

# Ty Isaf Infant and Nursery School

**Annual Report of the Governing Body to  
Parents for the Year 2022-2023**

**Published February 2024**



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## **Foreword – Chair of Governors**

As Chair of Governors at Ty Isaf Infants and Nursery School it gives me great pleasure in presenting to you this annual report for the academic year 2022-2023.

Setting targets for the school is a key role for the school's ongoing development and feedback to the Governing Body from Education Achievement Service (EAS) is that the targets being set for each pupil are appropriate, based upon sound evidence, well monitored and are regularly reviewed. These targets align with the School Development Plan and are helpful in driving up standards, enabling children to develop to their full potential whilst at the school.

It is good to report again that standards and educational provision in all areas of school life continues to be enhanced. The school has again seen a high level of performance, providing an exciting and rich working environment for all pupils.

The Governors commend the dedication of the staff, the hard work of the pupils and support of the parents in another successful year for the School.

We invite you to read this summary of the organisation and activities of the school for 2022-2023 and to celebrate with us in the achievements of the year.

Mrs Deborah Noble  
Chair of Governors

## Vision

Learning Together to be Our Best

## Mission Statement

Happy, caring, growing together

## Aims

- ✓ To learn in a safe, nurturing environment, which values the ideas of all, through a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ✓ To create a happy, caring, challenging school, where all develop an enthusiasm for learning as ambitious, capable learners.
- ✓ To promote respect for others beliefs and cultures, celebrate differences and to create a sense of belonging.
- ✓ To encourage healthy hearts and minds and growing together as part of our community, Wales and the wider world.

## The Governing Body 2022-2023

The Governing Body is responsible for the effective management of the School. The Clerk to Governors is Mr. Mark Powell, who may be contacted via the Educational Achievement Service (EAS) at Tredomen House, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed.

Chair of Governors: Mrs Deborah Noble, C/O Ty Isaf Infants School, Mill Street, Pontymister, Risca, NP11 6EF. Telephone 01633 612420.

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b> | <b>Governor Type</b>   | <b>Appointed By</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Joanne Glastonbury-Watkins | 07/02/2023        | 06/02/2027      | Community Governor     | Governing Body      |
| Rev Stephen Tucker         | 03/10/2017        | 02/10/2025      | Community Governor     | Governing Body      |
| Lisa Redman                | 05/09/2022        | 04/09/2026      | Community Governor     | Governing Body      |
| Rebecca Luxton             |                   |                 | Head Teacher           | Governing Body      |
| Deborah Noble              | 21/09/2020        |                 | LA                     | LA                  |
| Claire Howells             | 16/06/2022        | 16/06/2026      | LA                     | LA                  |
| Lauren Cairns              | 18/06/2021        | 18/06/2025      | L.A                    | L.A                 |
| Cllr Michael Parker        | 19/02/2019        | 18/02/2027      | Minor Authority        | Community Council   |
| Catherine Dent             | 08/01/2021        | 07/01/2025      | Parent Representative  | Parents             |
| Cerys Hughes               | 11/11/2021        | 10/11/2025      | Parent Representative  | Parents             |
| Timothy Moody              | 07/02/2023        | 06/02/2027      | Parent Representative  | Parents             |
| Cerys Parry                | 14/09/2029        | 13/09/2023      | Staff Representative   | School Staff        |
| Nia John                   | 31/03/2023        | 30/03/2027      | Teacher Representative | School Staff        |

## School Times

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nursery | Morning Session 9.15 to 11.45                                   |
| Infants | Morning Session 9.15 to 12.05<br>Afternoon Session 1.05 to 3.20 |

## Teaching and Support Staff 2020-2021

| Year Group | Class       | Teacher  | Support Staff   |
|------------|-------------|--|---|
| Nursery    | Nursery     | Miss Braddon until March 2023<br><br>Miss Luxton/Mrs Jenkins March – July 2023 | Mrs Board<br><i>Mrs Hannigan – agency</i><br><i>Mrs Hart – agency ALN</i><br><i>Mrs Clarke -agency ALN</i><br><i>Miss Pipe – agency ALN</i> |
| Reception  | Machen      | Miss Pearson – March<br>Mrs Ashley – Secondment                                | <i>Mrs John – agency ALN</i><br>Mrs Pritchard   |
| Year 1     | Cader Idris | Mrs King - Dec<br>Mrs Powell - Supply  | Mrs Owen  |
| Year 2     | Twmbarlwm   | Miss John  | Miss Parry  |

