



PADRE PIO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS/CARERS 2023-2024

School Mission Statement

At Padre Pio we strive to be:

*A Catholic family where we pray and learn in peace with each other.
Together, we take the message of Jesus to the world.*

Our aim is to provide a high-quality Christian Education based on the teachings of Christ in the Gospels, where each individual is a valued member of our community and is able to develop his or her talent to the full. We aim to promote in all members of our community, faith and religious commitment, in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of the Catholic Church.

A note from the Chair...

The purpose of the Annual Governors' Report to Parents is to provide you with a summary of the life of the school over the last academic year, 2023-2024. This report details the work of the Governing Body in providing challenge, scrutiny and support to the school as a 'critical friend'.

Together with the school, and our community partners, we constantly strive towards the shared goal of providing the best educational experiences and opportunities for all our pupils.

At the heart of Padre Pio is a clear commitment to Catholic values where children are nurtured and guided to reach their full potential in an atmosphere of love, trust and respect in close partnership with you the parents.

We build on the firm foundations you have already created in your child's early years and enjoy working with you to maintain this momentum. We work hard to help children develop a love of learning and strive to provide a rich and broad curriculum. Above all we want your child to be happy, to feel secure and enjoy coming to school.

When your child commences his or her education with us, we all enter into a partnership between the home, school and parish for the benefit of your child, a partnership that relies on everyone's cooperation. Therefore, communication is vitally important. As you are aware, we operate an 'open door' policy within the school, whereby the headteacher, Mr Welsh, and staff endeavour to make themselves available to parents whenever possible.

We invite you to termly parent consultation meetings and provide further support through relevant curriculum meetings as required, e.g., Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE), reading, numeracy and ICT. These meetings are organised to give you information about what the children are learning in school and to provide you with strategies to support your child at home.

There is no requirement to hold an annual general meeting for parents. However, parents are still able to call a meeting if it was felt necessary to do so. This must be done by a parents' petition which has to meet specific requirements. If you require further information, please contact the school.

We have a strong partnership and long may it continue to thrive. On behalf of all governors and staff, thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Mrs Ceri Thomas
Chair of Governors
Padre Pio School

About the Governing Body

The Governing Body consists of 14 governors. We work closely together and with the headteacher and staff to formulate the aims and policies of the school. No individual governor has any power unless delegated to him or her by the Governing Body as a whole. The chair of governors, however, has the power to answer letters, deal with emergencies and liaise with the headteacher without constant recourse to the full Board of Governors.

Our school is a Voluntary Aided School. This means Religious Education is given in our own Catholic faith. It also means that the school must contribute toward costs for capital repair and maintenance.

The Archdiocese of Cardiff is our founding body and appoints the majority of governors.

| COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| Name | Status | Office Expires |
| Ceri Thomas | Chair of Governors / Foundation Governor | 31/08/2028 |
| Stephanie Williams | Vice Chair / Local Authority Appointed Governor | 29/09/2027 |
| Paul Welsh | Headteacher | |
| Stuart Allen | Foundation Governor | 31/08/2028 |
| Canon Paul Millar | Foundation Governor | 31/08/2028 |
| Louise Langley | Foundation Governor | 31/08/2028 |
| Denise Newlands-Taylor | Foundation Governor | 31/08/2028 |
| Vacancy | Foundation Governor | |
| Vacancy | Foundation Governor | |
| Vacancy | Foundation Governor | |
| Alida Smith | Parent Representative | 08/12/2025 |
| Dawn Taylor | Teacher Representative | 08/12/2024 |
| Paula Carter | Support Staff Representative | 18/12/2026 |
| Rupert Perkins | Community Governor | 01/12/2026 |
| Anne Robertson | Link Officer (Archdiocese) | |
| EAS Clerk | Clerk to Governors | |
| Mrs Thomas (Chair of Governors) can be contacted via a letter to the school. The clerk can be contacted via a letter to the school. School Address: Padre Pio Catholic Primary School, Conway Rd., Pontypool, NP4 6HL | | |

Parent Governor

Alida Smith was elected Parent Governor in 2021. The next election for parent governor is scheduled to take place in 2025.

