

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS: 2023-2024



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MR KEITH LEWIS

Dear parents,

On behalf of the governors, I would like to express our thanks to all parents for the commitment they have shown over the past year. Your role in #teanntgwyn is absolutely critical as we work together to secure the best outcomes and experiences for our children, to support them in becoming and being an amazing human being and working together to have a nice day, every day. Your support in working together to continually improve attendance, ensure that all are following the home-school agreement and focusing on our pathways in life is really helping to make a difference in overcoming the impact of the pandemic years. We move forward together!

2023-2024 was an extremely busy year for Ysgol Nantgwyn. We have the highest proportion of pupils reading on or above their chronological age - this being particularly important to access learning across the full range of the curriculum and at qualification assessment point and our highest capped points score at GCSE as a school yet. We will not stop there however, as we work together to continually improve all aspects of our provision. We are now taking on board parent voice through our parent forum and governors as well as more informally through conversations and also taking on board pupil voice both via our pupil leadership team and more informal conversations. Governors are also taking a more active role in the school and have already spoken with the lead pupils about their views, looked at learning in books and had walk throughs of the school. If any parents would like to join the parent forum, please drop an email to emma.coburn@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru. The forum meets once per term and is very welcoming of new members. Discussions are informal and have been really helpful in providing a parents' view.

We are one of very few schools in Wales that have implemented the new curriculum in years 7 & 8 already and embedding this practice is helping move our pupils' learning forward in anticipation of the qualifications changing in the next few years and the school preparing itself to deliver these qualifications to our pupils. This year we have a focus on improving learning, improving our learning organisation and improving well-being. Within the improvement of well-being, we are allocating a large amount of resources to improving attendance. The Welsh Government attendance target is 95% - it is set at that as research shows time and time again that missed school means missed learning and this is the biggest single predictor of how well a pupil will do both in terms of their well-being and their qualification outcomes. Any attendance below 95% is concerning and the impact on pupils can be seen in terms of the gaps in their learning. We recognise that we had to make different decisions over the past years however all of the supportive measures that were previously put in place by the government to protect pupils' qualifications have now been withdrawn and, essentially, pupils will need to know the full range of the specification in order to give it their 'best shot'. Attending 85% of the time means that pupils will only be able to access that amount of any examination paper thus reducing their potential grade before they even pick up a pen in the examination hall. Please work with us to make sure that they are here every day.

The school are very active in terms of their communication. I would encourage you to keep up to date with parent newsletters, ClassCharts and social media.

Best wishes,
Keith Lewis
Chair of governors



Rhondda Cynon Taf county borough council: Governing body of Ysgol Nantgwyn

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 in 2023.

Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Gavin Tranter, Governor Support, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Mr Keith Lewis c/o Ysgol Nantgwyn, Llewellyn Street, Penygraig, Tonypany, CF40 1HQ.

Governor Expenses

During the year 2023/24 no governors were paid expenses for their work for the school, or travelling costs incurred as a result of training and meetings.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

Election of parent governors

The most recent process for parent governors took place at the start of the autumn term in 2023 and all vacancies have been filled. Ordinarily, governors complete a four year term. If, however, any Parent Governor(s) resign before this date arrangements will be made for an election to be undertaken at the appropriate time.



Members of the governing body

Chairperson	Mr Keith Lewis
Vice chairperson	Mrs Sheila Jones
Headteacher	Ms Laura Morris
Parent	Mr Marc Hanson
Teacher	Mr John Davies
LA	CBC Gareth Hughes
LA	CBC Lisa Ellis
Parent	Miss Natasha Rees
Parent	Mrs Rebecca Pearce
Parent	Mr Liam Hale
Teacher	Vacancy
Community	Mrs Pamela Pritchard
LA	CBC Craig Middle
Parent	Mrs Sarah Thomas

Community	Mrs Sarah Phelps
Parent	Mrs Allyson Pugh
Staff	Mrs Sandra Evans
Community	Mrs Laura Hanson
Local authority	Current vacancy
Community	Simon Dalton



School performance data

Welsh Government (WG) performance measures have been subject to multiple changes over the past four years. The education system is starting to fall back into line with pre-pandemic expectations in terms of qualifications and reporting. We are pleased to report that we have again achieved our highest results in most measures and are one of the top performing schools in our family of schools.

