



2024-25

YSGOL RHOSTYLLLEN

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

***'WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE OUR
CHILDREN APART FROM LOVE IS EDUCATION'***

01978 352357

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2024-25

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the governing body, I am pleased to present the Annual Report to Parents for 2024/25.

As a governing body, we currently meet four times a year, with the numerous committees also meeting on a termly basis. We, as a governing body, together with the staff and your support, strive to ensure the pupils at Ysgol Rhostyllen continue to make academic progress to be the best that they can be, whilst also being happy, safe and confident. The wellbeing and education of our pupils really is at the centre of everything we do.

Mr Rowlands is now in his second year as Headteacher at Ysgol Rhostyllen and the enclosed Report relates to Mr Rowlands' first full academic year as our Headteacher. We are sure you will have met Mr Rowlands by now and will have felt assured that he is passionate about Ysgol Rhostyllen. We are very pleased to have Mr Rowlands in post to lead our fantastic school.

As with any school, improvements will always be ongoing but you may have noticed many positive changes around the school, both indoors and outdoors including the multi-sensory room, the resurfaced school yard and the multitude of outdoor play items. We hope to expand the outdoor provision further and are involving pupils in how the new yard should be used and marked.

We are very grateful to Mr Rowlands and the fantastic team of teachers and teaching assistants who work very hard to ensure ongoing school improvements and for their commitment and passion to ensuring that our pupils learn in a fun but safe environment.

In addition to welcoming Mr Rowlands, we also welcomed Mr Guy as our Year 6 teacher and Learning Leader. Mr Guy has already made a very positive impact on the school, and we are confident that he will continue to do so.

We've had an amazing time with both sports and the Eisteddfod!

Our football team achieved a fantastic victory by winning the regional tournament and now have the incredible opportunity to represent Wrexham in the Utilita Trophy at Wigan - what an achievement!

As always, our talented pupils represented the school in the Urdd competitions, with some even reaching Port Talbot to perform on stage. This year was no different, with many children doing brilliantly in their categories. We are especially proud to announce that we had a winner of the recitation prize - the best in Wales! What an outstanding accomplishment.

Pupils have enjoyed out of school trips including a trip to the Stiwt to watch the pantomime, trips to Liverpool Museum, Chester Zoo and Xplore, and residential trips to Glan Llyn and Cardiff.

School attendance rates have improved significantly over the last academic year and we would like to thank you for your support in making this happen. Diolch! We really do appreciate your support.

The introduction of Seesaw means you can see more of your child's schoolwork. We hope you find this a valuable tool and enjoy seeing their fantastic work.

The introduction of our PTFA has been a fantastic addition to school life, helping us build even stronger links with the community and local businesses in Rhostyllen. Thanks to their hard work, the PTFA has already raised valuable funds for the school, and we're so grateful to the local businesses who have generously donated too. Your support makes a real difference and helps us provide the best opportunities for our children.

After 8 years, my time as a governor at Ysgol Rhostyllen has now come to an end. I am confident that the committed governing body will continue to work with the fantastic team of staff to ensure that Ysgol Rhostyllen continues to be a school we are all pleased to send our children to. Mr Paul Humble, who is a very experienced governor and a long-time parent at Ysgol Rhostyllen, will be Chair of Governors for the next academic year and I'm sure you'll find him very approachable.

On behalf of the governing body may I thank parents, guardians and family members for the support you have provided and for your ongoing support.

Kindest Regards,

Heather Owen
Chair of Governors

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GOVERNORS

Governors help provide the best possible education for pupils at school. Their main role is to raise standards and to monitor progress against targets that have been set.

The governing body at Ysgol Rhostyllen is a group of people responsible for the strategic running of a school. They are comprised of the headteacher, staff governors, parent governors, community governors and governors appointed by the local authority.

Governors carry out their duties voluntarily and their role is to hold the headteacher to account for the running of the school and the progress and well-being of its pupils and staff.