## School Staff

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Headteacher                | Miss R Luxton – Secondment Sept – Feb<br>Miss R Luxton – March                   |
| Deputy Headteacher         | Mrs S King Sept – Dec<br>Miss Pearson Jan – March<br>Mrs D Ashley – April - July |
| Teacher                    | Miss L Pearson - March   |
| Teacher                    | Miss N John  |
| Teacher                    | Mrs H Jenkins - Supply   |
| Teacher                    | Mrs H Powell - Supply  |
| HLTA                       | Miss L Braddon March   |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs J Owen   |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs S Pritchard  |
| Learning Support Assistant | Miss C Parry   |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs K John – Agency ALN  |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs C Lines  |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs L Board  |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs Clarke – Agency ALN  |
| Learning Support Assistant | Mrs Hart – Agency ALN  |
| Learning Support Assistant | Miss Pipe – Agency ALN   |
|                            |  |
| Secretary                  | Mrs R Cook   |
| Caretaker                  | Mrs J Davies   |
|                            |  |
| Dinner Supervisor          | Mrs J Silcock  |
| Dinner Supervisor          | Mrs I Hayes  |
|                            |  |
| Kitchen Staff              | Mrs T Wilshaw  |
| Kitchen Staff              | Mrs G Samuel   |

## **School Improvement Plan 2022-2023**

- Priority 1 – Teaching, learning and assessment, enrichment and wider learning opportunities provide challenge for all.
- Priority 2 – Develop and embed further the learning and teaching experiences for the new curriculum, raising standards to develop all pupils in relation to Curriculum Reform
- Priority 3 – Develop further a range of elements linked the New Curriculum including ALN reform and health, wellbeing and equity for all.
- Priority 4 – To continue to strengthen and develop leadership practices and capacity at all levels in order to lead high quality provision and outcomes for all.

## Estyn Inspection February 2018

The school was inspected during the spring term and the school's ESTYN Inspection report was published on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018. The following is a summary of that report:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| The School's current performance       | Good |
| The School's prospects for improvement | Good |

### **Current Performance**

The current performance of Ty Isaf Infant and Nursery School is good because:

- Nearly all pupils make good progress;
- Standards and provision in literacy, numeracy and personal development are good;
- The school supports pupils' wellbeing very effectively;
- Pupils with additional learning needs are very well supported; and
- The school provides an exciting and rich working environment for all pupils.

### **Prospects for Improvement**

The prospects of improvement at Ty Isaf Infant & Nursery School are good because:

- The head teacher and senior management team have a strong sense of purpose and clear vision for future further improvement
- All staff share a common commitment to high standards;
- The governing body has a very good overview of the school's needs and acts effectively as a critical friend;
- The school's systems for self-evaluation are robust and provide accurate information for future actions; and
- There are effective links between self-evaluation outcomes and school development planning.

## **Recommendations**

- Ensure all staff develop pupils' early reading skills progressively and systematically;
- Ensure that assessment for learning strategies help pupils to understand better how to improve their learning;
- Improve pupils' writing and redrafting skills;
- Focus more effectively on the most important development actions to achieve consistent implementation in all classes.

## **What happens next**

- The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

These recommendations formed the basis of the targets for the School Improvement Plan 2018-19 and continually.

## Language

“Standards in Welsh second language in reading and speaking and listening are very good.”  
ESTYN 2013

Ty Isaf is an English medium school. English is the main language used throughout the school. However, the school is committed to the development of the Welsh language and as a result, Welsh is taught and used throughout the school both formally and incidentally. Simple instruction, greetings and songs are often in Welsh.