If parents would like further information, please contact the school.

Interim capped points score This is the average pupils' points score of their best 9 qualifications (including literacy, numeracy, skills and science)	367.89
Average points literacy	36.24
Average points numeracy	33.16
Average points skills challenge certificate	38.17
Average points score science	31.61

Attendance

Attendance of statutory age pupils 2022-2023	84.1% This is well below the target of 95%
---	---

Financial statement

Enclosed, as appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2023/24. Further breakdown of the information is available upon request.

School prospectus

The school prospectus is updated annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Government or other related bodies. A copy of the prospectus is generally issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from infant to junior school or junior/ primary to comprehensive school.

The Ysgol Nantgwyn school prospectus has recently been updated to ensure that it is relevant and that it reflects updates across the school. There are several versions of the prospectus available: nursery, reception, Gwyn building (years 1 to 6), Nant middle school (years 7 and 8) and upper school (years 9 to 11). This ensures that all parents have access to specific information for different stages of the school.

A copy of each prospectus is available on the Ysgol Nantgwyn website:

[Prospectus - Ysgol Nantgwyn \(ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk\)](http://ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

There is a strong sense among pupils of being part of the school community. Across the school, nearly all pupils have very strong working relationships with adults and with each other.

- Estyn report 2023



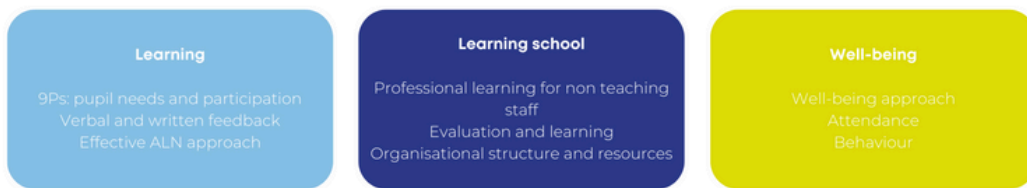
School improvement plan

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the school improvement plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take over a three-year period, in delivering the curriculum. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements.

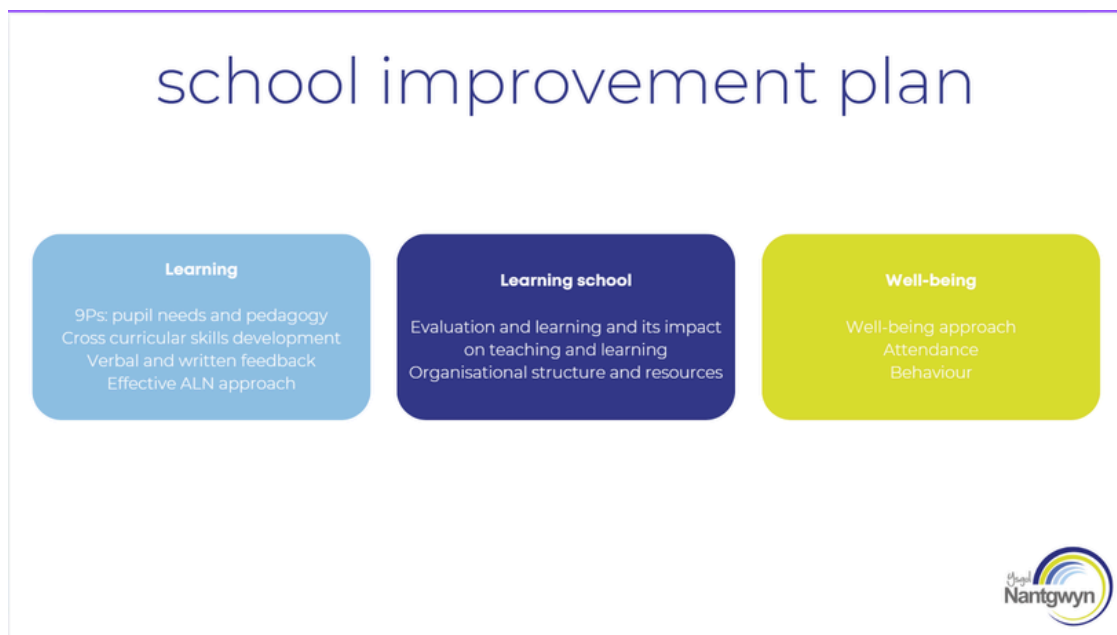
The school improvement plan for the 2023-2024 academic year was approved by Governors. The targets set included short, medium, and long-term aims, and were regularly reviewed by the Governing Body in full governing body meetings.

