

Annual General Report to Parents 2023-2024

Ysgol Abermorddu / Abermorddu CP School



BRIEF OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Abermorddu CP Annual General Report to Parents for the 2023-2024 academic year. Within this report you will find both useful and mandatory information; such as a list of School Governors, information about the school development plan and our financial and attendance data.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the last year of Mr Roberts' long tenure as headteacher, our school continued to flourish providing a caring nurturing environment for our children. Attendance across the school was almost 93% while a healthy 4% financial 'carry-forward' was created. Should you wish to have any further information on any of the topics or information presented in this report then please do not hesitate to contact the School Secretary or the Chair of Governors (contact details can be found after the list of governors).

Finally on behalf of your board of governors I would like to hope that all parents/carers, children and staff have a fabulous memorable summer. To all of our current Y6, we hope that you have wonderful memories of your time at Ysgol Abermorddu and that you all thrive in your new schools. You will always be part of the Ysgol Abermorddu family.

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LIST OF GOVERNORS

Ian Roberts	Headteacher/Governor
Andrew Partridge	Chair of Governors
Adam Caris	Parent Governor
Dave Jones	Vice Chair / LEA Governor
Kirsty Monshin	Parent Governor
Lyndsey Rawlinson	Parent Governor
Peter Lloyd-Fishburne	Parent Governor
Christine Cunnah	Community Governor
Isabel Kirkham	Community Governor
Dave Roberts	Community Governor
Dawn Westaway	Community Governor
Emma Rhodes	LEA Governor
Claire Berry	Teacher Governor
Hayley Gillin	Staff Governor

CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS

Dr. Adam Caris – Current Chair of Governors c/o Abermorddu CP School, Cymau Lane, Caergwrle LL12 9DH or email: CarisA6@hwbcymru.net

Jenni Neil - Clerk to Governors c/o Abermorddu CP School, Cymau Lane, Caergwrle LL12 9DH or e mail: abmail@hwbcymru.net

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol Abermorddu, I am pleased to present you with our annual report on the activities and developments of our school over the 2023/2024 school year. I hope this will give you a brief but clear insight into school life as well as providing mandatory information on facilities, assessment/progress, finance, staffing, and the school calendar.

On behalf of the Governors and all of the students and parents I would like to once again warmly welcome Mr Griffiths as our new headteacher who has arrived from Ysgol Y Llan in Whitford. It cannot be an easy task replacing a long incumbent but Mr Griffiths has approached the task with positive energy, enthusiasm and pragmatism. I'm happy to say that I can already see many positive changes across the school without any apparent loss of that special culture that has made Ysgol Abermorddu a safe and nurturing environment for our children over the past few years.

As you will see in our regular and excellent newsletters the list of activities provided by the school is broad and expanding. The teachers and senior leadership team of Ysgol Abermorddu have been very proactive in offering our children excellent learning experiences while continuing to catch up on any learning lost throughout the pandemic. Across the school our pupils compete to a high standard at various competitions with passion, ingenuity and competence. These range from poetry/story writing, Christmas card designs, F1 in Schools, Eisteddfod craft and sporting achievements.

This year our school premises have recently benefited from a significant makeover; newly installed CCTV, new lighting in every room, long overdue improvements to the heating system, new external fencing, as well as vastly improved outdoor areas and 'forest school' facilities.

As a new Chairman, I wish to thank my team of governors for their time, support and commitment throughout the past year. I truly believe that by working together in partnership with our new headteacher, school staff, Flintshire County Council, parents and pupils, we will continue to achieve our vision for the school while building resilience to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

Yours sincerely

Dr Adam Caris

Chair of Governors, since November 2024

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

BUDGET HEADING	FORMULA BUDGET	PLANNED BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	DIFF + OR (-)
BALANCE FROM 2022/2023	118,684			
EMPLOYEES	620,059	827,638	861,637	-33,999
PREMISES	74,899	43,902	38,171	5,731
SUPPLIES	27,236	37,152	43,009	-5,857
MEALS	-	22,180	15,637	6,543
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	30,299	30,299	28,439	1,860
INCOME		-145,010	-218,818	73,808
BALANCE TO 2024/25		55,016	103,102	-48,086
TOTAL 2023/2024	871,177	871,177	871,177	

