



# Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

## GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS

2020 - 2021



## **Chair of Governors' Statement**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report to Parents for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Annual Report to Parents is a document that Governors provide to parents outlining events and developments at the school over the last 12 months.

No Annual Parents' Meeting was held under Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

This has been another eventful and challenging time as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to affect us all. The Governors, Mr Huw Lloyd and staff of the school have risen to the challenge to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils.

The school has followed Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and Local Authority advice and guidance to ensure that all required actions have been carried out, including supporting the local Hub provision providing support for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers.

Following Welsh Government guidelines, the Governing Body continued to carry out governance duties using virtual meetings to support and monitor the ongoing actions and the management of the school. The wellbeing of pupils and staff has been at the forefront of all of our virtual meetings.

I would like to thank the Local Authority staff and especially the staff of the LEA for their help, support and guidance during this unprecedented situation.

With your support as parents and carers, alongside the work of the staff and Governors, we will enable our students, from 3 to 16 years old, to succeed despite the challenges raised by the Covid-19 situation.

Richard Barrett  
Chair of Governors

## **Headteacher's Statement**

I'd like to thank staff, pupils and parents for the way they've responded during these very difficult times. It proves that we are a real community here at Ebbw Fawr, and I am very proud and privileged to be leading this school.

The children have been outstanding during the last year and have responded well to everything thrown at them. Education has not been disrupted like this since the second world war, and I can only praise all of our children from the three-year-olds in nursery to the fifteen-year-olds sitting their adapted GCSEs. They have all shown great resilience and have adapted very well to new ways of working.

I'd also like to pay tribute to our staff. They came in to work during the height of the pandemic when most of the country seemed to be working from home. Let us not forget that Ebbw Fawr also hosted a hub for all cluster schools during the summer of 2020. We built great relationships with our cluster schools during this period but, equally, it meant more work behind the scenes to ensure that everyone was kept safe.

We also gave out over three hundred laptops during this period, and I cannot thank our IT department enough for making sure that these were all in full working order.

I'm also incredibly proud that our school featured in three best practice ESTYN documents during this past year; that's no mean feat considering the circumstances in which we have all been working.

As the reputation of our school grows, we have been able to make a host of outstanding appointments this year: 2 Primary Phase teachers and 8 new Secondary Phase teachers in English, Maths, Science, PE and Technology. We have also appointed a new Additional Learning Needs Coordinator for the Secondary Phase, and I'm sure that Mr. Pelaez will become known to you very soon!

Therefore, as we move towards the end of this academic year' I wish everybody a thoroughly deserved break. Let's recharge our batteries and make sure we are all ready to go again in September. Our children need Ebbw Fawr to be at its very best over the coming years, and I'd like to reassure parents that our drive to improve is stronger than ever.

**Huw Lloyd**  
**Headteacher**  
BA Hons MSc

## Governing Body

Governor	Name	End of Tenure
Headteacher	Huw Lloyd	N/A
Community (Chair)	Richard Barrett	30/11/21
Community	Rod Davies	30/11/21
Community	Darryl Tovey	30/11/21
Community	Mike Davies	30/11/21
Community	Gina Taylor	24/04/22
LEA	Jonathan Millard	30/09/23
LEA	Cllr Clive Meredith	31/08/24
LEA	Cllr Derrick Bevan	12/12/21
LEA	Cllr David Davies	12/12/21
LEA	Vacancy	
Parent	Joanna Evans	30/11/21
Parent	Joanna Davies	09/10/23
Parent	John Mower	16/07/21
Parent	Ceri Caswell	25/03/23
Parent	Vacancy	
Parent	Vacancy	
Teacher	Mike Vaughan	30/11/21
Teacher	Vanessa Roberts	30/11/21
Support Staff	Vacancy	

Staff and parent governors who were at the end of their term have had their term of offices extended due to Covid.

Chair of Governors' contact details – Richard Barrett [contactus@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:contactus@ebbwfawr.co.uk)  
Clerk – Daniel Perkins [governor.support@sewaleseas.org.uk](mailto:governor.support@sewaleseas.org.uk)

## Financial Statement

Financial year 2020/2021 saw Ebbw Fawr receive £6,303,487 in funding. The school had brought a deficit from financial year 19/20 through to 20/21 of £203,979 resulting in a revised budget allocation of £6,099,508.

The school experienced some significant disruptions to its usual operation during 2020/2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and had to change provision from face-to-face teaching and learning to a remote online provision. The Secondary Phase provided the base for the Cluster Hub for children of key workers and vulnerable learners from April '20 to June '20 and, for the last three weeks of the summer term, all students had the opportunity to experience at least one session of face-to-face teaching.

September through to December saw face to face teaching continue for all students on a full-time basis, but January through to March of 2021 saw children having to refrain from coming to site and resuming online remote learning once more. However, during this time, the Secondary Phase also provided a hub for key worker children and vulnerable learners for both phases of our school.

Therefore, financially, the year was very different to those previously experienced. Less resources were purchased for learners to use in the classroom environment, but different licences were bought for software and learning platforms for our learners to access online resources.

In addition, extra expenditure was incurred on cleaning products e.g. hand sanitizer, masks, wipes etc. as well as other items such as signage and Perspex screens. Through the Welsh Government COVID Hardship Fund, the vast majority of these costs were all reclaimed.

Additional cost for staff that were required to cover teaching staff isolation periods, along with additional catering staff to ensure breaks and lunches could be provided with much reduced risk of learners mixing across bubbles, were also claimed from the COVID Hardship Fund. Examination fees weren't charged at the same financial value; however, the school had to invest additional staff time and resources to ensure that accurate assessment of the students' achievements were determined.