Action as a result of any resolutions passed at last meeting with parents

Under Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, parents can request up to 3 meetings a year with the school's governing body to discuss matters relating to school (not individual pupils). This is subject to at least 10% of parents signing a petition – details of the process can be found on our website: <https://www.padrepiorcprimary.co.uk/governors-report-to-parentscarers/>. As no petition for a meeting was received during last academic year, no meeting was held.

Financial Report for 2023-2024

The financial outturn statement for the financial year 2023/24 is attached to this report – this provides a summary of how the school's budget was used.

No payments were made to any member of the governing body for travel or subsistence.

Prospectus

The prospectus has been updated in the light of new guidance, staff changes, new governors, matters relating to attendance. It can be viewed via the school website or on request from the school office.

Attendance Policy and Request for Absence from School

The headteacher may authorise up to 10 days holiday during term time (depending on the reason for absence and the rate of attendance to date). In cases where children are taken out of school without approval, their absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Absences are monitored by school and the Educational Welfare Service. Fixed penalty notices may be issued for unauthorised absence.

The school attendance target (optional) for 2023-2024 was 95.4%; actual attendance for 2023-24 was 91.5%. The school attendance target (optional) for 2024-25 is 92.5%.

The school is working hard to reduce the number of unauthorised absences and would like to thank parents for their cooperation.

Equalities

Governors and staff have a legal obligation to ensure equality of approach, treatment, and educational opportunities for all pupils at the school regardless of sex, ethnicity, beliefs, disability, etc.

We have a duty to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity;
- foster good relations.

As a Catholic school we believe that our policies and practices are inclusive and focus on the needs of all learners and stakeholders. In addition to these policies, we also have a statutory duty to set equality objectives for the school. The equality objectives set in our Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2020 – 2024 are:

1. To ensure all learners have equal opportunity to achieve their potential and develop the skills they need to progress to the next stage of their education;
2. To promote the rights of all children based on a commitment to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The school evaluates the effectiveness of the SEP on a regular basis.

Progress Towards Strategic Equality Plan Targets Academic Year 2023-2024

1. Staff continue to receive training, as required, to support vulnerable pupils, e.g. Training to support pupils with physical disabilities and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training.

All pupils are assessed continuously through day-to-day observations of their progress and through regular formal assessments.

Teachers differentiate work to provide support and challenge for the ability of all learners.

Teacher assessment indicates that most pupils engage well in their learning with no noticeable difference between boys and girls.

Nearly all pupils with additional learning needs have been assessed and transferred from the old Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code to the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code following a Wales Government transitional timetable.

2. The school continues to have a pupil-led Rights Respecting Steering Group which meets regularly to plan and promote pupils' rights and responsibilities across the school. Examples of pupils' involvement include:
 - Leading a school assembly to promote the Rights of the Child;

- Engaging pupils in a litter pick around the school – promoting right to a clean environment;
- Organised a stall at school fete to promote UNCRC;
- Displayed children's rights around the school and made explicit reference to them as appropriate eg right to play and be safe related to playground behaviour;
- Explicit reference is made to relevant UNCRC articles in all school policies as they are reviewed.

Our school has been awarded the Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award and is now working towards achieving the Silver Award.

Community Links

All parents are welcome to contact and visit the school and your time, effort and support is greatly appreciated.

The school tries to maintain and strengthen links with the community by:

- providing regular newsletters (also published on the school website);
- celebrating Masses in school and in Church to which parents and parishioners are invited;
- supporting St. Alban's Church Christmas raffle;
- forming a partnership with the local Care Home enabling a connection and communication across different generations;
- supporting several charities including Children in Need, Alzheimer's Society, Place2Be and Young Minds (mental health charities), The Little Princess Trust, and CAFOD.

