




2021.22

**Blackwood Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Y Coed Duon**



**Governing
Body's Annual
Report to
Parents 2021.22**



Blackwood Comprehensive School



All governing bodies of maintained schools are required by the Welsh Government to produce an Annual Report to Parents. Our report contains the required statutory content along with additional information and guidance we think is helpful for parents.

Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2021/22

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY, MR JOHN RICHARDS

Dear Parent/Carer

The purpose of the annual governor's report to parents, is to keep you informed about the current state of the school, its staffing and future developments. The governing body exists to provide challenge, scrutiny and support in the capacity of "critical friend". As a governing body our work includes termly full governing body meetings, where reports are received from our Headteacher Mrs Wilkie and other members of staff. The community, Local Authority representatives, Regional Consortium representatives and Governors also play a vital role in these meetings. In addition to these full Governing Body meetings, sub-committee meetings are held to allow for greater scrutiny and challenge of the school's development plan, staffing, financial planning, standards and curriculum. I would like to thank my fellow Governors for all the support and time they give to the school.

Our vision statement is:

Blackwood Comprehensive School is an inclusive school community where we use the power of learning and teaching to develop confident, happy, resilient and independent learners. In our safe, secure and nurturing learning environment, everyone is valued equally, and positive relationships ensure that, by working together, we raise aspirations, realise our potential and secure our future.

The Governing Body is very pleased with our learners' achievement, particularly given the challenging circumstances last year. They have shown so much resilience and this is a credit to them all. We need to congratulate last year's year 11 pupils on their results particularly, as they had never had the opportunity to sit an external examination before this. They approached them with a very a positive attitude and this is reflected in the excellent results that they achieved. Well done and good luck for the future!

Staff have worked tirelessly to provide an enriching, nurturing and, most importantly, an educationally challenging environment for each child. The challenge of trying to maintain learning while still suffering the effects of Covid, and an instance of TB, was at times difficult and we appreciate this caused much disruption not only in school but at home. Therefore, we must thank you, our parents and carers, for all your help and understanding during this most difficult time.

The governing body recognise that none of the high standards could be achieved without the dedication of our entire school staff. Our teaching and support staff, who help our pupils



Blackwood Comprehensive School



develop academically, our wellbeing team, our associate staff and our canteen, cleaning and caretaking staff, who work with our Business Manager to ensure we have safe, secure and nurturing learning environment. I would also like to thank the school's PTA for their dedication, time and fundraising efforts to support the school.

The school's priorities this year will build on the work that we have achieved so far and continue to improve standards of achievement, wellbeing and teaching and learning, so that all pupils can achieve their potential and develop the attributes of the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales (CfW). The CfW identifies principles of progression in Areas of Learning and Experience and determines how learners should make progress in their learning through the 'What Matters' statements, so that they can achieve the Four Purposes. We use our culture of '*Aspire, Attend, Achieve*' to help us accomplish this, and so it is vital that we work together to ensure that pupils attend school, to maximise their future potential.

I have included a link to the CfW <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/introduction> as I believe it will provide a useful insight into its vision for our pupils' future.

In preparation for the CfW the school has been working with our cluster primaries to develop a cluster vision and a cluster curriculum for Humanities and Expressive Arts. This work was recognised as good practice and presented at the Educational Achievement Service Headteacher Conference in July 2022.

In 2022, we said farewell to two longstanding members of staff at the end of the school year: our Head of Physics and our former Head of PE. We would like to thank them for their long service and commitment and dedication to the school. However, we are very much looking forward to working with the new staff who have joined us on our journey to continue to improve standards and raise aspirations, so that pupils can realise their potential and secure their future.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Richards

Chair of Governors



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER, MRS J WILKIE

I am delighted to write my report to parents and carers, which includes a record of some of the school's achievements during the academic year 2021/22. Whilst last year did provide us with a number of challenges, we endeavoured to maintain some degree of normalcy, in a year that was anything but normal. Our staff and Governing Body remained committed to ensuring that learners continued to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills despite the challenges that we faced. We are moving forward together as a school community, focussed on enabling our learners to develop as young people who are ambitious, with high aspirations and self-esteem, so that they can all achieve their potential. Our broadened curriculum, together with the opportunities that we have provided, have supported our learners in developing the attributes they need to achieve the Four Purposes of the Curriculum, so that they become confident, ethical, informed and responsible citizens of the local and wider community when they leave us.