Despite a significant drop in 'carry forward' the school finished the 2023/2024 financial year with a surplus that is roughly in-line with Flintshire's 5% recommended 'carry forward' despite challenging national funding conditions. It is important to note that the positive 'carry forward' is in stark contrast to many other Flintshire schools which were in deficit. Significant cost savings have been made since the start of the 2024/2025 financial year, some of which perhaps should have been priorly implemented in previous years. School expenditure has been extremely closely monitored in 2024/25 against the national backdrop of increasing resource scarcity.

In 2023/2024 £0 was spent on Gifts and £0 was allocated for Governor's allowances. This will be replicated in the 2024/2025 accounts.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Ysgol Abermorddu regularly has visits from PC Reeves to offer support and guidance for pupils throughout the school with topics of concern relating to the local area. Once again the Annual Harvest Service, which requested parental donations for Flintshire Foodbank, was incredibly successful; many thanks for everyone's support. Regular visits were received from Open the Book faith group, (from Hope Church) who hold monthly assemblies with all the pupils. Father Wheeler also attends school regularly to hold Monday services. The school choir performed their annual concert for the Ffrith Community Group Christmas lunch (and received rave reviews). Generous sponsorship and donations from the local Spar and Co-op were received; these provided the school with donations for planned fundraising events and for the annual Y6 residential trip to France. My thanks also go out to our brilliant PTA for all of the support they have given to the school during this year.

POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

STATUTORY POLICIES	NON-STATUTORY POLICIES
Pay Policy	Sickness Absence Management Policy
Performance Management Policy	School Managing Parent/Carer Contact Policy
Safeguarding Policy	Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy
Health & Safety Policy	Dignity at Work Policy
Performance Management Policy	Healthcare Policy
Grievance Policy	Relationships and Sex Education Policy
Disciplinary Policy	Charging and Remission Policy
Capability Policy	Flintshire Schools Model Pay Policy
STATUTORY DOCUMENTS	
Annual Report to Parents	Post Inspection Action Plan
Register of Pupils & register of attendance	Instrument of Governance
School Prospectus	Minutes of Meetings

The Governing Body of the School met on a termly basis during the academic year 2023-2024. School policies are re-adopted on an annual basis and revised if necessary throughout the year. During 2023/2024 the 'Terms of Reference' for all Statutory Committees were reviewed.

In 2023/2024 there were no significant changes to the school prospectus. The prospectus is updated annually from an administrative perspective. In 2024/2025 we updated our school

website (www.abermordduprimaryschool.co.uk) which has various up-to-date information for parents. In 2024 28 pupils left the school: 27 went to Ysgol Castell Alun and one pupil went to Ysgol Bryn Alyn.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR PARENTS

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with a governing body, on matters which are of concern to them. If parents wish to use their rights to hold a formal meeting The Act stipulates that four conditions need to be satisfied (please contact Mr Griffiths for further information).

DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

Ysgol Abermorddu recognises a duty and responsibility to eliminate discrimination and promote equality for pupils, employees, other members of the school community and service users regardless of their race, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

The Governing Body is in the process of setting out Ysgol Abermorddu's commitment to equality and diversity in a Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) and will continue to do everything to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to pupils, and responsive to their needs based on the various protected characteristics. A copy of the SEP will be available from the school office on request from the start of the Autumn Term in September 2025.

Ysgol Abermorddu welcomes pupils with disabilities and is well-equipped to cater for such pupils. Adaptations are made across the curriculum and all opportunities offered to ensure that the access needs of all pupils are considered and all learners are treated equally. In line with the Disability Discrimination Act Ysgol Abermorddu has suitable accessible toilets and an accessibility plan. Ysgol Abermorddu ensures access throughout the school for all learners. All main access/exit doors are adequate for disabled access and all classes/rooms are accessible and at the same level indoors. All outside doors are accessible and have been adapted so that there are ramps leading to the doors of any classes which previously had a step. It has been ensured that all children have the correct access requirements to leave the building should there be a fire alarm or an emergency.

