

**WELCOME TO
ST MARY'S CHURCH IN WALES
VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL**



**Annual Governors Report to Parents
2023/24**

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Mr Richard Elmore
Chair of Governors
St Mary's CIW VA School
Park Street
Ruabon
Wrexham, LL14 6LE

CHAIR OF GOVERNOR'S WELCOME

At St Mary's School, Governors, staff, parents and children work as a team, building on success in a happy and high attaining environment where everyone feels valued. As such, we are very proud of the high standards our pupils continue to achieve. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank all staff for their hard work, efforts and contributions to the continued success of our school.

In our Role as the Governing Body, we are involved with a variety of school matters including finance, pupil welfare, and policy. However, without a doubt, we consider our most important role is to ensure the welfare and education of all our pupils. Governors are appointed to ensure the school objectives are met and that planning for the future is both visionary and realistic. In our role, we have total support and encouragement from Mrs Booth and staff, so together we can ensure every child has access to an enriched education and have the opportunities they deserve.

We are very lucky in St Mary's as our parents take a great interest in their child's learning and development and this is reflected in the results achieved, not only academically, but equally importantly in their personal and social skills. We are justifiably as a school, very proud of the children in our care. I therefore take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of their children and our school.

Kindest Regards

Mr R Elmore
Chair of Governors

GOVERNOR LIST
ACADEMIC YEAR SEPT 2023-JULY 2024

Mr R Elmore	(Chair of Governors)
Mrs N Booth	(Headteacher)
Mrs S Manford	(Foundation Governor)
Mrs C D'Allestro	(Foundation)
Mrs H Killick	(Foundation)
Doctor S Kapas	(LA)
Mrs T Jones	(Vice Chair/Foundation)
Ms J Lloyd	(Foundation)
Mrs S Baines	(Parent Governor)
Mrs J Steele	(Teacher Governor)
Mr M Kennard	(Non-Teaching Staff)
Canon P Powell	(Foundation)
Mrs E Beveridge	(LA)
Ms M Jones	Clerk to the Governors

SCHOOL ORGANISATION 2023-24

Headteacher:	Mrs N Booth BA QTS (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher:	Mrs R Hodgkinson (Y5 class teacher)
Chair of Governors:	Mr R Elmore
Nursery Class Teacher:	Mrs B Golby
Reception Class Teacher:	Mrs M Phoenix
Nursery and Reception Teaching Assistants:	Mrs K Maymond-Evans, Mrs S Broadhurst, Mrs J Edwards, Mrs A Cheetham
Year 1 Class Teacher:	Mr C Hall
Year 1 Teaching Assistants:	Ms K Scott
Year 2 Class Teacher:	Mrs L Kelly
Year 2 Teaching Assistants:	Mrs S Williams and Miss E Powell
Year 3 Class Teacher:	Mr J Steele
Year 3 Teaching Assistant	Mrs M Leighton
Year 4 Class Teachers:	Mrs S Williams and Mrs Burgess
Year 4 Teaching Assistant:	Mrs H Probin
Year 5 Class Teachers:	Mrs R Hodgkinson
Year 5 Teaching Assistants:	Mrs McCaffrey (am), Mrs A Cheetham (pm)
Year 6 Class Teacher:	Mrs J Keddie
Year 6 Teaching Assistants:	Mr M Kennard
Teaching Assistants (PPA):	Mrs L McCaffrey
ALNCo:	Mrs L Burgess
Well Being:	Mrs K Paxton
School Secretary:	Mrs K Humphreys
School Caretaker/Cleaner:	Mrs P Davies /Mrs G Jones
School Cook:	Mrs C Conlan

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

As a school we expect ALL pupils to attend school unless they are ill or there are unforeseen circumstances which prevent them from attending. Unforeseen circumstances **DO NOT** include absences for birthdays, haircuts, or any other non-medical related instances.

PUPIL ABSENCES

If a child is absent through illness, we require you to telephone the school office as soon as possible. The school is obliged by law to publish unexplained absences as truancy; therefore we must be informed as to why your child is not in school. Teachers should be informed **BEFOREHAND** of any appointments at the hospital or dentist etc and children should be collected from the front entrance.

The school's ESW (Education Social Worker) /Attendance Officer regularly monitors our registers and incidents of repeated lateness or absences which are a cause for concern may well result in contact being made with parents. At this point, the ESW will expect you to provide explanations for your child losing school time.

Family Holidays - The Governing Body may authorise ten days per year for family holidays, which unavoidably fall in term time. Holiday forms can be collected from the office and returned to the Headteacher. Please be aware that any additional holidays / days taken beyond this will be registered as unauthorised.