The school improvement plan for 2023-2024 included the following priorities:

school improvement plan



Going forward, the priorities are as follows:



Curriculum arrangements

VISION

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, our curriculum vision is based around our school statement; 'when we are ready, respectful and responsible, everything is possible'. It takes into account our school population and their needs and helps them to be ready to respond to the demands of our world and be responsible and respectful in doing so. To support this, it is informed by our local, regional, national and global context. The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum ensures that all pupils gain good knowledge and skills through a range of learning experiences so that they make good progress from nursery to year 11 and are ready to be successful in their chosen pathway when they leave school.

OUR CURRICULUM

The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum is designed to take account of the needs of all pupils and offers a broad and balanced range of experiences for all pupils. We recognise that pupils are individuals and therefore the way in which they experience the curriculum may differ. Our curriculum is iterative in its development and provides opportunities for pupils to inform and lead their learning. It provides opportunities for pupils to have meaningful learning experiences, to consider themselves and others and the part they can play in their local community as well as the wider world. The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum presents pupils with a range of big questions, gives them the opportunity to ask questions and enables their development of knowledge and skill in the exploration of possible answers through a variety of learning experiences. Our staff will carefully listen to our pupils and ensure that their thoughts, views and needs inform their learning.

Through consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors, we have agreed that our curriculum will place increased emphasis on the following identified needs:

- Understanding their responsibilities and rights
- Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Thinking creatively to solve problems
- Sharing ideas and emotions in a variety of ways
- Setting goals
- Speaking and listening to others effectively
- Building up and applying knowledge
- Forming good relationships based on trust and mutual respect
- Building mental and emotional well-being

AREAS OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

Our curriculum will provide learning which encompasses six areas of learning and experience. These are:

- Language, literacy and communication
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Expressive arts
- Humanities
- Health and well-being
- Science and technology

Each area of learning and experience has a set of 'what matters' statements. Staff use these statements and the concepts within them to design and plan the learning for pupils. These statements support pupils to make good progress by developing the skills and knowledge gained from their learning experiences from nursery through to year 11.

Our curriculum ensures that pupils learn about diversity, human rights and the rights of the child, relationships and sexuality education (RSE), Welsh and religion, values and ethics (RVE).

FOUR PURPOSES

Our curriculum will be designed, developed and delivered with the four purposes at the centre to ensure that pupils become:

- 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.
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

CROSS CURRICULAR

Our pupils will develop skills and knowledge relating to literacy (oracy, reading and writing), numeracy (including reasoning) and digital competence across the full breadth of the curriculum.

DESIGN

Our curriculum design has been informed by our pupils, parents, governors and community members and staff as well as our cluster schools and external partners. Our design has centred around ensuring an inclusive, progressive curriculum that meets the needs of our pupils to ensure that they have the very best experience at school and are ready to succeed in the opportunities and challenges that will present throughout their life.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will continue to be part of our daily teaching and learning as pupils and teachers use information from time spent with pupils to plan the next steps in each individual pupils' learning. As part of this process, pupils will engage with feedback from teachers about their learning so that they know how well they are doing and what they can do to improve and progress. Ysgol Nantgwyn will review the progress each individual pupil regularly across the year and use this information to plan for individuals and groups to ensure that all make at least good progress and are well supported in doing so. We will report to pupils and parents about progress and approach to learning at regular points in the year.

REVIEW

The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum will go through a process of iterative evaluation and development to ensure that all pupils are experiencing the very quality of provision that we can provide. We will work with a range of people to gather a range of information from many different activities that include pupils, parents and teachers to inform our evaluations and planning for development. These evaluations will sit as part of our robust monitoring and evaluation work.

Teaching, learning and experiences

In order to secure the very best outcomes for our pupils, teaching, learning and experiences need to be of the highest quality. Our teaching is about making effective decisions to progress all pupils, all of the time. It is defined by the stage of the individual pupil, their targets and the most appropriate next steps towards achieving it. Increasingly our pupils play an active role in their assessment and deciding what the next steps are.