We were delighted with, and extremely proud of, our Year 11 learners and their achievements in their examinations in 2022. They went into the examination hall, having lost significant time in school due to Covid, and, crucially, without having any previous experience of sitting external examinations in the exam hall. However, their resilience, maturity and positive approach to the process was a credit to the school and to you, their parents and carers. These learners and our staff are to be congratulated on their excellent achievements. In the content of this report, I am pleased to share a summary of our GCSE and BTEC examination results, along with our End of Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessments.

We were fortunate to see the return of our Year 11 Prom in July 2022 and it was wonderful to see the class of 2022 enjoy this important milestone. We are also looking forward to the return of our Awards Evening on Thursday 24th November, so that we can fully celebrate the achievements of these learners.

As I write, Welsh Government has removed nearly all measures used by schools to mitigate the risk of Covid-19. However, if school staff and learners receive a positive test they should still stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, from the day of their test or from when their symptoms began.

Additionally, I am pleased to say that we have started to hold all large meetings, assemblies and parent/carer events in person, and have already held our first Year 6 Open Evening in three years. It was a great success, with very positive feedback, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many prospective parents, carers and learners to the school.

The Governing Body and I would like to thank the voluntary groups, parents, carers and community groups who have supported the school and its activities throughout the year, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration, and making links with new groups, in the future.



Annual Governors' Report to Parents 2021/22

Contents of Full Report

1. Introduction
2. Governing Body
3. Governors Functions
4. School Development Priorities
5. Pupil information and performance
6. Links with the Community
7. ALN
8. School Holiday Dates, session times and information
9. Finance



Blackwood Comprehensive School



INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body is required to produce a report to parents on the work of the school in the previous academic year.

Parents and carers are major stakeholders in the school community and have a clear and strong interest their child's education. It is therefore important that the governing body actively engages with parents and carers, and remain accountable, by providing them with information and opportunities to discuss and have an input into school.

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 now enables parents of registered learners at the school to request up to three meetings per year with the governing body via a petition.

A brief summary is provided below.

The governing body must hold a meeting within 25 school days of receiving the petition, providing that:

1. The petition contains the signatures of the required minimum number of parents of registered learners at the school, which is the lower of the following:
 - a. the parents of 10% of registered learners, or
 - b. the parents of 30 registered learners.
2. The meeting requested by parents must be to discuss a matter relating to the school.
3. There will be no more than three meetings held during the year in which the first petition is received.
4. There are sufficient school days left in the school year for the meeting to be held.

The Governing Body of Blackwood welcomes the opportunity to make a formal report to all parents of learners attending the school. Many members of the current Governing Body are long serving respected members of the Blackwood community. Governors, through their good offices, lend support and supervision, and appraise initiatives embarked upon by the school to improve the quality of educational experience available to young people in the community served by the school.

There was no meeting requested by parents during the academic year 2021/22.



Blackwood Comprehensive School



1. GOVERNING BODY 2022-2023 (as current in October 2022)

		COMMENCEMENT	END
Chair of Governors	Mr John Richards	07/10/19	06/10/23
Vice Chair of Governors	Mrs Louise Pine	7/6/22	LA Governor
Headteacher	Mrs Jane Wilkie	01/09/18	
Community Representatives appointed by the GB	Mr Nick Jones	07/10/16	06/10/24
	Mr Jamie Duggan	18/7/22	17/7/26
	Mr Gerwyn James	24/11/21	23/11/25
LA Representatives appointed by the LA	Mr Christopher Hawker	16/05/19	LA Governor
	CB Cllr Tom Williams	03/09/16	LA Governor
	Mr Andrew Farina-Childs	30/11/17	LA Governor
Parent-Elected Representatives	Mr Noah Nyle	11/5/22	10/5/26
	Mr Richard Gibbs	07/11/18	06/11/22
	Mrs Hannah Jones	12/5/21	11/5/25
	Mr Mark Watkins	07/11/18	06/11/22
Staff-Elected Representative	Mr Nathan Bracegirdle	27/11/19	26/11/23
Teacher-Elected Representatives	Mrs Natalie Griffiths	20/09/21	19/09/25
	Mrs Claire McLaughlan	3/10/22	2/10/26

All the above may be contacted via Blackwood Comprehensive School. Elections for Parent Governor appointments take place whenever vacancies arise.



