



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School  
Ysgol Gynradd Santes Fair



# Governor's Annual Report

## Academic Year 2020 - 2021



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School  
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**Letter from the Chair of Governors**

Dear Families,

The last twelve months have been such unprecedented times and as a Governing Body we wish to sincerely thank you for your assistance with the home learning programme whilst having to cope with work commitments.

The school staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have worked extremely hard to ensure that our pupils have been protected as much as possible from these 'COVID times'. New Wellbeing policies have helped our pupils' wellbeing and this is shown on a Wellbeing video on our school website. I am proud to say that while schools were open, we got through the last year, without closing a single bubble due to COVID. This was truly an achievement for the whole school community.

The staff developed an innovative approach to the home learning which took place last year. The school, along with support from the St Vincent de Paul and the Chepstow Community Council ensured we were able to provide IT and learning resources to some families. Home learning packs were also provided to all of our families, allowing teaching activities to be familiar at home. The school regularly gathered feedback from pupils, families and staff, from September, and the provision was then adapted in response to this. Our home learning offer was much improved, with a mix of independent work, worksheets, videos and daily live lessons. Thanks to all of your support with home learning, 97% of pupils attended live lessons allowing them to have daily contact with teachers and peers. Many children said the best thing about home learning was seeing their friends and teachers on live lessons. This ensured that when they returned to school, their relationships with staff and friends were still strong.

The school encouraged engagement from all pupils, and kept in touch with all families especially those who needed extra support. Staff often adapted resources and approaches to meet the needs of individual children. Our mission was to ensure no child was left behind.

We commend the staff for recognising the stresses that the pandemic brought to our families, ensuring a flexible approach to our home learning and to the amount work that was expected by individual children.

The school sought to keep a sense of community, and the children's feeling of belonging to the St Mary's Family through live online events. These included, class led assemblies, Nativity play, story time, Whole School Assemblies during school closure, parent forums, Olympics opening and closing ceremonies and Fr Michael leading prayer sessions weekly for all of our community. As the school had to shut the gates from visitors, social media was used to share learning and activities. Using Twitter, Facebook and our improved school website, families are still able to share and celebrate in the daily life of the school.

The Governing Body were amazed by the successful cycling sponsored event which raised, in total, just over £3000. Our fantastic PTA matched that contribution and the £6000 has been well spent on equipment for both in and out of the classrooms. We would like to thank all those families and friends who made a donation.

We are thankful to the PTA, not only for their donation, but for their continued hard work. Throughout the last year, they constantly adapted and changed the programme of fundraising, and remained very active to keep raising money for, and supporting our school. They are a greatly valued as part of our school family.

I wish to thank my fellow Governors, who volunteer their time freely, to ensure that St Mary's continues to provide the best education in a safe and nurturing environment.

Miss O'Donnell has drafted a three-year programme of school priorities which are outlined in this report, to continue to improve the standards at St Mary's. We thank you for your support and we look forward to working together on our journey.

Yours sincerely  
Phil Cotterell  
Chair of Governors



## Mission Statement

# *Learning for Life with Christ as Our Light*

## Vision

At St. Mary's we are committed to providing a Catholic education which also fosters a sense of Welsh identity through an appreciation of Welsh language, history and culture.

We believe firmly in the Gospel Values and in our role as educators to nurture pupils, identify their talents and provide them with all the skills they need for life in the 21st century as citizens of Wales and the wider world. We seek to create a supportive environment in which every pupil feels valued both as an individual and as an integral part of our St. Mary's family – Ein Teulu Santes Fair.

Our devoted and dedicated staff will work together alongside families, our parish and the wider community to inspire, motivate and encourage all of our pupils so that they become confident individuals who are ultimately imbued with a love for life-long learning.

