

# BRYN DERI PRIMARY SCHOOL



## GOVERNING BODY REPORT TO PARENTS 2023/24

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## **Our Vision**

“A community developing happy, confident, caring, creative children with a positive attitude towards life and learning.”

## **Our Values**

The values we promote in all members of our community:

Respect

Kindness

Empathy

Honesty and integrity

Responsibility

Curiosity

Determination and Perseverance

## **Equal Opportunities**

Bryn Deri is a caring school. Our school is committed to equal opportunities regardless of Race, Gender, Gender Reassignment, Ability, and Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Belief, Age, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity.

# Chair's Comments

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with pleasure that I present to you the governors' annual report to parents for the academic year 2023/24. As with previous reports to parents the intention is to provide you with an overview of school activities over the past academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, carers and pupils of the School, the last year was a fantastic year for Bryn Deri and we have been very happy to hear of the vast range of new experiences our pupils have been able to enjoy as well as seeing some brilliant results coming from the national testing. The whole governing body would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the staff of Bryn Deri, all of whom play a pivotal role in supporting our pupils on a daily basis to become confident, caring and happy learners. We are very proud of every member of the Bryn Deri staff and would like to thank them very much for everything they have, and continue to do, in putting the education of our pupils first.

This year at Bryn Deri has seen even more progress being made in embedding and refining our new curriculum. It has been a pleasure to learn of the pupils' involvement in designing their learning as well as seeing further progress made around assessing this learning and the effectiveness of the whole curriculum. As a School the emphasis on learning new languages has given our pupils the opportunity to experience and celebrate a range of cultures and has ignited a passion for learning in many. As usual the School has offered a huge range of off site learning experiences from Brecon Regimental Museum, St Fagan's National Museum of Wales, Llangrannog and the annual year 6 trip to Storey Arms. Similarly, community involvement has been central to School life with all sorts of activities taking place in partnership with organisations like Radyr Library, Radyr Cricket club and the community litter pickers. Sport has been high on the agenda too with our pupils taking part in a range of activities from football to dance and more. And in an ever more digitised world, our pupils excelled at learning to become digital leaders, being safe online and taking part in coding-based competitions. Overall, the last academic year was fantastic for the whole School community, and we look forward to seeing what this new year will bring.

You can keep up to date with the wealth of activities and developments at the school, at our school website at [www.brynderiprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.brynderiprimaryschool.co.uk).

I would finally like to extend my thanks to the governors who give freely of their time to serve the school. While we have enjoyed the opportunity to see the School flourish in a post pandemic world, there continue to be challenges faced by all Schools in Cardiff and the support and expertise of the governors is essential in supporting the School in meeting these. Similarly, I would like to thank the PTA, who do so much to support our school, both with their time and fundraising and have shown fantastic support in ensuring the continuation of a number of School activities as well as supporting excellent opportunities for our pupils. The refurbishment of the

school library is an example of the outstanding contribution that the PTA have made to the school during the last year.

Once again, I would like to thank the staff, parents, carers and pupils of the School. The last academic year was a fantastic opportunity for us to find our feet in new circumstances and to embrace all the opportunities the School offers. I, and the whole governing body, remain proud to support such a wonderful School community where our young people are caring, happy and are able to enjoy a wonderful range of educational experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Angharad C Thomas Richards  
Chair of Governing Body

# The Governing Body

## Who are we? What do we do?

The Governing Body and Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and by policies of the Local Authority (LA). While the LA is the employer of staff, the Governing Body and Headteacher have separate and particular responsibilities for the selection and management of staff. The internal management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

The Full Governing Body meets each half term. In addition, sub-committees meet at least termly to discuss specific issues. Our key committees are Resources (Finance, Personnel, and Premises), and Teaching & Learning. We also hold a well-being committee meeting once a term to discuss staff and pupil well-being. Governors also take responsibility for monitoring specific School Improvement Priorities set out in the School Improvement Plan and there are appointed link governors for each area of the curriculum. These governors have responsibility for visiting the school to work alongside teachers in their chosen areas of learning, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, which they report to the full Governing Body. The minutes of Governing Body meetings are available from the clerk to governors.