Governors with Specific Responsibilities

Safeguarding	Mr Gerwyn James	Health and Safety	Mr Andrew Farina-Childs
Additional Learning Needs	Mr Gerwyn James	Self-evaluation	Mr John Richards
Looked After Children	Mr Gerwyn James	Governor Training	Mr John Richards
Closing the Gap/RADY	Mr Jamie Duggan		

Election of Parent Governors

When a vacancy arises on the governing body for a parent representative, the school will inform all parents of the vacancy and will make the necessary arrangements for the subsequent election. Every parent of a registered pupil at the school will be entitled to stand as a candidate, to vote at the election and will be provided with the opportunity to do so.

<p>Chair of the Governing Body:- Mr John Richards c/o Blackwood Comprehensive School Ty-Isha Terrace Blackwood NP12 Tel: 01495 225566</p>	<p>Clerk to the Governing Body:- Ms April Walters - EAS for SE Wales Governor Support Assistant The Gateway, Tredomen Park, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach CF82 7EH Tel: 01443 863221</p>
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2. GOVERNORS FUNCTIONS

The Governing Body meets regularly to consider issues underpinning the effective running of the school. Half-termly meetings are supplemented by regular meetings of sub-committees, or panels, covering issues such as:

- i. *Finance and buildings*
- ii. *Standards and Curriculum*
- iii. *Behaviour and Support*
- iv. *Staffing*
- v. *Appointments*
- vi. *Pay Review*
- vii. *Performance Management*

The Headteacher distributes a written report prior to each meeting for discussion and minutes of all full governing body meetings are available from the school.



Blackwood Comprehensive School



Governors frequently participate in training and other seminars and courses and in the many functions organised by the school. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Governors, with many new members with significant and relevant experience, who can support us in improving all aspects of the life and work of the school. Attendance at meetings is good. Governors have not received travel or subsistence from the school's budget share.

The most recent Estyn report states that the governing body provides effective oversight of the school's work. Governors have a sound understanding of the school's strengths and areas requiring improvement. They have secure knowledge of performance data and they use this appropriately to challenge the school to help bring about improvements. The governing body plays a suitable role in setting the strategic direction of the school and, through its useful range of sub-committees, monitors progress towards strategic priorities effectively. Our last categorisation report (November 2019) states that Governors are supportive of the school and provide appropriate challenge through a range of sub-committees.

A Financial Report for 2021.22 can be found in section 9 of this report. Governors have a key responsibility to ensure that this school makes the most effective use of the resources it is allocated. This will prove to be particularly challenging in the difficult economic times facing all public services in the next few years.

Our latest school prospectus was issued to prospective parents and carers at our Year 6 Open Evening in September 2022.

3. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

i) The School Development Plan (SDP)

This is the key document which identifies the strategic aims and priorities for the school in the coming year and takes into account LA and Welsh Government priorities.

The most recent SDP for 2022 to 2025 is a very comprehensive document, setting out in detail the school's priorities for development; a copy of the SDP is available from the school and a summary is available on our website. The following priorities have been agreed by the Governing Body and Local Education Authority.

Year 1: 2022/2023	Priority To embed preparation for Curriculum for Wales
1	Further improve pupils' progress in developing their three cross-curricular skills, particularly boys, eFSM & ALN pupils, so that they achieve at least good outcomes at EOKS3 and 4.
2	Embed the culture of <i>Aspire, Attend, Achieve</i> so that learners are equipped with the necessary attributes to realise the four purposes.
3	Refine the standard of Learning, Teaching and Professional Learning to enable learners to make progress in line with the high expectations of teachers and curriculum by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• further embedding the pedagogical principles within and across AoLEs;• ensuring high levels of challenge and support
4	Embed strong collaboration within and across AoLEs, including cluster primaries, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• further develop leadership at all levels;• develop a robust understanding of effective progression and assessment;• enable learner progression in line with the curriculum and the Four Purposes.

