is very similar to what the children will experience at our local High Schools. Any pupils who transfer to the County Welsh speaking High School have the opportunity to attend an immersion course in the final half term of Year 6 for 6 weeks.

## **TOILET FACILITIES**

Our toilets were refurbished in the summer of 2012 with the Student Council actively involved in their design and colour scheme. They are bright, well maintained and private facilities for our pupils to use.

They are thoroughly cleaned daily by our cleaning/caretaking staff to a very high standard. They are monitored throughout the day by senior staff for any issues that may need attention.

There is a disabled toilet within the building for any disabled visitors or pupils we may have. Changing facilities for pupils with specific needs and our very youngest pupils are maintained to a high standard and aprons, gloves and specialist hygiene bins are used.

## **HEALTHY EATING, WATER AND SCHOOL MEALS**

Our school meals are provided by Flintshire School Meals service. They follow the Welsh Government Appetite for Life Action Plan aimed at improving the nutritional standards in all meals. The school was also awarded a 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating in a recent inspection of the school kitchen facilities.

In addition to this, children are only allowed to have a fruit snack in school during breaks. They are only allowed to drink water, no fruit juices or cordials. To support this, the school has a water cooler supplying filtered water to all children.

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting for Parents should you wish to discuss any of these items further. The date and agenda for this meeting are as follows:-

***Thursday 4 July 2019 at 4.15pm***

### A G E N D A

1. Welcome, apologies
2. Annual Report to Parents 2018/19
3. Questions on the report from parents
4. Date of next meeting

If you would like to attend this meeting could you please complete the slip below and return it to school by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

✂.....

I will be attending the AGM on Thursday ***4 July 2019 at 4.15pm***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed: \_\_\_\_\_