- Governors hold a shared vision for the school which is clear, understood and well communicated to staff, parents and pupils.
- The governing body sets the strategic direction of the school and has a central role in the leadership of the school.
- Governors are confident in providing high levels of professional challenge to hold the headteacher to account.
- The governing body is successfully focused on raising standards and promoting the personal development and well-being of all learners.
- Governors have a clear understanding of the strategic priorities for the school and ensure an appropriate plan is in place and implemented effectively.
- Governors engage effectively with parents, pupils and staff and are well informed about their views and use this to inform strategic priorities for development planning.
- The governing body has a good understanding of the quality of provision within its school and how the school's performance compares locally and nationally.
- Governors are fully and systematically involved in the evaluation process, keeping the work of the school under review and acting upon their findings.

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GOVERNORS

MEETING - Pursuant to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the governing body is not required to hold an annual parents' meeting. If parents do wish to meet with governors to discuss the report, a request will need to be submitted to the clerk, via the school. At least 10% of parents will need to submit a request for a meeting to go ahead.

FULL REPORT - Distributing the full annual report to parents and guardians can prove costly to the school. The Regulations allow a summary report to therefore be distributed, with a full report available at the school upon request.

The Governors are:

Chair of Governors: Paul Humble, Ysgol Rhostyllen,
School Street, Rhostyllen, Wrexham

Clerk to the Governing Body: Lisa Curley, Ysgol Rhostyllen,
School Street, Rhostyllen, Wrexham

Name	Governor Type	Term Ends
Paul Humble	Local Authority Governor	31/03/28
Bushra Ali	Community Governor	19/06/27
Gemma Richards	Community Governor	30/11/25
Joshua Davies	Parent Governor	21/09/29
Jessica Winfield	Parent Governor	21/09/29
Laura Topham	Parent Governor	08/07/28
Sarah Love	Community Governor	10/04/26
Beth Williams	Teacher Governor	15/10/27
Rev'd Dylan Parry Jones	LA Governor	30/03/28
Shanice Blackmore	Parent Governor	23/10/28
Huw Rowands	Headteacher	Ongoing

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ATTENDANCES AND ABSENCES 2024-25

The Headteacher regularly monitor attendance and punctuality. Parents are asked to phone or e-mail or message (Seesaw) on the first day of absence to let us know why your child is absent or late. Attendance across almost all schools has dipped since the covid-19 pandemic and we are ensuring improving attendance remains a high priority for us.

If attendance is lower than expected, then the reasons for this are explored, and support and advice offered. If there are a number of unauthorised absences, parents will receive a letter, and a continuation of missing school without a legal and valid reason can lead to a fixed-penalty notice. Whole School attendance for 2024-25 was 94.3%

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Mrs Gemma Brownhill is the ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs coordinator) at Ysgol Rhostyllen. As part of our regular monitoring systems, i.e. pupil tracking systems, we can identify children's strengths and weaknesses and ensure that they make the best progress.

Mrs Brownhill, works closely with parents and other professionals to identify and support all pupils who have additional learning needs. The school's support staff work with individuals and small groups of children on specific skills. The school also works with external support employed by the authority when required.

During this year, the school has had help and advice from the Educational Psychologist and the Speech and Language team.

Children whose difficulties have been perceived to be severe are referred for a full educational assessment. This involves assessment and testing in school with input from the local authority and other agencies such as health. Parents are consulted and kept informed throughout the whole process.

The school adheres to Wrexham County policies and the national guidelines laid down in the Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



We are an inclusive school, and we do everything possible to ensure that all pupils are offered the same opportunities regardless of race, gender, colour, religion, sexuality or physical ability. We have an equal opportunities policy. The governing body ensures access for pupils and adults with disabilities. We ensure that disabled people are treated fairly, The school is accessible to wheelchair users.

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SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Our prospectus is reviewed and updated annually. It is available to prospective and current parents and guardians. Just ask at the school office or visit the school website.

HOW DO I KNOW MY CHILD IS MAKING PROGRESS?

Pupil Progress Reviews between the Headteacher and class teachers take place on a termly basis to ensure that good progress is being made by all pupils. Where good progress is not evident, we seek to identify the barriers stopping progress being made and take actions or use focused intervention programmes to try and accelerate progress.