Absence and late marks are recorded in the electronic register and a printout is provided with your child's end of year report.

Measures to reduce the number of unauthorised absences

- 1 Encourage parents to contact school should the pupil be unable to attend.
- 2 Encourage parents, on a regular basis to inform school of any changes to the home telephone number or contact address.
- 3 To continue to personally contact parents / carers should pupils not arrive in school and no message has been received regarding pupil absence.
- 4 Targets for the new school year will involve the reducing the number of pupils who are consistently 5-10 minutes late onto the premises.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school has specific policy documentation, which is continually updated. The policy relates to pupils who have Additional Learning Needs. The policy is in line with the Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice for Wales. The full documentation is available to view on the Welsh Government website:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/220622-the-additional-learning-needs-code-for-wales-2021.pdf>

Our ALN Policy is available on our school website:

<https://www.stmarysruabon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ALN-Policy.pdf>

The school is reasonably designed and equipped to facilitate ease of access for pupils who are eligible for a school placement and have a mobility difficulty.

As a school we strive to meet the needs of all pupils, through high quality teaching and learning provision. Universal Provision is maximising the classroom environment and differentiated teaching strategies and resources that are available to all pupils. These include strategies to help sensory, physical and medical needs, behavioural, social and emotional needs, cognition and learning and communication and interaction. Examples of our Universal Provision can be found on our school website:

<https://www.stmarysruabon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Universal-Provision-in-St-Marys.pdf>

Appropriate and reasonable adjustments are made to enable access for all to the learning and school environment.

Most pupils will make expected progress from their starting point during their time with us at St Mary's. Careful observations and assessments enable us to identify quickly any pupils who are not making expected progress and a graduated response is employed. As part of our Universal Provision, initially short-term intervention is put in place and progress is closely monitored with a view to the pupil making progress and fully accessing learning through universal provision. This provision is monitored termly.

When reasonable adjustments in universal provision are not working well for a pupil, a Targeted Universal Provision Plan, or 'TUP Small Steps Plan' would be discussed by the teacher and ALNCo and in collaboration with parents / carers. Small steps targets are identified and strategies to support the pupil to meet these are planned and implemented. The pupil is central to this plan and is involved in an age/stage appropriate way in decisions affecting their ALN provision. These plans are usually reviewed termly with pupils and parents/carers, however teachers review these targets as part of their on-going assessment to refine any targets or provision as and when needed.

At all stages, person centred practice is employed where the pupil, parents / carers, school staff and sometimes outside agencies are involved.

An Individual Development Plan (IDP) may be drawn up with parents / carers, school staff, the ALNCo and usually other professionals together with the pupil when the TUP is not working to address the pupils' needs and improve their progress. Evidence is gathered and a person-centred meeting takes place to determine the Additional Learning Provision (ALP) that is needed. A school draws up and maintains the IDP with a long-term outcome and small steps targets towards this. These plans are reviewed termly with pupils and parents / carers; however, teachers review these targets as part of their on-going

assessment to refine any targets or provision as and when needed. The IDP Small Steps Plan that is written from the IDP targets would be reviewed termly (the review of a SSP isn't as long as an IDP review and would be carried out by the teacher whereas the IDP is reviewed with the ALNCo/class teacher and other agencies). Occasionally it may be necessary for the Local Authority to maintain the IDP.

At any stage of Provision, support and advice can be accessed. Every half term, our ALNCO invites professionals to an ITaS meeting (Inclusion Team around the School). Professionals who usually attend are our LA Inclusion Officer, our Educational Psychologist, Behaviour Support and sometimes an Educational Social Worker. These meetings are an opportunity to seek advice to support individual pupils and / or whole school issues.

MORE ABLE AND TALENTED

In Wales the term "able and talented" children, is used to describe pupils who require enriched and extended opportunities across the curriculum to develop their abilities in one or more areas. Ability and talent can manifest itself in many ways, e.g. academic, practical, creative, physical and social fields of human activity.

All children have the right to an education appropriate to their ability and needs. Supporting the needs of able and talented pupils is a key factor in raising attainment and realising potential for **all** by sharing high but realistic expectations for further success.