## Objectives

Encompassing the Four Core Purposes of the Welsh Curriculum and the Catholic Pupil Profile, we seek to:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, utilising a variety of creative, practical and problem-solving activities which enable access for all learners.
- Use our local environment in Chepstow and look further - in Wales and the wider world to enhance our learning.
- Provide excellent role-models for our pupils, leading by example in all that we do.
- Encourage and support one another in all goals - recognising talents, celebrating achievement and embracing failure as a path to future success.
- Strengthen our home-school links, recognising that families are the first educators of their children and supporting families in this important role.
- Provide high quality, enriching learning experiences which will support children in their knowledge, understanding and development of academic and life-long skills.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate progress and standards throughout the school, with the support of all stakeholders, to ensure continual growth and development.
- Obtain advice from, and work in tandem with external agencies to support all pupils with additional learning needs.

## Aims

Through the achievement of our objectives, our aims are that all children will:

- Develop a loving, personal relationship with God which will deepen their faith.
- Be accepting of others, respectful in their behaviour and always considerate towards the feelings of those around them.
- Recognise our similarities and differences and developing a sense of fairness and justice.
- Become well-rounded individuals who have a positive attitude to life and recognise their self-worth.
- Become enthusiastic life-long learners – ready to face the challenge of the ever changing modern world and global society.
- Recognise their strengths and areas of development.
- Develop confidence in challenging themselves in order to fulfill their potential.



### Changes to Reporting as a Result of COVID

For the academic year 2020 – 2021 some formal reporting from schools has been relinquished. This means that some information will not be reported on this year.

### Categorisation

All categorisation processes have been put on hold this year. In 2018, our categorisation was the Amber Support Category (This meant the school received up to 15 days of support). We are receiving support from our Challenge Advisor, who is also the head teacher of our Lead Network Support (LNS) school, therefore also provides training and any development we may need.

### Budget

#### **Financial Statement Summary 2020 – 2021 (April – March)**

SUMMARY	ACTUAL (£)	BUDGET (£)	VARIANCE (£)
TOTAL INCOME	-848,654	-740,690	-107,964
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	781,276	770,407	10,869
NET	-67,378	29,717	-97,095

When the budget was set, the school was set to be in a significant deficit. Through careful budget management and some hard decisions, the school ended the year on a more positive financial footing. We will continue to work together to strengthen the finances of the school.

### Governors of St Mary's RC Primary

Name	Role within our Governing Body	Sub Committee
Miss R O'Donnell	Acting Head Teacher	Recruitment and resources Performance and Improvement Catholic Life
Mr P Cottrell	Chair of Governors Foundation Governor	Recruitment and resources Performance and Improvement Catholic Life
Mr F Tindall	Vice chair of Governors Foundation Governor	Recruitment and resources
Miss K O'Hara	Parent representative	Recruitment and resources
Mr P Pavia	Foundation Governor	Recruitment and resources
Fr M Sinclair	Foundation Governor	Recruitment and resources Catholic Life
Mrs E Choules	LA Appointed	Recruitment and resources
Mrs A Robbins	Staff representative	Performance and Improvement
Mrs M Wagstaff	LA Appointed	Performance and Improvement
Mrs K Stevenson	Teacher representative	Performance and Improvement
Mrs A Evans	Foundation Governor	Performance and Improvement Catholic Life
Mr V Hughes	Foundation Governor	Performance and Improvement



### Changes to Prospectus

The school prospectus is continually updated, however, in light of the Curriculum changes, some of the sections that were updated were:

- Curriculum - Areas of Learning and Experience
- Catholic Education and Religious Education
- Introduced some extra parental information

Please find a copy on our school website.

### Attendance

Due to current circumstances, attendance will not be reported to the Local Authority this year.