CURRICULUM



The Curriculum for Wales became statutory in September 2022.

The purpose of this curriculum is to enable learners to develop the four purposes.

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
 - enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
 - ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
 - healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society
 - The curriculum is taught through 6 areas of learning and experience:
- Expressive Arts
 - Health and Well-Being
 - Humanities
 - Languages, Literacy and Communication
 - Mathematics & Numeracy
 - Science & Technology



A curriculum is important to every school and its learners. When designing Ysgol Rhostyllen's curriculum we have ensured that the learning will be engaging, relevant, challenging and motivational to children in the classroom and beyond.

Our aim is to provide high quality teaching experiences will ensure our learners are ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy citizens.

Our appealing and engaging topics, together with pupil voice, will allow learners to have opportunities to work in ways that enhance their learning and also present their work in their own unique and personal way.

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SCHOOL POLICIES

The staff and Governors have prepared and approved a series of policies. These policies have followed the national/local guidance in many cases.

Copies of relevant policies and information can be found on the school website or by request from the school office.

Policies are monitored, reviewed and, if necessary adapted at set timescales or when updated guidance becomes available.

YR IAITH GYMRAEG / THE WELSH LANGUAGE

In line with National Assembly of Wales policy, Welsh is included in the curriculum throughout the school. Children participate regularly in Welsh oracy sessions to develop confidence and vocabulary, in addition to focused lessons and the use of incidental Welsh which is encouraged throughout the school throughout the day.

Staff attend Welsh courses to enhance their understanding and are well supported by the school's Welsh Leaders.

The children enter a variety of Urdd competitions to consolidate their Welsh language and culture. We also have our own annual Eisteddfod to celebrate St David's Day.

SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

At Ysgol Rhostyllen we aim to involve children in as many activities as possible. We praise and encourage the children for their activities outside as well as within school. During the school day we offer a variety of activities which include football, netball and many more.

The school offers a range of after school clubs for children. This could not take place without the commitment of all the teaching and non-teaching staff at the school. We also welcome parents who offer valuable help and expertise.

Residential trips included:

Year 5 completing a 3-day residential trip to Glanllyn in 2025-26

Year 6 will visit Cardiff for a 3 day residential trip in 2025-26.

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COMMUNITY LINKS

Ysgol Rhostyllen understand the importance of Community involvement and involves itself in many different areas. Our services and concerts are well attended by pupils, family and friends as well as members of the community.

Ysgol Rhostyllen work closely with the police. Our School Liaison Officer, PC Hulley visits our school and covers many topics such as Cyber-bullying, internet safety, bullying, anti-social behaviour and drugs.

The school actively involve the parents and community in education. We link with other primary schools to enhance the curriculum. The school are involved in Inter-school sporting events and other inter-school opportunities.

The pupils participated in the Urdd Eisteddfod and we supported Rhostyllen Village Fete by organising the dog show.

COMMUNICATION

The school have many means of communication with parents and the community.

- Monthly Newsletters - each month the in-depth school newsletter is circulated. Parents can receive the Newsletter through e-mail or visit the school website.
- Website - The school website is a good source of information for parents. The website includes day-to-day information, policies, staff and governor information etc.
- Parent Evenings are arranged in the autumn term and spring term to discuss children's progress.
- End of year reports are distributed in July with parent and child feedback requested.
- The school use the 'Seesaw' app to communicate with parents regarding work and homework.

ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS

In January 2018, Ysgol Rhostyllen were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate Estyn. The school were given four recommendations as targets for improvement.

- Improve standards of oracy in Welsh across key stage 2
- Improve attendance
- Provide more opportunities for pupils in key stage 2 to contribute to what and how they learn
- Ensure that learning activities provide a greater level of challenge for more able learners

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SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

The school is constantly striving to improve standards and the quality of learning and teaching for all our children.

Each year, staff review the curriculum and the standards that the children have achieved and we set targets for improvement. These are written in the School Development Plan (SDP).