Friends of Padre Pio and Fundraising Events

The Friends of Padre Pio continues to do excellent work to support the school. Money raised subsidises trips and in-school activities, e.g. cost of supplies for Cookery Club and Art Club, i.e. all children benefit.

In 2023-24, the following fundraising events raised money for our school:

Christmas Concert raffles and Christmas Bingo Night £829;

Summer Fete £900.

We give our sincere thanks to all the staff, parents/guardians and other family members who have helped to organise and run fundraising activities, provided donations for the raffle, and all who support events and fundraising activities.

Sport and Extra-Curricular Clubs

We encourage all pupils to have a healthy lifestyle, and this includes participation in sporting events. During a typical academic year, the school teams participate in the following sporting events:

- rugby and netball and football festivals
- cross-country running
- athletics
- cricket tournaments
- weekly swimming sessions for year 5 pupils

Pupils in year 3 to year 6 can attend a variety of after school activity clubs, including:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| • Football | • Dance Fusion |
| • Gardening | • Rugby |
| • Country Dancing | • Maths |
| • Cookery | • ICT |
| • Choir | • Art |
| • Netball | |

(Pupils in year 1 and 2 can attend Activities Club.)

Action taken to review school policies

The Governing body reviews school policies on a rolling programme.

During 2023-24, the policies reviewed included:

Health and Safety Policy;

Admissions Policy;

Behaviour Policy;

Charging Policy;

Safeguarding;

Marking Policy;

Homework Policy;

Online Safety Policy;

Emergency Management Plan.

All policies are available, on request, from the school office.

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

| Term | Term Begins | Half Term Begins | Half Term Ends | Term Ends |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Autumn | Monday 02.09.24 | Monday 28.10.24 | Friday 01.11.24 | Friday 20.12.24 |
| Spring | Monday 06.01.25 | Monday 24.02.25 | Friday 28.02.25 | Friday 11.04.25 |
| Summer | Monday 28.04.25 | Monday 26.05.25 | Friday 30.05.25 | Monday 21.07.25 |

INSET Days - school closed to pupils:

| | |
|----------|---------|
| 02.09.24 | INSET 1 |
| 03.09.24 | INSET 2 |
| 25.10.24 | INSET 3 |
| TBC | INSET 4 |
| TBC | INSET 5 |
| 21.07.25 | INSET 6 |

Summary of School Development Plan Priorities 2024-25

Priority 1

Raise standards of literacy and numeracy in all classes.

- Continue to focus on developing progression in writing across the school.
- Improve spelling skills of all learners.
- Develop pupils conceptual understanding of maths concepts through the use of visual aids and manipulatives.

Priority 2

To improve teaching and learning experiences for all pupils by developing a teaching and learning strategy that focuses on:

- Embedding Curriculum for Wales making amendments in light of self-evaluation findings;
- Ensuring there is challenge, differentiation and high expectations in all lessons that meet the needs of all learners;
- Ensuring pupils develop their independence and take increasing responsibility for their own learning;

- Continuing to trial a new RE curriculum which meets the aims of the revised Religious Education Directory.

Priority 3

To design a curriculum that supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness.

- Ensure the school continues to put the UNCRC into practice in the daily life of the school.
- Ensure pupils develop an understanding of and celebrate diversity.
- Review provision for prayer and worship across the school.

Priority 4

To continue to strengthen and develop leadership capacity at all levels in order to lead to high quality provision and outcomes for all learners. The focus will be on:

- Continuing to develop leaders' capacity to strategically plan for and implement Curriculum for Wales;
- Continuing to review self-evaluation processes, utilising the EAS 'Improving the Quality of T & L' resource to ensure they are manageable and provide an accurate picture of school performance;
- Continuing to provide opportunities for AoLE leads to work with cluster schools to design curriculum and share good practice;
- Continue to enable pupil leadership groups to have an impact on school improvement;
- Developing a deeper understanding of new section 50 framework to support RE self-evaluation.