Our staff professional learning is closely aligned to the school improvement plan - this document sets out the things that we need to do as a school to keep improving outcomes and experiences for all pupils. Staff professional learning takes a variety of approaches but, without exception, focuses on pupils at all points and how we can make provision even better for pupils as individuals.

	Your child's teacher will...	Your child will...
Positive relationships	work with them to build a positive learning relationship	actively try to build a positive learning relationship with staff and other pupils
Planning	have worked out the next steps for their class and planned the lesson accordingly	have reflected on their learning and decided on the approach that they will need to take in the next lesson
Pupil needs	take into account pupils' individual needs and support them to make progress in light of these	know how they learn best and tell their teacher this to allow them to support your child well
Pedagogy	ensure they use a variety of different teaching methods, tasks and activities	be open to a variety of tasks and learning strategies
Prompts	give your child feedback and ask them questions/give scenarios to develop their learning further	respond well to teacher when they ask questions or give feedback
Participation	ensure pupils are actively taking part in their lessons	actively take part in lessons and be open to new learning
Plenaries	ensure your child has regular opportunities to reflect on their learning and next steps and summarise their learning	reflect on their learning and next steps, and summarise their learning
Progress	ensure that pupils make as much progress as possible	ensure they make as much progress as possible
Proof	make sure pupils can justify their thinking and answers	consider their learning thoroughly and be able to say what they think as well as why they think it, giving a reason why



Leaders are developing a culture of professional reflection and of continuous improvement. This is supporting a sense of teamwork and a shared sense of purpose.

- Estyn report 2023



Use of the Welsh language

This school is an English medium school, lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of English. The use of the Welsh language is promoted using incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day.

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we strive to nurture and further develop Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig and Bilingualism as a statutory requirement. Our aim is to instill in our pupils:

- a sense of belonging;
- a sense of place and heritage;
- an awareness of the importance of the language, literature and history of Wales;
- an understanding of the creative and expressive arts in Wales;
- an awareness of the factors that have shaped Welsh religious beliefs and practices;
- an awareness of contemporary issues as they affect Wales.

Trilingualism is another integral part of our languages curriculum in lower school and middle school. Pupils are taught languages through a triple literacy approach. This is where vocabulary is introduced to pupils in Welsh and a modern foreign language simultaneously and pupils are encouraged to trans language between Welsh, English and the modern foreign language.

We develop Welsh by aiming to:

Increase the number of Welsh speakers, the use of Welsh and creating favourable conditions.

The promotion of the Welsh language within school will provide pupils with the knowledge and invaluable understanding of the Welsh language and Welsh culture and will put them at an advantage when applying for places at college, university, apprenticeships or jobs in Wales.

English as a second language (EAL)

Should parents request that their child is taught at this school in a language other than English this request will be given due consideration.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are supported appropriately according to their needs.

Term dates 24-25

Autumn 2024	Monday, September 2 2024	Friday, October 25 2024
Autumn 2024	Monday, November 4 2024	Friday, December 20 2024
Spring 2025	Monday, January 6 2025	Friday, February 21 2025
Spring 2025	Monday, March 3 2025	Friday, April 11 2025
Summer 2025	Monday, April 28 2025	Friday, May 23 2025
Summer 2025	Monday, June 2 2025	Monday, July 21 2025

INSET days for 2024-2025 are as follows:

Monday 2nd September 2024
Friday 29th November 2024
Monday 7th April 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025
Friday 18th July 2025
Monday 21st July 2025





Organisation of the school day

School Start	Lower 08:55	Middle 08:40	Upper 08:40
Registration	N/A	08:40	08:40
Lessons 1	08:55	08:55	08:55
Lesson 2	09:45	09:45	09:45
Break	10:35	10:35	10:35
Lesson 3	10:55	10:55	10:55
Lesson 4	11:45 Lunch	11:45	11:45
Lunch	Lesson 4 12:35	12:35	12:35
Lesson 5	13:25	13:25	13:25
Lesson 6	14:15	14:15	14:15
School End	15:10	15:05	15:05



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.

Review of school policies

The school has many policy documents covering both curriculum and non-subject areas. These documents are constantly reviewed/revised by staff/governors to incorporate changing trends and legislation. Further information is available on the school website or by contacting the Headteacher during school time.



Additional learning needs (ALN)

The school's policy for the Assessment of and Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs is summarised as follows:

The school's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with additional learning needs is consistent with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales (approved by the Senedd on 23rd March 2021) under section 4 of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

The school's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them.

The ALNCo also liaises with all members of staff, to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.

During the academic year 2023/24 58 pupils were in receipt of an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Accessibility

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we fully recognise our duties and responsibilities to eliminate discrimination and promote equality for all learners, employees, members of the school community and service users regardless of protected characteristics.

We fully support the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) and the need for protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics as set out in the 2010 Act.

Our Strategic Equality Plan has been informed by the views of our learners, parents/carers, staff, governors and wider community so that we ensure that it robustly addresses priorities for improvement and that equity and equality underpins everything that we do as an education provider and an employer. This Plan sets out our Equality Objectives for a four-year period from 2022 – 2026 and the actions we will take to reduce identified inequalities, improve outcomes and to foster good relations within school and beyond the school gates. As a community school, ensuring that everyone associated with the school is treated with care, respect and dignity is at the core of everything we do.

The school and governing body, will collect, analyse and publish information about our progress in achieving our Equality Objectives as outlined in the Plan, and the three aims of the 2010 Equality Act. These will be shared and published so that there is transparency and accountability. We will also aim to engage with our school community and wider partners to ensure that our Plan and the actions we take make a difference to the lives of individuals with protected characteristics in our school and to members of our school community.



Fabric of the building and provision of toilet facilities

The building is generally in a good state of repair.

There are multiple sets of toilets for pupils to use throughout the school day, different sets are used at different times for specific year groups. Pupils with medical passes have access to a toilets around the school. We have a toilet supervisor available throughout the day for any cleaning issues which arise and then the cleaning team undertakes a full clean every evening.

During 2023-2024, we have done the following to improve the site for pupils:

- Further green enhancements around site - planters and plants
- Upgraded furniture for two classrooms (general refresh program now costed into the budget)
- Refresh of corridor walls
- Refresh of classroom walls
- Complete refurbishment of the Q room
- Learning zone improvements for Nant
- Addition of the outdoor classroom in Gwyn





Target setting

Targets for the school are noted in the school improvement plan.

All pupils have individual targets for each curriculum area. These targets are based on their prior attainment, their prior rate of progress with a view to them making at least good progress.

Attendance

The school attendance was 84.1% for 2023-2024 which is too low. It is impacting on the attainment and well-being of pupils.

The school attendance target for 2024-2025 is 88%. Attendance of all pupils is closely monitored in conjunction with our partners in the local authority.

Admission and transition arrangements

The County Borough Council is the admissions authority for all schools (other than church schools where the school's governing body is the admissions authority) within the authority's boundary. The school's admission arrangements are therefore operated in line with the authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication 'Starting School Book'. The book is made available to parents at the point of their application for their child's admission to school. The contents of this book can also be accessed online on the authority's website.

Pupils who have been in Ysgol Nantgwyn in year 6 will automatically gain a place in our year 7. Our other feeder primary schools include:

Williamstown
Cwmclydach
Pontrhonda
Llwynypia

Our transition information can be found here: <https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/about-us/transition-into-year-7>

YEAR 7 TRANSITION INFORMATION



September 2023



School leavers

We have excellent partnership working arrangements with post 16 providers and nearly all of our pupils go on to study at Tonyrefail Community School or Coleg y Cymoedd pursuing a number of different pathways that include AS and A levels, apprenticeships and vocational qualifications. Using our partnerships, pupils are well supported to make decisions and also transition successfully.

Sporting aims and achievements

The school has a significant after school programme with a large variety of different activities for pupils to participate in. We have a large number of pupils that have significant achievements in karate, tae kwon do, bowling, rugby, netball and swimming. We often post their achievements on one or more of our social media channels. Additionally, we participate in the schools' league across RCT in football and rugby.



Healthy eating

The Healthy Schools Scheme was launched in 1999 to support schools in creating a healthier community in which we live.