Pupil Attendance	2018 – 2019	2019 – 2020 (Up to March)	2020 – 2021
Attendance (%)	95.8%	95.9%	96.5%
Authorised Absence (days)	971	754	569
Unauthorised Absence	387	172	158

Staff Absence	Days
Teachers	130
Other Staff	23.5

### Term Dates

2020-2021	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Thursday 03/09/2020	Friday 23/10/2020	Monday 02/11/2020	Friday 18/12/2020
Spring	Monday 04/01/2021	Friday 12/02/2021	Friday 19/02/2021	Friday 26/03/2021
Summer	Tuesday 13/04/2021	Monday 31/05/2021	Friday 04/06/2021	Friday 16/06/2021

Planning and Preparation Days: 01.09.2020 & 02.09.2020 – Phased intake until 14/09/2020

Inset Days: 23.10.2020, 02.11.2020, 12.02.2021, 12.04.2021, 19.07.2021 & 20.07.2021

May Day – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

School Closure: 17.12.2020 Foundation Phase Return: 22.02.2021 KS2 Return: 15.03.2021

### Session Times

Due to COVID, the school implemented staggered start and finish times, as well as modifying daily session routines to aid bubble isolation.

	Session 1	Break	Session 2	Lunch	Session 3	Break	Session 4	Finish
<b>Reception</b>	9.10am	10.30am	10.45am	12.00pm	1.00pm	2.15pm	2.30pm	3.30pm
<b>Year 1</b>	9.00am	10.30am	10.45am	12.00pm	1.00pm	2.15pm	2.30pm	3.20pm
<b>Year 2</b>	9.00am	10.30am	10.45am	12.00pm	1.00pm	2.15pm	2.30pm	3.20pm
<b>Year 3</b>	9.00am	10.30am	10.45am	12.10pm	12.50pm	2.15pm	2.30pm	3.20pm
<b>Year 4</b>	9.10am	10.30am	10.45am	12.10pm	12.50pm	2.15pm	2.30pm	3.30pm
<b>Year 5</b>	9.00am	10.45am	11.00am	12.30pm	1.10pm	2.30pm	2.45pm	3.20pm
<b>Year 6</b>	9.10am	10.45am	11.00am	12.30pm	1.10pm	2.30pm	2.45pm	3.30pm



### Assessment and Standards

#### End of Phase Data

Data was not reported on last year, (2020 – 2021). However, from our last teacher assessments it showed that:

#### Foundation Phase

- 100% of pupils achieved the expected outcome in Oracy and Personal and Social Development. With at least 50% achieving the higher level.
- 79% of pupils achieved the expected outcome in Writing and Mathematical Development. With 21.4% achieving the higher level in Mathematics.

#### Key Stage 2

- 87% of pupils achieved the expected level in English and Mathematics, with over 37% achieving the higher level.
- 80% of pupils achieved the expected outcome in Science, with 13% achieving the higher level.

### Equal Opportunities

The Governing Body has a commitment to promoting equality and it seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against. The Governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment provides access for all. Every effort is made by the school to develop respect, tolerance and understanding of the community in which pupils live and the wider world.

### Transition to Year 7

All transition plans were changed last year due to the current situation. Below are the percentages of which school our children moved on to.

St Joseph's	Chepstow	Wyedean	Badminton	Monmouth
47%	27%	20%	3%	3%

### Sports

We look forward to competing again in Sports, as no sporting events were held due to COVID.

### Additional Learning Needs - ALN

In St Mary's, our children and their families will continue to be supported to understand and participate in the decisions that affect them.

All schools in Wales are currently working towards the new ALN reform. This will change how we identify and support pupils with additional learning needs. More information will be provided this year.