In Ysgol Abermorddu there are toilets allocated to both our infant and junior departments. Early Years have their own toilets. Both Infants and juniors have a set of boys' and girls' toilets. The school toilet facilities were refurbished in 2012 and meet all current requirements; all toilet facilities are subject to regular Health and Safety checks by the Health and Safety Committee and

caretaker. Toilets are cleaned daily in accordance with Flintshire Local Authority cleaning procedures (and more often if required).

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

Along with all other schools in Wales, Ysgol Abermorddu follows the Welsh Government ALN Code of Practice 2021 (The Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021) as its' ALN policy.

Ysgol Abermorddu has a register of pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). In addition to the pupils on the register, various groups of pupils receive booster group support to improve their Basic Skills. Ysgol Abermorddu liaises with parents to provide positive support and advice for parents with ALN concerns. Parents whose children have ALN support receive regular communication and yearly Pupil Centred Planning (PCP) meetings. Individual Development Plans (IDPs) are drawn up for each child on the ALN register; these are reviewed at least annually. Ysgol Abermorddu works closely with Flintshire Council's ALN team, educational psychologists and 'behaviour support teams' (as appropriate) to meet the needs of individual pupils.

Mrs Armstrong is our ALN Co-ordinator and has responsibility for ALN including finalising referrals and facilitating annual reviews for children with IDPs. In liaison with teaching staff, Mrs Armstrong is responsible for organising and coordinating Additional Learning Provision (ALP) in relation to the IDPs for pupils on the Additional Needs Register. Also, in liaison with staff, Mrs Armstrong is responsible for monitoring progress and advising next steps for any pupils who are not making appropriate progress. Any children that concern staff are monitored more closely and have Universal Provision, or other interventions, applied.

ATTENDANCE

Following Government legislation, the school is obliged to differentiate between **authorised** and **unauthorised** absences. An unauthorised absence is recorded if no letter of explanation (or verbal/phone message) following an absence is received.

During the academic year 2023–2024 unauthorised absences were recorded for any holidays taken during term time. Other unauthorised absences may have been recorded at the discretion of the Headteacher. In 2023-2024 the overall rate of attendance (for pupils of statutory school age) was **92.96%**

ATTENDANCE FIGURES		
	SESSIONS	PERCENTAGE
Attendances	59787	92.96
Authorised Absences	3899	6.06
Unauthorised absences	630	0.98
Possible Attendance	64316	
Including:		
Approved Educational Activity	774	1.2
Lates before reg closed	384	0.6
Lates after reg closed	0	0
Unexplained absences	223	0.35

SCHOOL BUILDINGS / PREMISES AND SCHOOL SECURITY

Out of school hours, the school is protected by an alarm system. The school now has a 24hr CCTV system in operation. During the school day, the buildings are secure in that all external doors have locks fitted preventing access from the outside, whilst allowing pupils and staff to leave the building quickly in an emergency. We have a digital entry-sign system for visitors to the school to sign-in and sign-out.

Termly fire drills were held throughout the year and also now an annual lockdown drill. All pupils are familiar with the procedure should they hear either the fire alarm or lockdown whistles. Classrooms and other main areas of the building display procedures in the case of a fire alarm.

A defibrillator is fitted to the external wall of the school. This is available for both school and community use.

CURRICULUM AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

Our school curriculum is designed to inspire and support every child, following the principles of the Curriculum for Wales. It provides rich, engaging learning experiences that help pupils develop as ambitious, capable learners; healthy, confident individuals; enterprising, creative contributors; and ethical, informed citizens. The school provides a curriculum which is broad, balanced and relevant, and which incorporates a progression in the acquisition of knowledge and understanding following

all aspects of the new curriculum. Our curriculum is carefully planned to reflect our local community, celebrate Welsh culture and language, and equip children with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to succeed in an ever-changing world. At Ysgol Abermorddu the student voice is heard in a wide variety of ways, including: Criw Cymraeg, Digital Leaders, Eco Council, Health & Wellbeing, as well as the full School Council. Many of these are filled by students who have been elected by their peers.