The general responsibility for the effective management of the school is vested in the Governing Body, who are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Mrs Angharad Thomas-Richards	LEA (Chair)	Autumn 2026
Dr D Silver	Community Representative (Vice Chair)	Autumn 2026
Ms N Grimwards	LEA	Autumn 2028
Ms H Francis	Parent	Summer 2026
Ms K Gibbon	Parent	Autumn 2028
Mrs A Knight	Community Representative	Autumn 2028
Mrs S Rush	Parent	Autumn 2028
Mr A Woodall	Community Council	Summer 2028
Mr Allan Cook	Co-opted Representative	Spring 2025
Mrs H Bates	Parent	Autumn 2028
Mr I Russell	Teaching Staff Representative	Autumn 2026
Miss G Bailey	Non-Teaching Representative	Autumn 2026
Mrs C M Davies	Headteacher	N/A
Mrs J Knowles	Clerk to Governing Body	N/A

# Financial Statement 2023/24

<b>Bryn Deri Financial Report to Parents 2023/24</b>		
<b>Details</b>	<b>Governor Approved Budget 2023/24 (£)</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure 2023/24 (£)</b>
Employee Related Expenses	1,047,932	1,061,231
Premises Related Expenses	124,509	122,342
Supplies & Services Expenses	-30,108	40,700
Central Services	13,772	13,715
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>1,156,105</b>	<b>1,237,988</b>
Income	-154,440	-190,296
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>-154,440</b>	<b>-190,296</b>
Interest and Other	0	0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>959,834</b>	<b>959,834</b>
Less Uninvested Balance Brought Forward	-24,845	
Less Earmarked Rates	-16,986	-16,986
Contribution to/from balance		-70,873
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>959,834</b>	<b>959,834</b>

<b>Summary</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Total Resources Available in 2023/24</b>	
School balances brought forward from 2022/23	24,845
School Loans brought forward from 2022/23	0
Prior Year Adjustment	0
Total delegated resources	976,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,001,665</b>
Actual Expenditure	1,047,693
Less change in investments	0
Less Movements in Temporary Loan	0
Less variance in earmarked rates	0
<b>Total balance carried forward to 2024/25</b>	<b>-46,028</b>
<b>Statement of Balances Held</b>	<b>£</b>
Uninvested Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	-46,028
Invested Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	0
Outstanding Loans as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	0
<b>Total Balances held as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>-46,028</b>

## Gifts to School

During the year, we were extremely fortunate to have the following generous gifts donated to the School by the PTA, totalling **£12,501.11** as follows:

Gift	Value of Gift £
Community Choir and Orchestra	£2,640
Gazebos (removal)	£3,500
Books for new school library & classes	£1,102.11
Whole School Diwali/Chinese Dance Workshops	£978
Donation for Classroom resources	£800
Replacement flooring and decoration of School Library	£3,490
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,510.11</b>

The PTA give time to organise social and fundraising events for parents and children such as the traditional school discos, Summer and Christmas fayres. The Governing Body are very grateful to the PTA and their supporters for organising and undertaking a wide range of essential fundraising activities throughout the academic year.

## Charitable Donations

Our pupils, staff and parents are exceedingly generous and have supported many causes during 2023/24, notably:

- Cardiff Foodbank
- Water Aid
- MacMillan Cancer Support
- Children in Need
- Save The Children
- Royal British Legion
- Comic Relief
- British Heart Foundation
- Alzheimer's Society Cymru

Altogether, charitable donations during the year have totalled **£1876.66**

## Governors' Expenses

The regulations concerning School Governorship entitle the Governors to claim expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. However, Governing Body members are mindful that the sole source of funding for these activities would be the school's budget and no Governors' expenses have been claimed for the academic year.