Detailed actions in relation to these priorities have been agreed by the Governing Body in consultation with the school, and these are included in the School Development Plan.

ii) Curriculum

This is the range of subjects that learners are taught in Blackwood Comprehensive School. A copy of the school's curriculum policy, which is updated on an annual basis is available to parents and carers. An outline of the curriculum is produced in the school prospectus which is published in September, and this is extended in our options booklet and options website for Year 9 parents and carers in January 2022.

In Years 7 – 9 learners followed the National Curriculum studying English, Maths, Science, Welsh, RE, PE, PSHE, Art, Drama, Design and Technology, French, Geography, History, ICT and Music.

In Years 10 – 11 all learners followed English, Maths, Science, Welsh, RE/SWEET, WBQ and PE courses. In addition to these, learners can select from a wide range of options for all interests and abilities, details of which are available in the Year 9 booklet or on the school's website.

As we start the academic year 2022/23, schools have been contacted by Qualifications Wales to say that the WJEC have released advance information for the November exam series and further advance information will be released for the January 2023 exam series later this term. Advance information for the summer 2023 exam series will be released during the spring term 2023. Additionally, the Qualifications Wales board has now considered and decided upon the approach to grading for this academic year. The board has determined that their approach to grading in summer 2023 will be to achieve a broadly midway point between the 2019 and 2022 results.

At GCSE, learners are usually able to take modular exams in certain subjects throughout Years 10 and 11, with controlled tasks, undertaken under the supervision of the teacher. However, this has not been the case over the last couple of years, when we were impacted by Covid. In some GCSE subjects, exams and all assessments are completed at the end of the course. In subjects other than GCSE, other assessment arrangements are in place.

We try to ensure that our courses and the combination of courses studied by our learners enable them to make progress into further education. We do not construct our curriculum in order to improve the school's profile, but to interest and engage learners in their learning, with a wide variety of options. This engagement supports effective development of learners' knowledge and skills, which gives them more options when they leave us.

We believe we offer our learners a wide and varied curriculum at KS3 and KS4, but we are, as always, looking for ways of developing. Our aim is to ensure that all our learners are provided with learning pathways which are suited to their interests and career aspirations. However, we realise that a traditional academic curriculum based on GCSEs is not necessarily suitable for all learners and have amended aspects of our curriculum to ensure it is broad and balanced enough to meet all learners' needs. In the summer of 2022, we were delighted with the achievement of learners who had studied for our new qualifications: short course RE; SWEET; sociology; BTEC construction; LiBF Finance Level 1 and 2; and the Prince's Trust qualification.

Literacy, numeracy and digital competence initiatives have continued this year. Together with preparation for the Curriculum for Wales, Welsh Government priorities are:

- Improving standards in literacy;



Blackwood Comprehensive School



- Improving standards in numeracy;
- Improving learners' digital competence skills.
- Improving learners' incidental Welsh
- Reducing the impact of disadvantage on learners' attainment;
- Ensuring the progress of disadvantaged learners

These key priorities are fully embedded in our School Development Plan.

Three Cross-curricular Skills

At Blackwood Comprehensive School, we recognise the importance of the essential skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence for learners. These skills are vital for a child to flourish in today's society and fundamental to them developing ambitious, capable and confident learners.

Through our range of appropriate interventions, we endeavour to give all learners every opportunity to improve basic skills in literacy and numeracy in order to achieve their full potential across all curriculum areas.

In addition to the support of specialist teaching assistants for literacy and numeracy we also provide clubs such as 'Befrienders' where peer tutors are used to help improve the literacy skills of the learners involved.

iii) The Welsh Language

At the school, Welsh and Cwricwlwm Cymraeg is promoted in the following ways:

- Welsh is taught to all learners in Years 7 – 11.
- While we usually hold an Eisteddfod each year, where learners in years 7 and 8 are encouraged to participate and be exposed to Welsh cultural tradition, this did not go ahead in 2021 due to Covid-19.
- Welsh extra-curricular activities are organised and include a residential visit to Llangranog. However, this did not go ahead in 2021 due to Covid-19.
- Learners are encouraged to use their incidental Welsh skills both inside and outside the classroom.
- Our new Criw Cymraeg group, which aims to raise the profile of the Welsh language throughout the school.

Transition cluster arrangements are good with regular meetings taking place to ensure consistency in approach and in teacher assessment.

iv) Buildings and Premises

The boys' and girls' toilets in the Main Block have been fully renovated in recent years. Toilets are cleaned on a daily basis as part of the school's service level agreement with Caerphilly CBC and also to clean touch surfaces. Other toilets are available to learners in other blocks; these are also maintained via the service level agreements.



Our Business and Site Managers worked to repair and refresh the exteriors of many buildings; this work has brightened the school considerably. Our grounds maintenance contractors have worked well to ensure the school grounds are attractive and well maintained. Over the summer holidays the following work was completed:

- Final piece of fencing on our back field, to secure the perimeter of the school;
- Refurbishment and updating of M4; T10; Hwb;
- Further work on our heating pipes, to prevent leaks;
- Repair to the floor of the girls' gym;
- White lines repainted on our tennis and netball courts
- Additional benches in outside areas, following a request from our Student Council;
- An outdoor table tennis table

5. PUPIL INFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE

i) **Attendance (See Appendix 1)**

The current school role is 986. Our standard admissions number for each year group has been set by the LA at 212 for September 2022.

Schools are not required to set an attendance target for the Academic Year 2022-2023 and did not report on attendance to Welsh Government in 2022 due to the impact of Covid-19.

Term Time absence

In order to ensure consistency, and to follow what is increasingly common practice across Wales, holidays during term time are strongly discouraged and will be authorised by the Headteacher on a case-by-case basis, in exceptional circumstances only.

In order for your child to achieve success and to reach their potential, it is vital they have excellent school attendance and arrive at school each day on time.

To maximise your child's attendance, we strongly suggest the following.

- If your child needs to attend a dental or medical appointment in the AM session, please ensure your child arrives in school at 8.30am to receive their mark. They can then go to their appointment signing out at reception by the normal procedure.
- For appointments during the PM session, please ensure your child is in school to register at 1:50pm and then sign out at reception to attend their appointment again using the normal procedure.

The Welsh Government has introduced important amendments to legislation surrounding school attendance. The Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a parent to *"fail to secure their child's regular attendance at the school"*.



If a child is unable to attend school, we request that parents contact the school by 9.00am. The school has a message recording system (01495 225566) where parents can leave a message. The school works hard to reduce unauthorised absences. If a child is absent without explanation, parents will be contacted automatically by our 'Truancy Call' system and asked to provide a reason for the child's absence. Parents are requested to provide a note for their child's form tutor when they return to school, so any absence can be authorised.

ii) Standards

End of Key Stage 3 (EOKS3) Teacher Assessments 2022:

Percentage EOKS3	2021/22
English L5 +	83.6
Maths L5+	82.6
Science L5+	87.4
English L6+	48.8
Maths L6+	49.8
Science L6+	42.5
English L7+	12.1
Maths L7+	17.9
Science L7+	8.7
CSI L5+	76.8

EOKS3 Teacher Assessments saw a decrease in many subjects in 2022, due to the impact of Covid and the time lost to illness or lockdowns. This is a priority for improvement in 2022/23.

End of Key Stage 4 Examinations 2022

A summary of pupil performance in the Key performance indicators is in the table below. 2019 examinations and 2021 CDGs have been included for comparison. APS stands for Average Points Score

The Year 11 cohort consisted of 189 learners of which there were: 91 boys; 98 girls; 43 learners eligible for free school meals; 26 learners with an additional learning need (ALN).



EOKS4 A*-C (Percentage)	2019 (APS)	2021 CDGs (APS)	2022 (APS)
Literacy Measure	54.9 (36.4)	76.2 (42.9)	76.2 (43.0)
Numeracy Measure	53.1 (34.3)	55.4 (38)	61.9 (37.7)
Science Measure	56.5 (32.9)	59.6 (35.9)	65.6 (38.1)
Level 2+ (Eng lang/lit+ maths/numeracy)	48.4	54.9	60.3
Level 2+ (Eng lang+ maths/numeracy)	39.6	54.4	59.3
Skills Challenge Certificate	77 (38.5)	78.4 (40.6)	69.3 (38.8)
5A*/A	14	23.3	22.8
Capped 9	321	358.7	365.2
Level 1	92	94.8	94.2

Performance at KS4:

- Schools have not reported to Welsh Government on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) again this year;
- There has been an upward or improving trend of results in 8/9 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) since 2018. The number of learners achieving 5A*/A, the Literacy measure and CPS9+ has improved significantly since 2019.
- Performance in the level 2, including English language only, has continued to show an improvement;
- The performance of learners eligible for free school meals and ALN learners showed a significant improvement in 2022. However, this remains a priority for improvement for the school in 2022/23;
- Performance of boys in 2022 evidenced an improvement when compared to examination outcomes in 2018 and 2019. However, this remains a priority for improvement for the school in 2022/23;

iii) Progress On Sporting Aims and Achievements

The sporting aims of Blackwood are:

To encourage and support every Learner to participate in and enjoy sport and to encourage skill and prowess at all levels.

Of the learners attending school on any particular day, in excess of 95% participate in PE. Learners have a very positive attitude to the subject. The standard of both boys' and girls' kit is generally good, and most learners' appearance is neat. Most learners sustain effort and enthusiasm throughout lessons. All learners receive at least 2 lessons of PE every



Blackwood Comprehensive School



fortnight as part of the taught curriculum. Learners opting for GCSE PE or BTEC Sport receive an additional 5 lessons.

The school has an extensive range of extra-curricular sporting activities delivered by the teaching team during lunchtime and after school. Full details can be obtained from the school.

Blackwood continues to excel at sporting and cultural activities and we proud that many of our children actively participate in a wide range of sporting and other enhanced learning activities. We are pleased to say that the opportunities for fixtures and competitions has returned to normal levels now, following a reduction during Covid -19.

iv) School Targets

Schools were not set targets for the academic year 2021/22

v) Destinations of School Leavers 2022: This information has not been received from Careers Wales at the time of writing and will be updated when it is received.

Destination	Total	%
Continuing in full-time education - School		
Continuing in full-time education - College		
Continuing in full-time education - HE		
GAP Year		
Continuing in Part time Education		
Entering employment outside WBYP		
Entering WBYP (employed status)		
Entering WBYP - (without employed status)		
Able to Enter Emp, Ed or WBYP (Unemployed)		
Unable OR NOT READY to enter Emp, Ed or WBYP (e.g. due to illness)		
Known to have left the area		
Not responding to follow-up and therefore unknown		
Total in cohort		



6. LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

a) Parents and carers

While the number of parents and carers who normally attend our Parents' Evenings throughout the school year is good, due to the impact of Covid-19 these were moved to a virtual platform in 2020/21 and 2021/22. While this has been useful, parent/carer attendance at these has not been as strong as our in-person meetings and we are looking forward to returning to our usual way of holding these important consultation meetings.

We have worked hard to improve our communications with parents through increased use of Twitter, email, Class Charts messages and the school website.

The Governors believe that all parents and carers have a part to play in the PTA and wish the Association every success in 2022/23. The Governors would wish to congratulate the PTA on their fundraising efforts up to now.

Links with parents and carers are well developed. They are well informed and supported in helping their children prepare for a range of situations, including learning a new foreign language and preparing for external examinations.

b) Charity

Learners in the school are to be commended for their efforts in raising funds for those less fortunate than themselves. There are very many fundraising events raising money for local and national charities and the following are some of the charities that have benefitted from our activities: MacMillan Cancer; Teenage Cancer Trust; Alzheimer's Cymru, St David's Hospice. We are always grateful for the generosity of our whole school community in supporting charity events.

c) Transition

With the help of the Campus Director at Coleg Gwent, Cross Keys, an induction programme is organised for all prospective entrants to the college from Year 11. Links have also been established with Coleg Y Cymoedd. The careers adviser oversees many aspects of post 16 advice to parents and learners. Many such events take place to ensure our learners get the best possible careers advice.