All school policy documents and schemes of work are available for inspection on request (and many of them can be found on the new school website). Children requiring additional support are carefully monitored and assessed and individual learning plans developed according to their needs. Generally, members of teaching staff have (either individual or joint) specific responsibility for at least one area of the curriculum. Ysgol Abermorddu supports the professional development of our highly valued teaching staff so that we have the in-house knowledge and skills to provide a broad high-quality diverse curriculum.

English is the language category which mostly describes the school. Welsh is positively taught as a second language across all curriculum areas throughout the school. Welsh is used as a second language across the school. Welsh sessions are taught weekly and the use of bilingualism is encouraged across the school. As part of the new curriculum our chosen 3rd language is French.

Our school places a strong emphasis on healthy eating and teaches the children the importance of healthy eating throughout their time at school. Ysgol Abermorddu has successfully completed the 'Healthy School Initiatives'.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Our school development plan is prepared by the governing body in accordance with the Education (School Development Plans) (Wales) Regulations 2021. Our school development plan includes priorities that the school works on throughout the year identified via the school's monitoring procedures. Progress towards priority areas is reviewed regularly throughout the year by staff, our Senior Management Team and Governing Body. During 2023/2024 external monitoring was undertaken by GwE. Our current School Development Plan priorities can be found on the new school website (www.abermordduprimaryschool.co.uk).

Priority 1 - To improve consistency in expectations of handwriting and presentation of work.

Actions taken to meet Priority 1:

Dough Disco was introduced in Early Years to support the development of fine motor muscles by manipulating the dough in a variety of ways, which in turn will help their mark-making and writing. The use of both Bubble Writing and Nelson Handwriting schemes has significantly improved our

children's handwriting including the fact that noticeable improvements in the size of the children's handwriting was visible during book reviews. Published academic research has proven that girls naturally have better handwriting than boys. Therefore at Ysgol Abermorddu we will continue to additionally support boys' handwriting using targeted support.

Priority 2 - To develop a progressive physical activity plan to enhance well-being and physical health.

Actions taken to meet Priority 2:

Each class is now consistently using Jigsaw across the school. In addition to this, progressive termly PE plans have been compiled and agreed with by class teachers. Health and Well-being displays are now prominent in each classroom and healthy Snacks are encouraged throughout the school. For example, class dojos are used to encourage and support our Junior children's consumption of healthy snacks. By celebrating 'Healthy Eating Week' and 'Children's Mental Health Week' all learners gain a better understanding of how they can support their own physical and mental well-being.

Priority 3 - To improve Welsh oracy across the school.

Actions taken to meet Priority 3:

Any visitor to the school will quickly see that we are a school in Wales from our learning displays, celebrations and events as well as the use of daily incidental Welsh. During the academic year a learning walk was carried out involving staff and Governors with the aim of assessing the Welsh ethos of the school and if it is being properly embedded throughout. The policy of 'Cymraeg pob dydd' (Welsh every day) was adopted for staff and children, along with developing clear next steps for the school. Progression was obvious throughout the school with the level of Welsh increasing throughout the year groups and consistency throughout the school with the use of Welsh patterns; 'Cymraeg ar y dafod' is now evident. Criw Cymraeg participated in the Gwasanaeth every Wednesday. This is predominantly child-led which has resulted in increased confidence within every classroom; this evidence of Welsh oracy is captured using Seesaw. Staff now share fortnightly language patterns which are displayed to develop oracy in all classrooms and around the school.

While no longer a specific School development Plan Priority in 2024/2025 this priority has continued into the current academic year (2024/25) as we work towards achieving the Cymraeg Campus Bronze Award. During recent visits my team of Governors and I are very happy and proud to see that a Welsh ethos is consistently developing and being successfully embedded across the school.