The school priorities for 2024-25 were:

1. To enhance pupils' independence and challenge through effective progression and assessment. (This priority only started in the Spring term)
2. Improve pupil progression in skills through making better use of the outdoor learning environment.
3. Improve attendance and punctuality.
4. To continue to develop learners' Welsh language speaking skills throughout the school. (This priority was only added after October half-term by the new HT. It was important to include as it is a national priority.)

EVALUATION OF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT 2024-25

Priority 1 - To enhance pupils' independence and challenge through effective progression and assessment. (This priority only started in the Spring term)

Learning Walk and Book Scrutiny Update

- Recent learning walks and book scrutiny have highlighted the need to further refine our feedback policy.
- Teachers in Years 3-6 have been working collaboratively through School Improvement meetings to update the policy and implement it in classrooms.
- As a result, children now have a clearer understanding of their improvement areas, and this approach is working well.

Teaching and Learning Developments

- Since the learning walk, there is less reliance on worksheets, ensuring children are appropriately challenged. This will remain a focus moving forward.
- In the Foundation Phase, learning walks show improvements in independent learning and challenge opportunities.
- Reception to Year 2 are currently trialling their own feedback policy in preparation for September, creating greater consistency across the school.
- Children now understand the feedback process more clearly, supporting their progress.

Assessment for Learning

- Observations show that around half of teachers are using Assessment for Learning strategies, which help pupils engage with their learning and understand next steps.

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Priority 2 - Improve pupil progression in skills through making better use of the outdoor learning environment.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

- All teaching staff have received training in outdoor learning, which has boosted their confidence in delivering lessons outside.
- One member of staff is now a qualified Forest School Leader. Policies and Health & Safety documents are being finalised before Forest School sessions begin.

Collaboration and Professional Development

- Collaboration has brought new ideas into the school and strengthened staff professional development.
- Staff have worked together during School Improvement Meetings, sharing strategies and best practice.

Resources and Community Support

- New resources and generous community donations are being used to enhance outdoor learning, improving pupil engagement and introducing different teaching approaches.

Impact on Learning

- Evidence from Seesaw shows that outdoor areas are being used much more frequently, especially for pupils aged 3-7, giving children greater opportunities to learn outside.
- Staff are providing rich, varied experiences that allow children to take ownership of their learning, helping their minds and bodies to thrive.

Benefits for Pupils

Outdoor learning helps pupils to:

- Take and manage risks
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Cooperate with others
- Build independence and resilience
- Improve balance and coordination
- Discover more about the natural world
- Learn how to care for our local environment

Looking Ahead

- We are committed to providing more opportunities across the curriculum for outdoor learning and Forest School activities.

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Priority 3- Improve attendance and punctuality.

Attendance Update

- We are pleased to share that attendance has improved from 93.05% (2023-24) to 94.3% (2024-25).
- Up-to-date attendance information is shared through the school newsletter, and term-time data are available on our school website.
- This improvement is the result of actions carried out throughout the year to promote good attendance.

Supporting Families and Raising Awareness

- A school leaflet about the importance of good attendance has been produced for Nursery and all full-time pupils.
- This leaflet is included in the parent induction pack and is available on the school website, clearly setting out expectations around attendance.
- We work closely with our Attendance Officer to manage attendance issues and provide support for families.
- Half-termly meetings are held to review attendance and agree next steps for children who need additional support.

Keeping Parents Informed

- A traffic light system is shared with parents at the end of each term to show their child's attendance.
- Parents and children are clear on the importance of attendance and the information provided.

Promoting Good Attendance

- The 'Early Bird' trophy and weekly attendance announcements in assembly have increased awareness and motivation.
- 'Attendance Matters' displays and attendance charts on classroom doors encourage children to aim for the highest attendance each week.
- These initiatives have helped to promote positive attitudes towards attendance across the school.

