



PEN-Y-CWM SPECIAL SCHOOL

***Governors' Annual Report to Parents
Autumn 2016***



Contents

Introduction from the Chairman	3
Head Teacher Update	4
School Governor Information	5
School Staff	8
Term Dates	9
Estyn Feedback	10
Performance information	11
Activity Calendar	17
What's been happening in Pen-y-Cwm 2014-2015	18



Introduction from the Chairman

The governors are pleased to continue our work with groups in the local community with pupils regularly attending and making use of the local leisure centre, our local country park and wildlife centre as well our excellent transition links with the college and other organisations. We continue to welcome PC Powell to school to work with pupils in all phases on workshops that cover safeguarding and e-safety.

Once again, as for 2014 – 2015, our pupils in Pen-y-Cwm have excelled in the sporting arena, with many KS4 pupils successfully completing the Sports Leader Award. These pupils have worked in the community marshalling sporting events and leading sessions for local primary schools. We have also hosted and attended a number of tournaments for football, rugby and gymnastics and once again organised the very successful dance competition.

Governors have agreed updated policy documents and have completed learning walks around the school and in some cases, undertaken brief lesson observations. We have also kept abreast of training and have taken opportunities to review new initiatives in school such as the Thrive Approach for wellbeing. This has resulted in significant improvements to outdoor learning opportunities and our school grounds.

Our staff continue to look to Welsh government priorities and incorporate these into our curriculum and thematic approach to learning across the whole school. The phase teams are working in a collegiate fashion and are led by our TLR holders.

The ESTYN inspection in April 2016 was very successful and governors are delighted to note that we have judged to be 'GOOD' in each and every element of the inspection schedule:

Teaching and Learning – GOOD

Provision – GOOD

Leadership and Management – GOOD

The governors sincerely hope that you, as parents and carers, are as proud of the school and its achievements as we are!

The Annual Governors' Report to Parents and Carers, as well as being made available online, can be produced as a hard copy to parents who request it. If you have any comments, observations or feedback, relating to the work of the school or its staff, I should be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Wayne Evans

Wayne Evans

Chairperson

On behalf of the Governing body



Head Teacher Update

Welcome to our Annual Governors Report to Parents and Carers for 2015-2016.

2015 – 2016 was a busy, happy and very successful year. Given that the previous ESTYN inspection of the school was in 2010, it was inevitable that the school would see a visit from inspectors during the academic year. I am delighted to say that when the notification came that the visit would be in April, we were not at all fearful of the visit. Rather, we saw it as an opportunity to demonstrate the very positive impact that the new building had made on our pupils and to show off the fabulous resources and facilities that are available to us. The staff team were hugely positive, keen to demonstrate the significant progress that our wonderful pupils had made once again during the academic year, and all in all we embraced the challenge that was ahead. The Inspectors were very complimentary about the school and its work, recognising the lovely ethos, the dedication and commitment of all staff to pupils, the attractive and stimulating environment and the way in which the school is led and managed. It was a very pleasing and fitting inspection outcome. I am privileged and proud to lead such a great staff team and I am delighted and honoured to continually share the successes of our truly inspirational learners.

Aside of Inspection, the year had many highlights and to begin to attempt to list them here would be foolhardy. What must be recognised however, was the overwhelming fundraising efforts that resulted in the fairy tale, magical day spent with our children and young people in Lapland UK. The trip exceeded all expectations and was a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of our pupils. It was a remarkable and unforgettable day and from the youngest to the oldest, the magic of all things Christmas was very apparent. A big thank you to all parents and friends who devoted so much time and energy to make this opportunity possible.

We welcomed new staff and said fond farewells to others.....All have made a difference and are to be celebrated. Similarly, a few learners came during the year and a significant number of year 14 pupils left us in July for pastures new. All belong to the family of Pen-y-Cwm and we are grateful for the joy they brought during their time with us.

All that remains is for me to thank you all: parents (and carers) as partners, governors as support and challenge partners, staff for your tireless commitment and camaraderie and the people at the heart of it all, our learners! I value each and every one of you!

I look forward to another great year. Do remember our 'Open Door' policy – we are here to help and will endeavour to serve you well, to 'GWNAWN EIN GORAU' – do our best in all, and for all!

Kindest regards,

Darya S. Brill-Williams

Darya Brill-Williams

Head Teacher



School Governors 2015-2016

Name	Type of Governor
Wayne Evans	Co-opted
Glyn Williams	Co-opted
Steve Knapik	Co-opted
Dawn Wilcox	LEA
Jennifer Morgan	LEA
Diane Robinson	Teacher Rep
Iris Barrett	Non-Teaching Rep
Rebecca Chislett	Parent
Stacey Suter	Parent
Paul Davies	Parent
Martin Summerhill	Parent

Contact can be made with each Governor via the school:	Pen-y-Cwm School Strand Annealing Lane Ebbw Vale NP23 6AN Tel: 01495 357755 Email:schooladmin@penycwm.com
Director of Education	Lynette Jones Anvil Court Church St Abertillery NP13 1DB
Clerk to the Governing Body	Steve Cresswell EAS - Governor Support Tredomen House Ystrad Mynach CF82 7WF

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

This section has information about the work that governors do with the school.