## Parental Engagement

Members of the Governing Body can be contacted c/o Bryn Deri Primary School. Governors have also made themselves available at a range of school events such as Parent Consultation evenings, to provide opportunities for face-to-face discussion with parents and carers.

The Governing Body encourage parents to contact us directly if there are any issues you wish to raise. We can be contacted either via the school or by emailing [Governors@brynderips.co.uk](mailto:Governors@brynderips.co.uk).

We look forward to meeting directly with parents and carers during the course of normal school events.

## Pupil Progress

The focus for assessment in 2023-2024 supported individual learner progression, in line with the requirements of A Curriculum for Wales. This enabled each individual learner to make progress at an appropriate pace, whilst ensuring they were supported and challenged accordingly.

Assessment is an integral part of the Curriculum at Bryn Deri and always given a high priority. A range of Assessment *for* Learning, Assessment *in* Learning and Assessment *of* Learning is used at Bryn Deri to monitor progress of pupils and to support the continual raising of teaching standards and pupil achievement.

A variety of assessment strategies are used to enable each learner to make progress at an appropriate pace ensuring support and challenge. A range of rich qualitative data is used to inform next steps in learning for individuals.

Requirements around personalised assessments Literacy Numeracy (Procedural and Reasoning), continued at Bryn Deri, with all pupils in Years 2-6 sitting online personalised assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. The use of these assessments enabled teachers to understand and support individual learner needs. Data and feedback were shared with pupils (age appropriately) and parents via Hwb Cymru.

Learner well-being continues to be a key focus of the school during the academic year 2023-2024. Annual Reports to Parents include the formal reporting of general

well-being and how individual children engage in learning. Reports also provided an opportunity to report on individual progress, highlighting strengths, areas identified for development and next steps in learning for Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Skills across all Areas of Learning and Experience.

## Destination of School Leavers

Our catchment Secondary School is Radyr Comprehensive School. Some pupils also move on to the independent school sector or city Church schools.

## School Attendance

*The Education (Pupil Attendance Records) Regulations 1991.*

The Governors wish to express their sincere gratitude to all parents for ensuring overall excellent attendance of the pupils at Bryn Deri and for the conscientious and punctual way that they inform the school immediately of a child's absence and comply with the Radyr Primary School Cluster Attendance Policy. We can report that Bryn Deri's overall attendance in 2023-24 was 94.20% This is slightly below the expected target of 95%. 3 pupils gained 100% attendance. Unauthorised absence for 2023/24 totalled 734 sessions (half days).

Autumn Term 2023 Unauthorised Absence 0.73%  
Spring Term 2024 Unauthorised Absence 0.71%  
Summer Term 2024 Unauthorised Absence 0.93%

Unauthorised absences are recorded when children do not attend school and no specific explanation from parents is forthcoming even after being requested by the school for absence reason; or, they are caused by children having more absences (not including sickness) than the school has actually authorised (e.g. the taking of additional holidays.)

We wish to remind parents that removing children during term time is detrimental to their education and if parents wish to do so a request has to be made to the Headteacher. During 2023-24 Primary Schools within the Radyr Cluster were able to authorise 5 days (10 sessions) of agreed family holiday where pupils' attendance in the previous academic year was above 95% or where parents were able to demonstrate unique or exceptional circumstances. It is the term time holiday absences that prevent our attendance figures improving. The Welsh Government and Local Authority continue to remind schools that every effort must and should be made to ensure they improve school attendance.