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## School Development Plan (SDP) Priorities

2020 – 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise standards in teaching and learning.</li> <li>2. Improve health and wellbeing and confidence in all members of the school community.</li> <li>3. Implement a distanced and blended learning approach with all stakeholders.</li> <li>4. To facilitate a purpose led curriculum.</li> <li>5. Develop inspirational leaders to work collaboratively to raise standards.</li> </ol>
2021 – 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise standards in teaching and learning – focussing on skills and Areas of Learning and Experience.</li> <li>2. Continue to improve health and wellbeing and confidence in all members of the school community.</li> <li>3. Develop school as a learning organisation.</li> <li>4. To begin to design curriculum for our learners.</li> <li>5. Continue to develop inspirational leaders to work collaboratively to raise standards.</li> </ol>
2022 – 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise standards in teaching and learning – focussing on progression steps.</li> <li>2. Improve health and wellbeing and confidence in all members of the school community.</li> <li>3. Develop school as a learning organisation.</li> <li>4. To embed our own curriculum for our learners.</li> <li>5. Develop inspirational leaders at all levels to work collaboratively to raise standards.</li> </ol>

### Year 1 Priorities 2020 – 2021

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
<b>Raise standards in teaching and learning.</b>	<b>Improve health and wellbeing and confidence in all members of the school community.</b>	<b>Implement a distanced and blended learning approach with all stakeholders.</b>	<b>To facilitate a purpose led curriculum.</b>	<b>Develop inspirational leaders to work collaboratively to raise standards.</b>
All pupils to make progress from their starting point.	Leaders complete the Wellbeing Checklist to ensure consideration has been given to 'compassion before curriculum' to inform provision and intervention.	Develop a shared vision and approach to distanced and blended learning.	To develop a new school vision, aims and objectives.	Further develop the role of the link governor, being aware of strengths and areas for development.
Teaching and Assessing writing.	To improve well-being and attitudes to learning.	Formulate a whole school strategy for distance and blended learning.	Continue to embed learning opportunities which further develop the 4 Purposes.	Further develop roles within Senior Leadership Team
Assessment of all core subjects.	To develop Health and Wellbeing sessions	Leaders to keep up to date with the latest research and advice.	To develop Welsh and bilingualism throughout the school.	Develop all staff to take responsibility for their own professional learning.
Implement interventions and 'catch up' sessions for identified pupils.	Implement mini-me yoga for children to positively impact on pupil well-being and improve mindfulness techniques.	Create clear communication channels for all stakeholders.	To become familiar with the new Areas of Learning and Experience.	Areas of Learning and Experience leads to take coordinator role.
To develop a range of Assessment for Learning and formative assessment strategies.	Continue to develop different forms of prayer and acts of worship.	Ensure ALL pupils engage in distance learning – identifying support for vulnerable learners.	To develop Areas of Learning and Experience planning to include a range of learning experiences.	Teaching assistants to be accountable and take responsibility for given areas.
To improve reading through Guided Group Reading sessions.		Appropriate methods for transition between educational phases.	To develop the role of Pupil Voice groups so that they have a genuine impact on School development.	Monitoring and evaluation cycle updated.
To improve the quality of teaching so that it has a secure/high impact on learning.		To continue whole school, phase and class collective worship.	To continue to teach RE until advised by the archdiocese.	
Improve differentiation within lessons.				
To improve the teaching of Maths experiences.				
Embed the use of Digital Competency Framework and ICT throughout the school.				
Develop experiential learning experiences and outdoor learning.				
Improve standards of RE through varied creative activities.				

**These are the areas that the school developed this year. The colour system is a traffic light system, where green is achieved, and red is not achieved.**

**The role of Pupil Voice was not achieved last year as without children being able to cross bubbles, there wasn't a way to continue in a purposeful way.**

[Click here for information from the Welsh Government on School Development Plans.](#)



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### Community Links

A brief overview of school-based Community Activities during the academic year 2020 – 2021 included:

- Collective Worships – class led assemblies
- Whole School Nativity
- Warburton's Healthy Virtual Workshop
- Virtual weekly services and Mass from St Mary's RC Church
- Foundation Phase Tea Party
- St Mary's School Choir –Bethany
- Gwent Police Liaison Officers - PC Finister
- South Wales Fire Brigade
- Virtual PTA Events
- World Book Day
- Other National Day Celebrations
- Chepstow Arts Festival