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Priority 4- Priority 4- To continue to develop learners' Welsh language speaking skills throughout the school (This priority was only added after October half-term by the new HT. It was important to include as it is a national priority)

Welsh Language and Cultural Development

- Regular timetabled 'Helpwr Heddiw' sessions ensure learners are consistently introduced to new language patterns and vocabulary.
- The school has a thriving Urdd club, giving children opportunities to compete in the Urdd Eisteddfod.
- Our School Eisteddfod took place this year, promoting Welsh heritage and strengthening the school's Welsh ethos.
- Children proudly represented the school at the Urdd National Finals, with one pupil achieving first place.
- Effective use of Matiau Iaith supports continuity and progression in Welsh language patterns and vocabulary.
- Staff continue to play an active role in promoting the Welsh language, ensuring consistency and progression in teaching and learning, and fostering a strong Welsh ethos.
- Visitors to the school have commented on the increased use of Cymraeg by both children and staff, reflecting our commitment to bilingualism.

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TRANSITION

The school's partner high school is Ysgol Clywedog. Some of the children attend Ysgol Y Grango and Ysgol Ruabon as a preferred placement.

To help prepare the children for the move to high school, we have regular transition events.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

School Councillors, Eco-Councillors and Criw Cymraeg are elected each year by the pupils.

We work hard to be a healthy school. We constantly encourage healthy eating and drinking, regular exercise, anti-bullying and positive behaviour strategies.

All school staff work together to provide opportunities for pupils to voice their concerns, offer their views and suggestions and be involved with general school development.

SECURITY

The school is linked to the main alarm system and CCTV cameras are at strategic positions around the school.

Anyone coming onto the school premises during the day is required to report to the main office on arrival. This ensures that adults/parents do not enter classrooms without permission and pupils are not disturbed during lessons.

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THE SCHOOL DAY

3-7 Year Olds (Reception - Year 2) **Morning Session** - 8.50am - 11:45am
Afternoon Session - 12.45pm - 3pm

7-11 Year Olds (Year 3 - Year 6) **Morning Session** - 8:50am - 12 noon
Afternoon Session - 12.45pm - 3pm

Nursery - Mornings only - 8.50am - 11.20am

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

The school is organised into eight straight year groups from Nursery to Year 6. The school employs eight full time teachers and seven Teaching Assistants to support in classes.

The school adopts a variety of teaching strategies to meet the needs of all its learners including individual, paired, group and whole class teaching. Pupils identified as having Additional Learning Needs are supported individually and in small groups and work in lessons is differentiated according to ability. Teaching Assistants are deployed to support the pupils on a variety of tasks.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

A formal complaints procedure exists and may be obtained from the school website or from the school directly, should the need arise. It is hoped that parents would approach the class teacher and/or Headteacher with any concerns well before the necessity for such action to occur.

TOILETS

The Nursery have their own block of toilets in the Nursery classroom.

There is a block of toilets for boys and a block of toilets for girls for Reception to Year 2 (3-7 year olds).

There is a block of toilets for boys and girls for Year 3 to Year 6 (7-11 year olds).

The toilets are checked frequently during the school day and any operational or cleanliness issues are addressed promptly by the staff.

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SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term

Starts: Monday 1 September 2025

Ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Autumn half term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Christmas holiday: Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026

Spring term

Starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Spring half term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Easter holiday: Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 10 April 2026

Summer term

Starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Ends: Monday 20 July 2026

Early May bank holiday: Monday 4 May 2026

Summer half term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Staff Training Days (Site closed for pupils)

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Tuesday 2nd September 2025
- Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Monday 13th April 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026

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2024-25

FINANCE

SUMMARY FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2024/2025 Financial Year 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

BUDGET HEADING	EXPENDITURE/ (INCOME) ACTUAL	EXPENDITURE/ (INCOME) PLANNED BUDGET	BALANCE
EMPLOYEES	920,252	930,798	10,546
PREMISES	51,934	68,216	16,282
TRANSPORT	0	50	50
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	40,350	50,828	10,478
EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES	53,777	54,095	318
CONTINGENCY FUND	0	76,058	76,058
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,066,314	1,180,045	113,731
OTHER INCOME	-215,758	-191,710	24,048
OPENING BALANCE (1st April 2024)	-85,426	-85,426	0
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	765,131	902,909	137,778

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