# School Development / Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan sets out the specific strategically planned tasks required to meet a set of objectives. Priorities take into account Local and National priorities in addition to school-based needs. In 2023/24 the priorities had a clear focus on responding to the National Mission '**A Curriculum in Wales**' and inclusion and wellbeing. Priorities and objectives were:

## Key Priorities 2023-2024

<b>Priority 1: A Curriculum for Wales</b>
<b>Rationale</b> Self-evaluation identifies that the Cluster Progression Maps provides a systematic coherent approach to developing pupil's knowledge, skills and experiences through the school's thematic curriculum. The school now needs to map the elements of the AOLE cluster progression map to the school's curriculum to ensure balanced content and systematic progression through each year group. The school's curriculum is broad and varied, engaging nearly all learners, however greater balance between each AOLE and greater emphasis on the mandatory cross cutting themes is now required. National priority 1: Learning for life so that everyone in Wales learns, and continues to learn, developing their knowledge and skills, and engaging in experiences that are relevant to their lives today and into the future. Estyn: Inspection Area 3:1 Teaching & Learning Experiences
<b>Success Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>All stakeholders have clear understanding of progression across each Area of Learning &amp; Experiences</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>All stakeholders have a firm grasp of the knowledge, skills, vocabulary and experiences required across the curriculum at a cluster and school level</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>The Curriculum builds systematically and coherently on pupil's existing knowledge, skills and experiences as they move through the school and beyond</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>All stakeholders have a sound understanding of the mandatory cross cutting themes</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>Cluster curriculum is completed including cross cutting themes and implemented across the school</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>School curriculum is reviewed refined and sequenced to ensure continuity and progression based on cluster mapping</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>School curriculum is both broad and more balanced with greater equity across all AoLEs</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>Most pupils' learning, progress and achievement is good or better including specific groups of pupils.</i></b></li></ul>
<b>Priority 2: Embedding International Languages</b>
<b>Rationale</b> The Curriculum in Wales aims to promote a multilingual and plurilingual approach intended to ignite learners' curiosity and enthusiasm and provide them with a firm foundation for a lifelong interest in the languages of Wales and the languages of the world; and thus, to make them ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.

**National priority:** Objective 1: Learning for life so that everyone in Wales learns, and continues to learn, developing their knowledge and skills, and engaging in experiences that are relevant to their lives today and into the future.

**Global Futures: A plan to improve and promote international languages in Wales 2022 to 2025**

Our strategic aims to support multilingualism in schools and increase the number of young learners studying languages at all levels.

**Estyn:** Inspection Area 1.1 Standards and Progress in Learning and Skills 3:1 Teaching & Learning Experiences

**Success Criteria:**

- *All stakeholders have a sound understanding of the school's approaches towards the teaching of International Languages*
- *All stakeholders have a firm grasp of the knowledge, skills, vocabulary and experiences required to develop*
- *Pupils have access to high quality resources and teaching and are immersed in a wide range of experiences to develop a lifelong love of learning languages and a growing understanding of translanguaging.*
- *Parents have a clear understanding of how and why we teach International Languages throughout the school.*

**Priority 3: Provide greater opportunity for pupils to develop and use their STEM skills across the curriculum**

**Rationale**

Self-evaluation; Standards in numeracy (Procedural 31.2% SS 115+) are below that of standards in numeracy (Reasoning 41.8% SS 115+) and reading (Reading 40.5% SS 115+). Most pupils across years 3-6 use their STEM skills across many topics. However, across the school, many pupils do not use their STEM skills as effectively or in as wide a range of contexts in comparison to other AoLEs.

**National priority/local/regional:** National Priority Objective 1: Learning for life so that everyone in Wales learns, and continues to learn, developing their knowledge and skills, and engaging in experiences that are relevant to their lives today and into the future.

**Estyn:** Inspection Area 1:1 Standards and progress in learning and skills.

**Success Criteria:**

- *School demonstrates an Increase in the number of pupils achieving above 115 in National Numeracy Assessments (Procedural)*
- *Teachers utilise class-based practitioners extremely well to work with small groups of identified pupils*
- *Practitioners engage in high quality professional learning to provide class-based initiatives and bespoke programmes, to support pupils in overcoming barriers to learning*
- *Teachers plan and provide a wealth of practical and applicable activities for pupils to show independence and eagerness to engage across STEM subjects.*
- *Nearly all pupils develop and demonstrate the confidence to apply STEM skills across all areas of learning.*
- *Teachers use newly developed AOLE school maps to plan a range of imaginative STEM activities for all learners in class including MAT children.*
- *Nearly all pupils reflect upon their learning and share innovative project ideas across the whole school*
- *Teachers use school tracking systems and developed AOLE maps to monitor attainment and progress across their class.*

## Priority 4: Equity and Excellence for Learners

### Rationale

#### Self-evaluation:

Introduction of the Curriculum for Wales and the development of the health & well-being AoLE means that there are areas for development both in terms of our whole-school approach and developing the provision within our Health and Well-being curriculum.

#### national priority:

Objective 3: A positive education experience for everyone, with learners and staff supported in their wellbeing and resilience, which is essential for improving education outcomes and life chances

Estyn Inspection area 2:1 Wellbeing

Health & Well-being is a statutory element within Curriculum for Wales for all learners aged 3 – 16.

#### Success Criteria:

- *All stakeholders have had the opportunity to inform and engage with our school's emotional health & well-being vision and provision*
- *To further develop a whole school approach to mental health and well-being*
- *To improve the knowledge and skills of all stakeholders in regard to the teaching of ALN learners*
- *The school achieves Dyslexia Friendly School Award*
- *Emotional and Mental Health staff charter created in collaboration with all stakeholders*
- *Targeted learners to access school scooters and bikes and linked lessons*
- *Targeted stakeholders to implement Teaching games for understanding approach*

The Governing body has received formal feedback from the Head Teacher on a termly basis at the full Governing Body meetings on progress against the above priorities and the strategically planned tasks.

All targets were achieved or largely met; some will continue to be further developed for 2023/24 as part of a three-year plan for improvement.

## Provision made for Sport including Extra-Curricular Activities

The school provides a wide range of opportunities which encourages pupils to be healthy and provides very well for their physical development. The school has successfully provided during 2023/24 a number of activities for pupils, supported by external agencies and or staff lead, including:

- Cardiff City Foundation
- JSC Dance – Street Dance for Pupils in Year 3-6
- Orchestra
- Choir

- Gymnastics
- Football
- Netball
- Digital Leaders (Lego League)
- Sports Extras Multi-sports and Football
- Xperimental Science Club

A wide range of educational visits were able to recommence during the academic year 2023/24, and pupils have benefited from a wide range of enrichment days.

Participation has continued for Years 5 & 6 in Cardiff Council Cycling Training to achieve National Standards 1 & 2. Pupils in Years 4 and 6 were able to take part in successful and enriching residential visits to the Urdd's Llangrannog Welsh Language camp in West Wales and the Storey Arms outdoor education centre in the Brecon Beacons.

All pupils receive timetabled curriculum provision for two hours of Physical Education per week. There is a very wide range of provision for sport in and at the school, with a number of school teams established offering pupils the opportunity to compete in inter-school completions and events.

## Community Links

Bryn Deri continues to have extremely close links with the local community (Radyr and Morganstown) and the wider community within Cardiff. The Headteacher continues to be in regular communication with Radyr and Morganstown Community Council and Association. The school takes every opportunity to engage and establish local partnerships for the benefit of our pupils and firmly believe that the school should be at the heart of community life.

The school makes every effort to continue to play an active part in local community events organised by Radyr and Morganstown Community, including:

- Carol performance at Lighting of the Radyr and Morganstown Christmas Trees
- Armistice Day in conjunction with Radyr Primary School at the Radyr Cenotaph
- Radyr and Morganstown Community May Festival civic service
- Radyr and Morganstown Community Festival Choir, Orchestra and Maypole Dancing at the opening Fete

The school also has strong connections with local places of worship including the Methodist Church and Radyr Christchurch, with the Churches regularly supporting the delivery of events such as the Stations of Christmas whole school workshops.

The School has established and robust links with the facilities and organisations within the local community and the wider city area which continue to be fostered and utilised for the benefit of pupil education, learning and enrichment. These have included, but not limited to:

- Cluster Netball, Rugby and Football Tournaments
- Cardiff City Football Club Foundation
- Rubicon Dance
- National Dance Company Wales
- JSC Dance
- Radyr Library
- Radyr Cricket
- Fundraising for Save the Children
- Cardiff Commitment – Open your Eyes Week
- Cardiff Food Bank
- Show Racism the Red Card
- Living Street – Wow active travel
- Fund raising for Children in Need
- Fund raising for *Rags2Riches 4Schools*
- Fund raising for Royal British Legion
- Christmas Enterprise Day
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Eco Committee liaison with Radyr and Morganstown Chair of the Environment Committee
- MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Mornings
- Community Police Support Officers
- Roald Dahl Day – Ty Mynydd
- RNLI

During 2023/24 the school strengthened their partnership with Playworks Childcare Ltd to provide parents with onsite wrap around provision for all pupils at Bryn Deri including nursery pupils. Playworks also provided Holiday Clubs at Bryn Deri for pupils of the school and the Radyr and Morganstown community.

## Policies and Strategies

Revision and amendments to school strategies and policies has continued to be undertaken by the Governing body and updates are reported to parents via newsletters and school notifications as appropriate.

All statutory policies and procedures along with other important documentation are available on the school website.

## Term Dates – Academic Year 2023/24

First Day of School Year	Monday 4th September INSET Day
Autumn Half Term	Monday 30/10/2023- Friday 03/11/2023
Term ends	22/12/2023
Spring Term begins	Monday 08/01/2024
Spring Half Term	Monday 12/02/2024 - Friday 16/02/2024
Term ends	Friday 22/03/2024
Summer Term begins	Monday 08/04/2024
Summer Half Term	Monday 27/05/2024 - Friday 31/05/2024
Term ends	Monday 22/07/2024

Monday 4th September was an INSET Day therefore school was closed to all pupils.

There were a further 6 INSET Days:

- October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023
- January 8<sup>th</sup> 2024
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024
- May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 was the May Day Bank Holiday, so all schools were closed.

## School Prospectus

The School Prospectus for Bryn Deri is available on the school website or on request from the school office if any parent or carer wishes to have a copy. The Prospectus is updated at least once a year. Parents of new children and prospective pupils are also given a copy.

## Prospectus Changes since previous Governor's Report

The Prospectus is reviewed annually, and changes made are to reflect school staffing changes and any requisite developments in relation to ***A Curriculum for Wales***.

## Teaching and Learning

Bryn Deri Primary School prides itself on providing access to a curriculum for all; enabling and supporting all pupils to succeed and ensuring that all pupils have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential and become confident, ambitious, aspirational learners and fulfilled individuals who enjoy their learning experience.

Further to the initial proposed introduction of '***A Curriculum for Wales***' by the Welsh Government, the School, has designed and published A Curriculum for Bryn Deri Primary. The Curriculum has been designed by teachers with the support of the whole school community, using informed guidance from Welsh Government, educationalists, and the wider teaching family. The new curriculum is designed for all children. It is designed to support children of all abilities and to ensure that all pupils will be given the skills and experiences they need for a fast-changing world through the delivery of creative and innovative lessons that have real-life meaning to which children can relate.

The Curriculum at Bryn Deri is about everything that the learner experiences in pursuit of the four purposes of the new curriculum: Being ambitious and capable

learners, enterprising and creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work, healthy confident individuals and ethical informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

It is not simply what we teach but how we teach and crucially why we teach it. The curriculum at Bryn Deri reflects the cultural linguistic and ethnic diversity of Wales as a whole and within our own local community of Radyr and Morganstown and the City of Cardiff.

The school is a Rights Respecting School, having achieved the UNICEF Silver Award, and Governors are confident that the school ensures that the rights of the child are embedded across the curriculum. The school, rightly, takes the rights of the child into account in addition to the school vision and the four purposes of the curriculum as set out in '**A Curriculum for Wales**' when planning learning experiences.

Children from Nursery to Year 6 are provided with a broad and balanced, thematic-based curriculum, high quality teaching and stimulating learning opportunities both inside and out to motivate their learning and allow all pupils to overcome personal and collective barriers and access learning that meets their needs and ensures achievement at all levels.

During 2023-24 the focus has been on ensuring a curriculum which provides consistency and progression for pupils not only in Bryn Deri Primary school but across all schools in the Radyr Cluster. This will provide greater equity and equality in the educational experiences of pupils in all cluster schools yet allow for the uniqueness of each school context in delivering the curriculum. Colleagues across the cluster have participated in collaborative projects to create Cluster Curriculum Progression Maps which will be embedded during 2024-25.

The thematic approach to the Curriculum at Bryn Deri takes account at every level of the mandatory elements of the new curriculum, including the four purposes curriculum, cross cutting elements and skills, the six areas of learning and experience and '*What Matter Statements*' as set out in '**A Curriculum for Wales**', to ensure that provision provides all pupils with opportunities for key skills and knowledge to be developed in a meaningful and valued way. During 2023-24 the School has continued to focus on developing the mandatory cross cutting themes of the curriculum to ensure even greater breadth and balance, most notably through the components of Diversity, Careers and Work-Related Experiences, Human Rights and RSE.

Cross curricular competencies, including the development of literacy, numeracy and digital skills continue to be given high priority within the school. Planned learning opportunities are informed by the national frameworks for literacy and numeracy to ensure pupils have purposeful, progressive and enjoyable opportunities to develop their skills across all Areas of Learning and Experience.

The Governing body of Bryn Deri School believe that all your children and our pupils are individuals in their own right, that they are special and that each and every one

learns in their individual and unique way. All the governing body, all of our staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have worked over the academic year 2023/24 to ensure that the learning environment at the school creates and supports the very best conditions in which the children learn best. This means matching the teaching to the pupils' needs and abilities. The governing body is confident that the school provides the required balance of teaching methods and delivery to meet different learning styles and provide the children with the best experience possible. The teaching workforce at the school is a broad function, comprising of teaching and support staff, supported by an equally important small number of essential and committed non-teaching staff. Together with the governing body, the school leadership team, the whole school staff group, a learning environment is provided which supports an effective, safe environment for enjoyable and productive learning.

## Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The school aims to provide full access to the whole curriculum to all pupils. Pupils are supported within the classroom by the class teacher and by the school's Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) and highly skilled support staff.

### Additional Learning Needs

At Bryn Deri we cater for children with a wide range of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) within the school environment. We provide in class support through appropriate differentiation and additional targeted support is provided by the teaching support staff under direction of the ALNCo. Teaching assistants work specifically with particular individual pupils or groups of pupils to ensure that the needs of all pupils are met. We also work closely with a range of colleagues outside of the school from a number of specialist teams and support agencies.

The statutory code places the learners' views, wishes and feelings at the heart of the process of planning the support required to enable them to learn effectively and be the best that they can be. Therefore pupils (where appropriate) and parents are informed, consulted, and involved at all stages of identification, monitoring and evaluation and counselled on Individual Education Plans.

The emotional health and wellbeing of all of our pupils continued to be a key area of support and during 2023/24. The school focussed on developing a Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing, guided by Welsh Government and Healthy Schools Network. This will continue in 2024/25 as we action responses from school community surveys. The Governors Wellbeing Committee meet regularly as a direct response to this initiative. The school has previously shared with parents and carers how we use the Thrive programme at the school and have developed and implemented **Family Thrive** lead by the School ALNCo and supported by Thrive Practitioners within school. During the academic year 2023/24 this continued to be a welcomed and beneficial addition to the support that the school already provides for your children and our pupils during their school time and enables the school to meaningfully engage to realise benefits for learners with parents and share relevant information. Another initiative that has been highly successful in ensuring equity and excellence for all our pupils during 2023/24, is the implementation of MAKATON across the school, providing a language rich learning environment for all our pupils.

## Welsh Language

The curriculum at Bryn Deri is set in the context of a school in Wales. As Wales is a bilingual country in a multilingual land and society, Bryn Deri Primary is wholeheartedly committed to promoting not only the language of Wales, but also its social and cultural dimensions. As an English medium school, the curriculum at Bryn Deri acknowledges the important contribution that we make in supporting the Welsh Government vision for 'A million Welsh Speakers 2050'.

It is pleasing to see that the school environment and curriculum provide a wide range of opportunities for all pupils and staff to use, hear and experience the Welsh language via the planned use of the language through structured learning situations as well as at more informal situations such as on arrival at school and on departure from school and during school assemblies. Governor's first-hand observations of the use of the Welsh Language in a variety of informal situations also confirms that the Welsh language is actively encouraged by the school leadership team at every opportunity during the school day, being used extensively across the school by both teaching and all support staff.

In addition to the integration of the Welsh language into the daily life of the School, the school holds an annual Eisteddfod to celebrate the Welsh Culture through art, dance, poetry and music.

The school has an established '**Criw Cymraeg**' comprised of enthusiastic pupils that actively promote the Welsh language within the school community at all levels. This is complimented by staff effort and enthusiasm and encourages and fosters Welsh to be spoken in all aspects of school life. The school has achieved recognition for its promotion of the Welsh Language and Culture within the school community.

## Toilet Facilities

The Welsh Government's Governing Body Report 'School Toilets' (Good Practice Guidelines for Schools in Wales) is followed by the school to ensure that toilets are open and accessible to all learners throughout the hours of school opening.

The school has a Toilet Policy. The school acknowledges the importance of good toilet facilities and recognises how toilet facilities can have an effect on learner morale, behaviour and potentially on an individual's health. Learners are involved in ensuring standards and improvement in the toilet facilities through the School Council which has representatives of one girl and one boy from each year from Years 2 to Year 6. Representatives are elected by their classmates. Pupils and staff undertake inspections and are involved in the development and review of the School Toilet Policy. The Healthy Schools handwashing toolkit is used to promote good personal hygiene.

The reception class has its own toilet facilities. There are boys' and girls' toilets off the Infant corridor for use by Years 1 and 2, two boys' and two girls' toilet facilities for use by Years 3 and 5, and Years 4 and 6. The school employs two cleaning staff who, led by the caretaker Mrs E Bowden ensure that the toilets are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day. There are 2 toilets that provide disability access.

Toilet area walls, floors, ceilings, doors, etc. are of a type that are impervious/non-absorbent and washable, easy to clean, and capable of withstanding disinfection and other cleaning processes. Toilets are adequately lit.

Regular, termly inspections of the whole school site, including toilet facilities are undertaken by the lead Governor with responsibility for School Facilities, the Headteacher, the school's Caretaker and the Local Authority's Health & Safety Officer.

## Healthy Eating and Drinking

Bryn Deri continues to be part of the Cardiff Healthy School Wales Network and during 2023/24 continued to address and ensure adherence to recognised nutritional standards in conjunction giving prominence to activities which address and support pupils in relation to physical education & fitness, mental and emotional Health & Wellbeing, substance use & misuse, the environment, safety and hygiene.

The school is fully compliant with Appetite for Life Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations 2013. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day. All pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. The school consistently encourages healthy eating, particularly since the school introduced hot meals via Cardiff School Meals Service in 2016/17 further to the installation of a new kitchen and dining area. During 2023/24 the school saw the continued roll out of Universal School Meals, providing hot meals free to all pupils in the School.

Healthy fruit snacks and lunchboxes are actively encouraged. In September 2012, a Welsh Assembly Government funded breakfast club was established at Bryn Deri Primary School and, since its establishment, has proven to be popular with both parents and pupils. During 2023/24 the school provided up to 100 free breakfasts to pupils each morning. The school also provided school breakfast for pupils in nursery in partnership with Playworks Childcare Ltd.