Curriculum for Wales

At Padre Pio Catholic Primary School, we aim to provide our pupils with authentic, holistic opportunities within their learning. We provide learners with a range of "real life" opportunities that will hopefully be enjoyed thoroughly. As a school community we continue to design and deliver a curriculum that is personal and relevant to us and one that we are proud of.

Through the opportunities provided, we strive to ensure all our learners are:

- Proud to be valuable members of our Catholic school and display our Catholic virtues;
 - Ambitious, capable learners who always work to the best of their abilities and never give up;
 - Enterprising and creative contributors in the class, school, parish and community;
 - Healthy, happy and confident individuals who actively take part in many different experiences.
- (These are based around the Core Purposes set out by the Welsh Assembly Government.)

What our learners will learn

As well as RE, Literacy, Numeracy and digital skills, there are six areas of learning experiences (AoLEs):

- Humanities (Geography and History);
- Health and Well-Being;
- Expressive Arts (Music, drama and Art);
- Languages, Literacy and Communication (Literacy, Welsh language as well as engagement with Modern Foreign languages further on in the school);
- Mathematics and Numeracy;
- Science and Technology (Science, Design Technology, ICT and STEM opportunities).

In addition to the above, our curriculum will also cover:

- Human Rights;
- Diversity and respecting differences;
- Experience and skills for careers and the workplace (at an appropriate level);
- Learning about Local, National and International contexts;
- Developmentally appropriate relationships.

How we deliver our curriculum

The staff have created a long-term curriculum map which states which AoLEs will be taught each half term. An overarching theme or context is the foci across the school each half term (e.g., “Let’s Celebrate” or “I Wonder..”). Pupil engagement and input is crucial to influence what learners learn- and at the start of each topic, learners are asked what they would like to be included

We endeavour to use a wide range of teaching strategies and resources both indoors and outside to ensure all of our learners reach their full potential and to stimulate a passion for lifelong learning.

We fully recognise that our world is changing, and we need new ideas and creative use of technology to ensure our learners have the necessary skills, knowledge and expertise to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

Additional Learning Needs

In 2023-24 there were 22 pupils on the Additional Learning Needs Register, 11.6% of the school population. Mrs Jones is the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo).

Several members of support staff (Teaching Assistants) have supported pupils through intervention programmes and in-class support.

An excellent rapport exists between all our support staff and the pupils that benefit greatly from the support they receive, enabling them to reach their full potential.

Mrs Ceri Thomas is the Governor with responsibility for Additional Learning Needs.

Language of the school

94% of the pupils speak English and/or Welsh as their first language.

Use of Welsh Language

Padre Pio is an English medium Catholic school. However, we are very aware of our role, as a school in Wales, in promoting and developing the use of Welsh as a living language. In addition to sessions where we teach Welsh as a second language, the school tries to promote the language as the working language of the school. Simple instructions (sit on the carpet / line up at the door) are given through the medium of Welsh, where pupils hear the language and respond to it through action. Staff and pupils greet each other throughout the day using the medium of Welsh and pupils are encouraged and supported to use the short sentence patterns they know outside of the classroom, in the playground.

All members of staff have been trained to teach Welsh as a second language. Training is supported by the peripatetic teacher who assists both pupils and staff.

Toilet Facilities

The toilet facilities in Padre Pio School are very good. The children in Reception have access to their own toilets. In years 1 and 2 and in years 3 and 4 the children have access to shared unisex toilets in their cloakrooms. In years 5 and 6, boys and girls have access to separate toilet facilities fitting with their need for more privacy. The school is also fortunate to have 3 further disabled toilets on the premises. Each toilet area also has washbasins, liquid soap, and hand driers or paper towels. The toilets are cleaned every day.

Promotion of Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school has achieved phase 5 of the Healthy Schools Scheme. Water (or milk for pupils in reception class – class 2) is available for pupils to drink in school. Water is available to all pupils in each class. Pupils are encouraged to eat fruit at breaktime. For lunch, pupils can order a free hot meal from Torfaen Catering. Meal options are nutritionally balanced.