In recognition of the challenges that were facing learners, the Welsh Government allocated additional grants to schools to support extra intervention and to target specific groups of children that require additional support. These grants were provided to schools in March 2021 and, whilst welcomed, were rather late in the financial year to see the full extent of the expenditure that was being committed to support the learners of Ebbw Fawr. The learners benefitted through the academic year as it continued from April to July, but some of that grant funding will be recorded as expenditure in the financial year 21/22.

The end of year financial position for 2020/2021 was a £63,450 surplus (Section 52 Statement pending). This was achieved not only as a result of a reduction in expenditure due to COVID and the additional grant funding, but also as a direct result of the cost saving exercises that had been implemented by Governors and the Headteacher over the last 2-3 years.

Going forward to 2021/2022, Ebbw Fawr is in a much stronger financial position and, with projected student numbers increasing over the next couple of years, the school will continue to drive forward with its vision, maximising the learning opportunities and experiences for all of our learners.

#### Gifts/Hospitality

There were no gifts or hospitality recorded at Ebbw Fawr for the financial year 2020/2021.

#### Governor Expenses

There were no payments made to Governors during the financial year 2020/2021.

### **Attendance**

Due to Covid there is no requirement to publish attendance data. However, we can report that attendance is up to 5% down on pre-Covid in both Primary and Secondary Phases.

## Outcomes for pupils aged 15 or 16 leaving in 2020

Pupils who continued in full-time education, training or work- based learning	<b>96%</b>
Pupils who are known to have neither continued in education nor gained employment	<b>2%</b>
Pupils whose destination is unknown	<b>2%</b>

### Links with the Community

The school offers a comprehensive range of activities, both curricular and extra-curricular. There are strong links with a multitude of organisations who support these activities which include academic institutions, creative industries, and a range of work-based organisations. A number of Community organisations including the police and the health service continue to work with the school and provide inputs into Personal and Social Education, Skills Challenge, and the broader school curriculum. The school has also maintained and fully utilised its excellent links with Careers Wales to continue to provide a diverse range of careers and education guidance services to pupils in the Secondary Phase. A wide cross-section of employers helps to both organise and run these activities. The Primary Phase now employs a Family Engagement Officer and this post is proving very successful in improving links with families and the community. The 3-16 Learning Community continues to be part of the police/school initiative "Operation Encompass" related to instances of domestic abuse. Links with the community have generally improved throughout lockdown, particularly in respect of the period when the Secondary Phase acted as a cluster hub for all schools during the first lockdown.

### Sport & extra-curricular activities

Sporting extra-curricular activities have restarted in the Secondary Phase and attendance at football, rugby, netball and triathlon clubs is good considering the situation. The school has also appointed two teachers in the Primary Phase with sporting backgrounds and we look forward to seeing increased sporting activities in the Primary Phase from September.

### Governing Body Reviews

Due to Covid the usual monitoring activities have been curtailed. However, Governors have taken part in Secondary Phase examination and curriculum reviews with Curriculum Team Leaders. These have proved worthwhile and have led to policy changes in MFL and Technology.

## Term Dates 2021 – 2022

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	End of Term
Autumn	02/09/2021	25/10/2021	29/10/2021	17/12/2021
Spring	04/01/2022	21/02/2022	25/02/2022	08/04/2022
Summer	25/04/2022	30/05/2022	03/06/2022	22/07/2022

## School Prospectus

The school prospectus remains the same except for some staffing changes.

## Curriculum and Teaching & Learning Strategies

The curriculum is methodically planned across both phases. Currently all teachers are involved in planning for the New Curriculum. The planning is going well and the school has been identified by ESTYN as an example of best practice in this respect. The Learning Support provision in both phases continues to be successful. Literacy interventions across the school are overseen and taught by staff who are Literacy specialists, in order to make the best use of strategies and resources. This may also take place during one-to-one mentoring/Learning Support sessions, or access to the Nurture facility. Our specialist teachers and LSAs organise interventions that provide additional bespoke support for pupils across the school during one-to-one or small group sessions. The ALNCOs across both phases work closely with outside agencies and specialists, allowing for expert advice and support to be given for pupils with Statements and also at School Action Plus on the ALN register. This allows for ease of access to specialist advice, direct input with pupils and staff training.

## School Language

English

## Welsh language

Although the official school language is English, every attempt is made to create an inclusive bilingual environment where the use of Welsh is encouraged across the school. The Primary Phase has recently received its bronze Cymraeg Campus award and the Secondary Phase is nearing a point where it can be assessed for the bronze award.

## Toilet Facilities

All toilets across both phases are in excellent working order and are cleaned during the day as well as after school. The number of toilets across both phases complies with Health and Safety Regulations.

## **Healthy Eating and Drinking**

The school has, for some years now, run and managed its own catering service. The school offers a comprehensive menu selection, in line with relevant Welsh Government guidance, and has expanded its daily provision, responding to pupil voice and feedback. This provision includes and promotes healthier food choices as well as a nutritionally balanced main meal offering, which is very popular with both pupils and staff. As the school continues to progress each year with the staged Healthy Schools assessment programme, the curriculum provision is also reviewed each year to ensure that health, fitness and wellbeing are key areas which are delivered across a whole school personal and social education programme which is delivered to each year group. The catering manager is currently undertaking a full review of provision utilising pupil voice questionnaires, and a one-year action plan is currently being devised.