St Mary's has continued to provide a variety of opportunities for children identified as being "able and talented"

- Daily expectations in class work and aspirational targets set in work by teachers
- Abacus maths programme
- Good transition links with feeder schools to ensure pupils are identified on entry to Yr7

BILINGUALISM

Bilingualism, is the judgement of the use of welsh beyond the taught welsh lessons, i.e. used in greetings, conversations, directions, displays, website, etc throughout the school. Judgements are made not on just the staff use of welsh in these ways, but of the pupils use too. Although we appreciate that St Mary's School is located in Wrexham, a predominantly anglicised area of Wales, we feel we work hard at promoting a welsh ethos in and around our school. Staff work very hard to develop their skills and attend training to promote bilingualism. Pupils are encouraged and rewarded for attempting to use simple terms to ask and respond to simple questions with their teachers and each other. Pupils use of second language Welsh was deemed "good" by Estyn in our Inspection (October 2016).

During this year, we have joined the Cymraeg Campus scheme, where we have put a group of pupils together, our Criw Cymraeg to promote Bilingualism through the school. This is working very well and pupils are enjoying the challenge. We have achieved our Bronze award.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The Strategic Equality Plan and Accessibility Plan are in place to ensure the building and curriculum will be accessible to all staff, pupils, parents and carers, and ensure that disabled pupils are not treated less favourably than others.

BEHAVIOUR / ANTI BULLYING POLICY

St Mary's is a community which actively encourages all pupils to aim to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life.

We are very proud of the high standards of behaviour of our pupils, both in school and on visits out of school for a variety of reasons, for which they have been praised on numerous occasions. Estyn in October 2016 deemed our behaviour to be exemplary. This demonstrates the positive culture of respect our pupils have for themselves, others and the community in which they live. We firmly believe that good behaviour promotes effective learning and builds self confidence and self esteem.

The staff review the Behaviour Policy annually to ensure it reflects current practise, and to ensure that systems agreed are being used consistently across school. Our current rules, rewards and sanction systems require a consistent approach by staff and a degree of ownership by the pupils who learn to take responsibilities for their actions whilst fully understanding the consequences if they decide to act inappropriately. Our system very much promotes and focuses on rewarding good/expected behaviours. Pupils are involved in setting school rules, so are fully aware of the expected behaviours.

Pupils and staff have assisted in the formulation of the school's Anti Bullying Policy. Through regular circle time activities and class discussions, pupils are able to discuss their feelings and fears and understand the term 'bullying' which can sometimes be used incorrectly for one off instances. As a school we are proud of the very low instances of bullying and take any claims that it is occurring seriously. Claims are always investigated and dealt with appropriately as soon as they are brought to our attention.

The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy was amended this year.

TOILET FACILITIES

All of the school's toilet blocks are cleaned on a daily basis. The standard of hygiene is regularly monitored in order to ensure the standard is maintained.

DESTINATION OF YEAR 6 LEAVERS

Number of children in Yr6 cohort 2023/24 - 29

School:	Ysgol Rhiwabon	19
	Ysgol Dinas Bran	8
	Ysgol Brynhyfryd	1
	Ridgeway High	1

St Mary's is a traditional feeder school for Ysgol Rhiwabon. However, parents do have the choice to consider sending their children to other local high schools if they so wish.

St Mary's maintains strong links with Ysgol Rhiwabon and the cluster of feeder Heads and Mrs M Ferron-Evans meet each half term to discuss consistency and strategic planning across the consortium, in matters such as agreement of standards and levels of attainment achieved at the end of KS.

FINANCE INFORMATION

Gifts and Additional Funding

Gifts and commission were received from the following local companies and agencies;

Tempest Photography £464.95, Donations from Parents £600, Cons Club £1,000, £500, Ruabon National School £500.

Governors Expenses

None of the Governors from St Mary's School have claimed any expenses during this financial year.

MDP372 - ST MARYS AIDED RUABON
SUMMARY FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2023/2024
 Financial Year 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024.

BUDGET HEADING	EXPENDITURE/ (INCOME) BUDGET	EXPENDITURE/ (INCOME) ACTUAL	BALANCE
STAFFING	936,602	943,329	-6,727
PREMISES	40,811	56,467	-15,656
TRANSPORT	50	142.48	-92
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	58,488	41,927	16,561
EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES	63,429	62,795	634
CONTINGENCY FUND	65,548	-	65,548
	1,164,928	1,104,661	60,267
OTHER INCOME	-152,765	-178,818	26,053
TOTAL NET	1,012,163	925,842	86,321
Balance b/fwd (as at 1/4/2023)	-136,314	-136,314	-
2023/24 net over/underspend	1,012,163	925,842	86,321
Balance c/fwd (as at 31/3/2024)	875,849	789,528	86,321

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Both the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies were reviewed and updated this year to ensure all staff were consistently following protocols that maintain and ensure maximum safety of the pupils and staff on the site and on school visits. All teaching staff accessed Child Protection Training.