## Special Educational Needs

The school continues to ensure that pupils with special educational needs have access to the whole curriculum. The last inspection report stated this is an outstanding feature of the school. The school has identified 35% as having Additional Learning Needs and are on the ALN register. They range from early years, early years action, through to pupils with statements of SEN. Pupils at early years or school action receive support from the class teacher and support staff. Pupils at early years or school action plus receive the same level of support plus additional support from outside agencies such as Speech and Language therapists, Behaviour Support or the Educational Psychologist. Pupils with statements of SEN receive specific classroom support from a Teaching Assistant. Staff have received training and are at the early stages of implementing provision and identifying school needs with regards to the new A.L.N bill

### Pupils

All our pupils with SEN are monitored very closely and as a result there is movement both up and down our SEN register. The table below indicates the number of pupils at each of the stages of the code of practice in the Summer Term 2022.

| Code of Practice | Number of pupils | % of pupils |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| IDP              | 4                | 3.3%        |

ALNCo Miss Luxton / Mrs Ashley

## Wraparound Childcare

'Brighter Minds' Wraparound childcare is provided at Ty Isaf Infants School. Whilst this is not run directly by the school, governors are pleased to provide the facilities for this childcare provision. Mrs Helen Morris runs the service. This scheme is well-known and we hope that it will attract new pupils into the school. Pupils are collected from nursery by Brighter Minds. The pupils who attend Brighter Minds are cared for until 3.15pm. The provision has been very successful.

## Attendance

Attendance for the academic year is given below. Concerns have been identified and strategies put in place to improve attendance and this has been a target in the SDP 2019-2020. Governors are committed to ensuring that all pupils benefit from what the school has to offer.

The school works closely with Louise Pine, Education Welfare Officer, to ensure that families are provided with support when experiencing difficulty with school attendance.

| 2022-2023    | % Attendance | % Authorised Absence | % Unauthorised Absence |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Whole School | 89.2         | 8.9                  | 1.9                    |

## The Language of the School

| First Language | Number of pupils aged 5 or over at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 |
|----------------|---|
| Telugu         | 1   |
| Ukrainian      | 1   |
| Turkish        | 1   |
| Sinhala        | 3   |

Information taken from PLASC January 2023

## **Extra-Curricular Clubs 2022-2023**

|   |                                |                                     |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pupil Council<br>Miss John                    | Eco Club<br>Miss Parry         | Choir<br>Miss Pearson / Miss Luxton |
| Crafty Critters<br>Mrs Board<br>Mrs Pritchard | STEM<br>Miss Parry<br>Mrs Owen | Music<br>Mrs Ashley                 |
| Coding<br>Mrs Lines                           |                                |                                     |

## **Term Dates**

| 2022/23          | Autumn Term               | Spring Term                 | Summer Term                 |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Term Starts      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2022 | 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023    | 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 |
| Half Term Starts | 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2022 | 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023   | 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2023   |
| Half Term Ends   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022  | 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023   |
| Term Ends        | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 | 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023  |

## **The School Prospectus / Parents Handbook**

The School Prospectus / Parent Handbook can be obtained from the school office.

All parents are provided with a copy of this document when their child enters Nursery or starts our school for the first time.

Changes have been made to demonstrate compliance with guidelines.

## **Community Involvement**

Over the past year, the school has continued to establish many links with the local community. It has been a pleasure to have been involved in a wide range of activities. These include:

- Harvest
- Harvest Celebrations
- Ty Hafan / Morrison concert
- Fire Brigade sessions with children
- Police – an established programme is in place to work with each class throughout the year, tackling issues such as stranger danger
- Risca Council colouring competition
- Library Visits
- Caerphilly battery recycling competition
- P.C Darren
- School Fete
- I.C.E Wales
- Local church visits
- Christmas cards in the community

## ***Foundation Phase Results 2022 -2023***

**There is no Foundation Phase School Performance Data for 2022-2023.**

## **Attendance**

To try and reduce the percentage of consistent absenteeism, the school continued with successful systems such as the late gate system, rapid response and the promotion of the importance of attendance through assemblies and newsletters. Staff support families and promote wellbeing across the school. Families have benefitted support during the year. Despite the pandemic, attendance of the majority of pupils remained good and there were no pupil exclusions.

At Ty Isaf Infants School we value the effect that outdoor learning has on the wellbeing and engagement of learners and we strive to provide regular opportunities to explore and learn in our outdoor provision. The pupils have access to the outdoors in all weather conditions.

Children also received regular access to the forest school provision at school through our extensive Forest School areas. This year we focussed on the development of staff skills through outdoor learning training sessions, and the Forest School area was developed further with a range of new resources. We have worked with external providers to develop outdoor areas and to plan engaging, authentic outdoor learning experiences. We recognised the effect that periods of remote learning had on learners' attainment and progress. Upon return to school, we carefully assessed learners' skills in literacy and numeracy through listening to learners, observations, planning, data and formative assessments. These assessments allowed staff to support children and to address particular skills through targeted planning and interventions.

## **Wellbeing and Equity**

Wellbeing of pupils and staff is always one of our main school priorities. The children's well-being was prioritised and in general, the children have coped well with the transition into school following a very unsettled previous year. Our wellbeing support included Thrive, Elsa, Wellbeing and Family Engagement sessions.

Daily check-ins were still available for the children that needed the support. All children accessed Elsa support, as required, and had access to Thrive support.

The school believes that outdoor activities promote positive wellbeing, so for all children outdoor activities were widely available including regular visits to the forest school area.

## **Additional Learning Needs**

At Ty Isaf Infants School, we pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive school, ensuring we meet the needs of all our pupils. We access a number of external agencies to help support pupils according to their needs. This year we have received advice and support from Caerphilly Autistic Spectrum Service, SPACE Wellbeing Team, the Educational Psychology Team and the Local Authority Inclusion Team. In addition, our highly trained Teaching Assistants have supported the pupils through a wide range of interventions within their bubbles. All teaching staff have completed mandatory training in relation to ALN reform. All children with ALN have child and parent-friendly Individual Development Plans (IDP's) with clear targets, which are written and reviewed three times a year. The children, their parents and any outside agencies involved e.g. Speech & Language Therapy, are invited to contribute.

During the academic year 2022-2023, we ran groups to support our children's learning, e.g. A variety of assessment data is used to identify children for the groups. Discussions also take place with teachers, additional practitioners, parents and the children themselves, in addition to any outside agencies.

## Curriculum Cymraeg

Looking at our identity, our community and belonging where a great way to settled children back into school life. It has been great to reflect back on the wonderful Welsh work pupils at Ty Isaf Infants School have completed throughout the year. Firstly, with a focus on developing pupils' oracy skills and confidence in speaking the Welsh language, a Gemau Iaith (*Language Games*) resource pack and Banc Geiriau (*Word Bank*) resource pack was given out to all teaching staff and support staff. The purpose of this was to introduce exciting new language games to the classroom and revise language patterns, such as the Brawddeg Y Pythefnos (*Phrase of the Fortnight*), regularly during daily Welsh sessions. The Criw Cymraeg did fantastic work introducing the Brawddeg Y Pythefnos and they, along with the Helpwr Heddiw, were utilised in helping introduce and practise the new vocabulary within their classes. Secondly, weekly Welsh assemblies were still delivered through a range of blended learning activities including live assemblies, pre-recorded Criw Cymraeg assemblies and iMovies. The Welsh assemblies were vital in promoting the Welsh language, further language skills and continue achieving the targets for the in Y Gwobr Ari-an (*The Silver Award*) in the Siarter Iaith (*Language Charter*). Diolch yn fawr iawn to the Criw Cymraeg for all their help in creating the assemblies!

## Finance Statement:

| <b>SCHOOL: Ty Isaf Infants</b>         |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>OUTTURN REPORT 2022/2023</b>        |                               |
| <b>OLAS</b>                            | <b>OUTTURN BUDGET 2022/23</b> |
| <b>EMPLOYEES</b>                       |                               |
| Teachers                               | 256,343                       |
| Support Staff                          | 307,483                       |
| Other Staff related costs              | 6,920                         |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                       | <b>570,746</b>                |
| <b>PREMISES RELATED</b>                |                               |
| Building Maintenance                   | 21,638                        |
| Gas                                    | 5,670                         |
| Electricity                            | 7,093                         |
| Rates                                  | 9,095                         |
| Water                                  | 3,240                         |
| Fire Fixtures                          | 155                           |
| Cleaning Contract                      | 2,983                         |
| Refuse Collection                      | 2,510                         |
| Insurance                              | 2,494                         |
| Hygiene                                | 328                           |
| Alarms                                 | 1,775                         |
| Window Cleaning / Servicing            | -                             |
| CCTV                                   | -                             |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                       | <b>56,981</b>                 |
| <b>SUPPLIES &amp; SERVICES</b>         |                               |
| Computer Costs                         | 24,080                        |
| Capitation/Stationary                  | 32,910                        |
| Music Support Services                 | 1,179                         |
| Licences                               | 338                           |
| School Trips                           | 2,978                         |
| Telephone Charges                      | 1,433                         |
| Photocopying                           | 2,103                         |
| Transport Hire / Swimming              | -                             |
| Medical                                | 417                           |
| Misc Expenses                          | 1,947                         |
| Retrospective clawback -CAG            | -                             |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                       | <b>67,385</b>                 |
| <b>SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS</b>        |                               |
| All Services                           | <b>26,305</b>                 |
| <b>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS</b>        | <b>9,698</b>                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>               | <b>731,105</b>                |
| <b>INCOME</b>                          |                               |
| Reimbursement School Meals             | 2,100                         |
| Supply Compensation                    | -                             |
| Miscellaneous & Other Income           | 18,614                        |
| Devolved                               | 7,550                         |
| EIG / PDG                              | 93,200                        |
| Grant Funding                          | 49,588                        |
| Early Years Funding                    | 17,519                        |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                    | <b>188,571</b>                |
| <b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>                 | <b>542,534</b>                |
| <b>TOTAL SURPLUS/CONTINGENCY</b>       | <b>71,547</b>                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>614,081</b>                |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL</b>        |                               |
| <b>FUNDING</b>                         |                               |
| Formula Allocation (net of retro. adj) | 454,514                       |
| Retrospective Adjustment from prev yr. | 10,580                        |
| <b>Total Formula Allocation</b>        | <b>465,094</b>                |
| Total Carried Forward from prev. yr.   | <b>148,987</b>                |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>                   | <b>614,081</b>                |
| <b>BUDGET SHORTFALL</b>                |                               |

## **Appendix A: Governor Roles**

### **Parent Governors**

Parent governors are elected as representatives of the interests of parents of pupils currently attending the school. A parent governor can continue to serve as a governor until the end of their four-year term of office, even if their child leaves the school during the period.

Parent governors may express their personal views at governing body meetings, however it is expected that these views would be representative of the interests of the parents at the school.

A parent governor should therefore keep 'in tune' with the concerns and opinions of the majority of parents. However, it is important that when decisions are made, individual governors exercise their best judgement when contributing to the decision of the governing body.

### **Community Governors**

Community governors are invited by other governors to join the governing body and are appointed by the governing body. Community members bring their own experience of skills to the governing body and can act as a link with the community in which the school serves. Community governors usually live or work in the community of the school area and are committed to the good governance and success of the school.

### **Local Authority (LA) Governors**

LA governors are appointed by the LEA which maintains the school. LA governors may present the LA's views but they are not delegates of the LA and they cannot be mandated by the LA to take a particular view. LAs should publish the process and criteria for identifying candidates for appointment as LA governors.

### **Head Teacher Governor**

The Head Teacher will be a full member of the governing body of their school unless they choose not to be a governor. If a Head Teacher decides not to be a governor they are still entitled to attend all meetings of the governing body.

The Head Teacher will:

- Report to governors but also involve governors closely in the running of the school;
- Be honest, direct and open with governors;
- Establish a good rapport with the chairperson of the governing body;
- Use simple and direct language.

### **Teacher Governors**

Teacher governors are elected as representatives of the interests of the teaching staff of their school. Whereas on accession they may give the views of teaching staff to the governing body, they

are equally free to express their personal views and exercise their own judgements when decisions are made, like any other governor.

### **Staff Governors**

Staff governors are elected from among the school support staff. They may be staff employed under either a contract of employment or a contract for services at the school. Staff governors may give the views of the support staff to the governing body, they are also free to give their own personal views and exercise their best judgement when contributing to the decisions of the governing body.

### **Appendix B: Toilets**

As would be expected, Ty Isaf has a number of well-furnished toilet areas. These are kept clean before and after school.

The toilet areas that service all our classes are accessed directly from the teaching areas, facilitating supervision and support for our youngest pupils if needed.

There are two additional toilet areas, one for boys and one for girls off the main hall of the school.

In addition there are two staff toilets and one staff/visitor toilet.

In short, toilet provision in the school is of a high quality.