"The 'healthy school' is one which takes responsibility for maintaining and promoting the health of all who 'learn, work, play and live' within it not only by formally teaching pupils about how to lead healthy lives but by enabling pupils and staff to take control over aspects of the school environment which influence their health."

For more information on the scheme, please visit the NHS website [here](#) or view the accreditation criteria [here](#).

We have been focusing on the health areas of 'Food and Fitness' and 'Safety' as a result one of the main focuses over the past year has to become an Active Journeys school. As part of this we have worked closely with Sustrans Wales and pupils have undertaken balance bike, scooter and cycling skills so that pupils understand how to ride safely within the community. We participated in Road Safety week back in November where we found out about road safety heroes. We also entered the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel week where we encouraged pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to school in March. Our pupils were amazing and made every effort to take an active journey to school during the week resulting in us winning a prize in the national competition.

During the year pupils in year 6 have trained as playground leaders and support younger pupils during playtimes by organising structured play activities. During the Summer term we will be training year 5 pupils in preparation for September.

In academic year 2022-2023, we achieved the phase 5 award and during 2023-2024 we were working towards our next step.

Appendix A

How is the school funded?

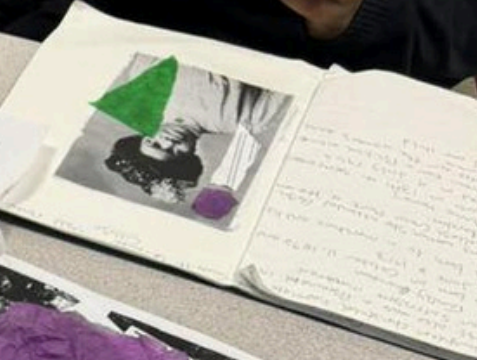
The LA provides the school with a budget for each financial year based upon a number of factors, including the number of children on the special needs register, floor space within school, but the main factor is the school's pupil numbers.

The money received from the LA is called the delegated school budget or sometimes known as formula funding.

On receiving the delegated school budget the governors then decide how this money should be allocated and agree a budget that is followed for the year. This account is monitored continually by the headteacher, business manager, LA and subcommittee of governing body at their regular meetings, along with termly updates to the full GB.

Financial Statement 2023-2024

	Budget	Actual	Balance
Employee-related expenditure			
Teaching Staff	3,466,600.00	3,223,719.42	£242,880.58
Support Staff	1,417,888.00	1,305,098.97	£112,789.03
Premises-related expenditure			
Buildings, Repair & Maintenance	105,956.00	106,540.40	-£584.40
Utilities	277,997.00	237,868.04	£40,128.96
Rates	66,144.00	66,143.66	£0.34
Cleaning	111,355.00	111,812.17	-£457.17
Annual agreements	73,381.00	56,358.53	£17,022.47
Equipment & Furniture	4,000.00	1,800.46	£2,199.54
Other i.e. telephones, postage	35,177.00	36,375.91	-£1,198.91
Supplies & Services expenditure			
Whole School ICT	49,440.00	41,199.96	£8,240.04
Exam Fees & Expenses	100,000.00	127,885.88	-£27,885.88
Service Level Agreements	196,220.00	218,603.10	-£22,383.10
Contingency	86,922.00	0.00	£86,922.00
Professional Learning	0.00	1,925.00	-£1,925.00
External Supply	321,160.00	426,595.30	-£105,435.30
Exclusion Clawbacks	90,000.00	89,575.21	£424.79
Pupil Services	1,500.00	1,148.83	£351.17
Swimming	6,433.00	6,433.10	-£0.10
Curriculum development / resources	114,055.00	125,038.26	-£10,983.26
Income			
EIG Grant	191,490.00	191,430.00	£60.00
PDG Grant	345,000.00	345,000.00	£-
PDG Early Years Grant	26,450.00	26,450.00	£-
Other grants	289,493.00	376,650.53	-£87,157.53
General Income	79,800.00	50,618.72	£29,181.28
Hire of Premises	4,367.00	2,911.55	£1,455.45
Total underspent budget carried forward to 2024-2025			283,645.00



The Suffragettes
D. Gill
The Suffragettes
The Suffragettes
Famous Suffragettes
Famous Suffragettes
Famous Suffragettes



With an...