The Governing Body are pleased to report, that during the academic year there was no acts of vandalism.

REVIEW AND FORMULATION OF SCHOOL POLICIES

Curriculum and non-curriculum documentation is regularly formulated, reviewed and updated in line with change and current developments. Each time a policy is formulated, adopted, reviewed or amended it is presented for approval and ratification to the Governors.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff at all levels at St Mary's are fully committed to ensuring that the education they provide to all pupils and the job they do is of the very highest standard and quality. As such, they are committed to furthering their own professional development by attending relevant training and courses as and when they are available, both externally and internally. Teaching staff attend weekly Staff Development Meetings to discuss and address school priority areas for improvement.

Every class based and administrative staff member takes part in the annual Performance Management cycle where pupil, personal and school targets are set and monitored to ensure success. Funding from the school budget, EIG / PDG /PLG/ ALGR funds is then allocated to secure success and improved learning opportunities for ALL pupils.

HEALTHY EATING

The school promotes healthy living and lifestyle choices wherever possible. As such, the school follows the Healthy Snack guidelines set out by the LA. Pupils who choose to bring snacks from home are encouraged to bring a healthy snack for break times.

Pupils are also reminded and encouraged to bring in fresh water daily which they are allowed to access throughout the day as they need.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school continues to offer a variety of extra curricular activities both during and after the school day. Pupils have enjoyed a wide variety of clubs and activities such as sports, eco, music, ICT, fun and dance clubs.

The activities vary from term to term depending on staff available to facilitate the clubs and sporting fixtures etc.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL AND TRIPS OUT

As a school we try very hard to enrich the pupil's learning with visits and trips linked to their class topics and themes and this year was no exception.

Again this year the school hosted a variety of visitors to the school to enrich our pupils' education and learning experiences. These are a few of the visitors to school this year; Tempest Photography, PC Erin Hulley, School Nurse.

Children have also accessed outdoor educational visits such as Nant BH and Glan-Llyn, DangerPoint, Llandudno, Rhyl Sealife Centre, Chester Zoo.

COMMUNITY AND PARENTAL LINKS

Once again the school would like to thank those parents who have so generously given up their spare time to help out in school in a variety of ways. The support offered to staff in this way helps immensely in supporting the pupils learning and enhancing the school environment. Our teachers have held progress information nights for parents. The school works cooperatively with other local cluster schools and others, to ensure consistency in a wide range of areas.

Other Examples of Community links / Working this year have been:

We have facilitated Work Experience placements from Coleg Cambria.

We have links with our local Church and our children visit the Church often for RE purposes and also to celebrate special events.

Families of the school once again donated very generously to the Wrexham Food Bank.

Literacy and Numeracy working parties with members from all Ruabon Cluster Schools continue to be effective and are working well together to share good practise.

Car park and parking in the local vicinity continues to raise concern. Reminder letters/texts have been sent out to parents and our local PCSO carries out spot checks regularly. Health and Safety representatives from the Local Authority, visited and conducted a risk assessment. This will be reviewed and any recommendations implemented.

Mini Explorers started using community hall in April 2024 for wrap-around care and Flying Start. This assists the development of even better working relationships between the group and the school and is a great success.

The school works hard to support charities, in particular, Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Comic Relief.

HOME / SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The school continues to use our website and app for parents very well. It gives parents the opportunity to see up to date news from each class, our improvement plans and policies. We also use our text messaging system in a daily basis. Seesaw was introduced into Foundation Phase from January 2024. This has been successful and will be rolled out across the school during 2024-2025.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Our School Improvement Plan and policies are shared on our website for all to see.

Parents evenings were held in October and March.

Annual Reports - These are sent out in July of each year.

SCHOOL TERM / STAFF TRAINING DATES SEPTEMBER 2023 / JULY 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday	1 September	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Monday	4 September	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday	5 September	School opens
Friday	27 October	School closes - half term
Monday	6 November	School opens
Wednesday	20 December	School closes - Christmas
Thursday	21 December	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Friday	22 December	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils

SPRING TERM 2024

Monday	8 January	School opens
Friday	9 February	School closes - half term
Monday	19 February	School opens
Friday	22 March	School closes - Easter

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday	8 April	School opens
Monday	6 May	May Day - Bank Holiday
Thursday	23 May	School closes - half term
Friday	24 May	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Monday	3 June	School opens
Thursday	18 July	School closes - summer holidays
Friday	19 July	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils