



PADRE PIO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS/CARERS 2022-23

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, 2022-2023. 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 now 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

There are 14 governors in total with a wide variety of experience. We work closely together 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 external repairs.

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	31/08/2024
Stephanie Williams	Vice Chair / Local Authority Appointed Governor	29/09/2027
Paul Welsh	Headteacher	
Stuart Allen	Foundation Governor	31/08/2024
Johnny Mathew	Foundation Governor	31/08/2024
Louise Langley	Foundation Governor	31/08/2024
Claire Higgins	Foundation Governor	31/08/2024
Denise Newlands-Taylor	Foundation Governor	15/09/2026
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

As no petition for a meeting was received during the last academic year, no meeting was held under Section 94 of the School Standards and organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Financial Report for 2022/2023

The financial outturn statement for the financial year 2022/23 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, and the school will discuss this with the Educational Welfare Service.

The school attendance target for 2022-2023 was 95.4%; actual attendance for 2022-23 was 91.2% for Year 1 to Year 6 (and 89.8% including Reception Year). The school attendance target for 2023-24 is 95.4%.

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 unlawful 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 March 2022 - March 2023

1. 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. Pupils with additional learning needs are being 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 has set up a pupil-led Rights Respecting Steering Group which meets regularly to plan and promote pupils' rights and responsibilities across the school. Pupils These rights are made explicit during lessons and school assemblies.
Explicit reference is made in all school policies to relevant UNCRC articles to ensure children's rights are at the heart of school life.
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's Christmas raffle.
- forming a partnership with the local Care Home enabling a connection and communication across different generations.
- continuing to support several charities including Children in Need, Alzheimer's Society, 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 and benefits all pupils/your children. In 2022-23, the following fundraising events raised money for our school:

Christmas Concert raffles £794.70

Easter raffle £128

Summer Fete £1275

Bingo Night raffle £312.27

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

Governors' Fund

Part of the Governors' responsibility is to ensure that the school environment and building is kept in a good state of repair and developed to reflect the changing needs of the curriculum.

Voluntary Aided schools such as Padre Pio have to pay 15% of the cost of any building maintenance and development work themselves.

We are fortunate that as a relatively new school, opened in September 2008, the present maintenance costs are relatively low. However, to enable the school to be built a 15% contribution of the total build cost had to be made.

This contribution was funded by St. Alban's Church and was expected to be £420,000. At completion, the final cost to the parish had risen to £468,932, an increase of £48,932. This increase in costs is in effect a debt the school owes to the parish. The governing body agreed that a governors' fund should be set up. This fund will have 2 purposes and income will be allocated 75% to priority 1 and 25% to priority 2:

1. To pay back the additional cost the parish made towards building the school.
2. To build up a contingency fund to meet the school's contribution to any future large maintenance costs.

We are asking parents to make a contribution to the governors' fund.

It was suggested at the governors' meeting that a monthly donation of either £3, £5 or £10 per family would be a reasonable request.

I'm sure you'll agree that the school provides an excellent learning environment for your children. If you feel able to make a regular small financial contribution, please contact the school office for Fund bank details.

Liaison with the Police

The Police Liaison Officer has visited the school and hosted online talks with pupils regularly over the year, being involved in an education programme delivering Personal and Social Education (PSE) across the school.

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

(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 2022-23, the policies reviewed include:

Online Safety

Safeguarding

Charging and Lettings

Admissions

Complaints

SE Wales Disciplinary Policy for Schools

Data Protection

CCTV

SE Wales Model Pay Policy for Schools

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

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Friday 01.09.23	Monday 30.10.23	Friday 03.11.23	Friday 22.12.23
Spring	Monday 08.01.24	Monday 12.02.24	Friday 16.02.24	Friday 22.03.24
Summer	Monday 08.04.24	Monday 27.05.24	Friday 31.05.24	Friday 19.07.24

INSET Days - school closed to pupils:

01.09.23 INSET 1
27.10.23 INSET 2
22.12.23 INSET 3
08.01.24 INSET 4
09.01.24 INSET 5
24.05.24 INSET 6

Summary of School Development Plan Priorities 2023-24

Priority 1: To further raise standards in English and Maths, particularly writing and application of numeracy across the curriculum.

Priority 2: To improve pupils' wellbeing and attitudes to learning, particularly through developing pupil voice.

Priority 3: To continue to develop and implement the new curriculum for Wales.

Priority 4: To support pupils' spiritual, moral and social development through good provision for prayer and worship and a focus on the Rights of the Child.

Priority 5: To further develop leadership across the school including pupil-led groups.

Curriculum for Wales

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

Through the opportunities provided, we strive to ensure all our pupils 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 pupils 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
- 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 are pupils learn.

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

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

Additional Learning Needs

In 2022-23 there were 22 pupils on the Additional Learning Needs Register. This accounted for around 11% 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

95% 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 / 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. Only water (or milk for the foundation phase pupils) 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 or cold meal from Torfaen Catering. Both options are nutritionally balanced.