In close cooperation with heads of the primary schools a full transition programme is organised for all new entrants to the school and we were pleased to see the return of our Year 6 Transition days in July 2022. We are fortunate also to have excellent partnership with our cluster primary schools and believe that our transition programme, which includes bespoke enhanced transition from primary to secondary, is an outstanding feature of the school's work.



d) Other External Links

The school has developed constructive links with local businesses and organisations. The school links well with a range of strategic partners. Learners benefit from targeted support and guidance provided by a range of multi-disciplinary and voluntary organisations such as Business Class, Careers Wales, local businesses and charity organisations.

7. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Inclusion of learners, irrespective of race, gender or disability is a key facet of our work. Learners with additional learning needs are well catered for; this includes looked after children. The school has a financial allocation to support the provision for learners with additional educational needs and it has been the policy of the Governing Body to increase this sum to enable learners to have access to smaller groups and specialist support. The school believes in equality of access for disabled learners and has ensured that all areas of the school are accessible for wheelchair users.

A number of learning support assistants are funded by the local authority and are attached to individual learners. The school funds additional classroom assistants for literacy and numeracy through grant funding.

ALN learners September 2022

No of Learners Recorded	Learners on School Action	Learners on School Action Plus	No of learners with Statement
204	109	82	13

Number of learners on roll: 982

Percentage of learners on ALN register: 20.8%



Blackwood Comprehensive School



8. TERM DATES, HOLIDAYS AND SCHOOL INFORMATION 2020-21

Autumn Term 2022	INSET DAYS
2 September – 23 December (Half Term: 31 October – 4 November)	Friday 2 September 2022 Monday 6 September 2022
Spring Term 2023	Friday 28 October 2022
9 January – 31 March (Half Term: 20 – 24 February)	Friday 23 December 2022 Friday 17 February 2023
Summer Term 2023	Friday 21 June 2023
17 April – 21 July (Half Term: 29 May – 2 June)	

School Day

The timings of the school day are as follows:

Year Group	Time
Lesson 1 Health and Wellbeing	8:30
Lesson 2	8:55
Lesson 3	9:55
Break	10:55
Lesson 4	11:15
Lesson 5	12:15
Lunch	1:15
Lesson 6	1:50
End of the day	2:50

Contacting the School

Due to the current circumstances, we are not allowing parents and carers onto school site for meetings. However, we always try our best work with parents and carers to sort out any difficulties, so if you would like to speak to someone, please contact us to arrange for a telephone appointment. Appointments can be made by ringing the school on 01495 225566/223326 or emailing on blackwoodcomprehensive@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk



Blackwood Comprehensive School



School Data

Parents and carers should be aware that personal information in respect of members of staff and learners is held on the administration network of the school. Such information is subject to regulations under the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act. Parents are welcome to request examination of the school's registration document. The Governors have a responsibility to adhere to the principles of the Act. Much of the data relating to learners is about classes, choices of subject, marks/grades and school reports. We also hold essential personal information such as telephone numbers, addresses, names of parents and any medical conditions.

The school takes every care to ensure that the information held is treated as confidential. This information is mainly for educational purposes and disclosed to such bodies as Careers Wales, Local Health Board and Caerphilly County Borough Council.

School Policies

The school has in place all policies required by national legislation. A full list of policies and copies of documentation are available on request. Policies are reviewed regularly.

The Governing Body supports the Complaints Procedure outlined by Caerphilly County Council in relation to curriculum matters.



9. FINANCE

<u>BLACKWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL</u>		
<u>OUTTURN BUDGET 2021-2022</u>		
<u>EMPLOYEES</u>		
Total Staffing Costs		£4 342 635
<u>PREMISES RELATED</u>		
Total Premises Related		£491 586
<u>SUPPLIES & SERVICES</u>		
Total Supplies and Services		£360 889
<u>SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS</u>		
Total Service Level Agreements		£120 605
<u>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS</u>		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£5 316 245
<u>INCOME</u>		
TOTAL INCOME		£840 733
NET EXPENDITURE		£4 475 511
TOTAL SURPLUS/CONTINGENCY		£447 159
TOTAL		£4 922 670

Mr John Richards - Chair of Governors