It also gives information about who our governors are and what they do.

Who to contact if you wish to get in touch with the governing body.

It also has a list of the committees and an outline of what the committee does.



Purpose of the Governing Body

Governors have a strategic role to provide future direction and guidance for schools, with collective responsibility for matters such as the School Improvement Plan, Defining the aims and ethos of the school, ensuring delivery of the National Curriculum, setting the budget, maintaining school premises, agreeing the staffing structure, reporting annually to parents, action planning after inspections and setting targets for improvement with the Local Authority. Parent Governors have a further role of providing a formal link between parents and the school.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, with the Governing Body acting as a “critical friend”. Governors work in partnership with the Headteacher and Local Education Authority.

For all schools, panels and subcommittees are essential. We have ten subcommittees that look into a variety of issues during the year, with some of the panels including statutory committees. Following panel of subcommittee meetings, reports are given to the next meeting of the Governing Body.

Panels and Subcommittees

The panels and subcommittees are as follows:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee – *Discusses all aspects relating to the Financing of the School, including setting its budget, and other purposes, as necessary. The Governing Body has delegated power to this subcommittee.*
- Discipline, Grievance, Complaints, Redundancy, Statutory Staff Dismissal and Statutory Pupil Discipline Committee - *Considers disciplinary matters relating to staff or pupils, grievances of staff members, or formal complaints from parents. The Governing Body has delegated power to this subcommittee.*
- Appeals Panel for Discipline and Redundancy Issues including Staff Dismissal – *Considers any appeals against the decisions of the above subcommittee. The Governing Body has delegated power to this panel.*
- Selection Panel for Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers – *Conducts the selection process for a Headteacher and a Deputy Headteacher.*
- Appointments Panel for All Other Staff – *Discusses, selects and recommends the appointment of other members of the school's teaching staff. The Governing Body has delegated power to this panel.*
- Pay Review & Performance Management Panel – *Considers Headteacher and staff pay, awards increments on the leadership spine, agrees targets and reviews Headteacher performance. The Governing Body has delegated power to this panel.*
- Premises and Health & safety Committee – *Discusses matters concerning the school premises and grounds, and health and safety issues.*
- Curriculum Committee – *Considers any issues concerning the implementation of the curriculum and education of the children at the school. The Governing Body has delegated power to this panel.*



- Statutory Admissions Panel – *Considers any issues surrounding the admission of children to the school.*
- Disability Equality Duty Committee – *Considers any issues concerning access, use of the school and the education of all stakeholders. The Governing Body has delegated power to this panel.*

Records of which Governors belongs to each subcommittee are at the school, and can be viewed upon request. In addition to formal meetings, Governors visit the school for subcommittee and panel meetings, to discuss curriculum issues with subject co-ordinators and to attend social events.



School Staff 2015-2016

Headteacher

Darya Brill-Williams

Deputy Headteacher

Theresa Evans-Rickards

Assistant Head Teachers

Sian Blackmore

Cheryl Buck

Teaching Staff

Class Morlais

Class Aberhonddu

Class Aberhonddu

Class Aberhonddu

Class Conwy

Class Caerdydd

Class Aberystwyth

Class Caerffili

Class Cyfarthfa

Class Aberdyfi

Class Ogwr

Class Caldicot (ASD)

Class Caldicot (ASD)

Class Fflint (ASD)

Class Harlech (Multi-Sensory Base)

Mrs D. Robinson

Miss E. Hurley (Senior Teacher)

Miss L. Edwards

Mrs L. Normanton-Davies

Miss E. Hall

Mr C. Hearne

Mrs S. Hall

Mr P. Shopland

Mrs S. Hollett

Miss J. Llewelyn

Mrs A. Cuttell

Miss J. Lander

Miss J. Coombes

Mrs H. Moriarty (Senior Teacher)

Miss S. Atkinson

Teaching Assistants

A. Bailey

C. Bailey

T. Baker

I. Barrett

S. Bennett

J. Brown

K. Burgum

C. Carey

E. Charles

H. Collins

S. Court

D. Davies

K. Davies

L. Davies

R. Davies

T. Davies

J. Diplock

E. Evans

Z. Evans

C. Flook

C. Fox

N. Fry

D. Gilson

C. Griffiths

L. Grzesica

S. Gullick

C. Harris

J. Hughes

W. Hughes

N. Jenkins

G. Johns

J. Jones

N. Jones

S. Jones

S. Jones

J. Lovell

S. Mantack

K. Matthews

H. Millard

M. Morgan

S. Pennells

D. Phillips

R. Phillips

L. Price

S. Preen

S. Prosser

G. Rees

S. Sainsbury

D. Scott

S. Snelgrove

S. Snell

T. Stevens

M. Tabbott

J. Tabbott

C. Thomas

C. Veal

J. Watkins

M. Wakeford

S. Weldon

A. Williams

C. Williams

V. Williams

M. Wilson

P. Withey

V. Yemm

Administrative

Michelle Trace

Naomi Cooper

Site Supervision

Kris Moreman

Midday Supervision

Jo Bashford

Rebecca Bowers

Claire Kelly

James O'Connell

Alison Phillips



Dates/information for next academic year:

Term Dates 2016-2017

	Term Begins	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2015	Monday 01/09/16	Monday – Friday 24/10/16 - 28/10/16	Friday 16/12/16
Spring Term 2016	Tuesday 03/01/17	Monday – Friday 20/02/17 – 24/02/17	Friday 07/04/17
Summer Term 2016	Monday 24/04/17	Monday – Friday 29/05/17 – 02/06/17	Friday 21/07/17

Bank Holidays

Monday 1st May 2017

Training Days

06.10.16
07.10.16
27.01.17
31.03.17
19.05.17

Session Times

School Opens: 8.55am

Morning Session: 9.05am – 12.15pm

Afternoon Session: 1.15pm – 3.35pm



ESTYN FEEDBACK

The school was inspected by Estyn in April 2016 and was deemed to be a good school.

The school's current performance: Good

The school's prospects for improvement: Good

Current performance

Pen-y-Cwm School is good because:

- Pupils make good progress in their learning in relation to their abilities and recognised needs
- There are highly effective arrangements to support pupils' health and wellbeing
- Pupils are offered a broad and balanced range of relevant learning experiences within and beyond school
- Leaders and managers have strong commitment to school improvement

Prospects for improvement

Pen-y-Cwm School has good prospects because:

- The headteacher and senior leaders are effective
- All staff are committed to providing high quality learning experiences
- Self-evaluation is well embedded and links well to development planning for further improvement
- There are effective systems in place to monitor the performance of all staff in order to secure improvement



AIMS/TARGETS – 2014/2015

Pen-y-Cwm in an English medium special school for pupils aged 3-19 years.

What are the school's aims/targets over the short to medium term in respect of attainment and standards?

Total Sessions Available - 39771	2015-2016 Target	2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Target
Attendance	90%	89.91%	91%
Authorised Absence	8%	8.73%	8%
Unauthorised Absence	2%	1.29%	1%

Assessed Area	Progress 2015-16	Target 2016-17
English	100% of pupils made measurable progress in some or all areas of English.	100% of pupils make measurable progress in some or all areas of English.
Maths	100% of pupils made measurable progress in some or all areas of Mathematics.	100% of pupils make measurable progress in some or all areas of Mathematics.
Science	100% of pupils made measurable progress in some or all areas of Science.	100% of pupils make measurable progress in some or all areas of Science.
ICT	95% of pupils made measurable progress in some or all areas of ICT. Equating to 3 pupils.	100% of pupils make measurable progress in some or all areas of ICT.
PSHE	99% of pupils made measurable progress in some or all areas of PSHE. Equating to 1 pupil.	100% of pupils make measurable progress in some or all areas of PSHE.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CURRICULUM ISSUES April 16

TARGET 1 – Thrive

To develop the principles and practice of THRIVE

- Increase number of licensed practitioners in school.
- Broaden the scope of the Thrive approach to link with LNF and PLPS 'Better Out than In' project.
- Continue to lead and pioneer the Thrive Approach within the consortium and across the LA.
- As an ambassador school, continue to observe exemplary practice.

TARGET 2 – Physical Literacy

To develop the inclusion of physical activity across the curriculum and promote physical literacy across key stages

- Further develop staff perception of Physical literacy across the curriculum
- Improve staff delivery of Physical Literacy Programmes of study
- Share with parents how we value physical activity in school

Increase opportunities for all children across key stages

TARGET 3 – Post 16 – Towards Independence

Preparing Post 16 learners for life beyond Pen-y-cwm Special School

The transition into life beyond Pen-y-Cwm can be an exciting and nervous time. We prepare all our Post 16 learners to embrace the next steps in their lives.

- Gain centre approval from ASDAN to deliver PSD modules
- Train new staff to the Post 16 phase to deliver the ASDAN based Curriculum
- Increase modules available for Sensory Learners
- Create a long term plan that shows a clear path through the Post 16 phase, building on previous knowledge and skills
- Use baseline functional skills of all learners entering Post 16 to build skills based personalised timetables
- Improve accreditation outside of ASDAN where appropriate for Learners

TARGET 4 – LNF

To prepare for curriculum changes to ensure Digital Competency is incorporated into LNF and both are robustly tracked

- Robustly triangulate all data and evaluate progress at pupil level.
- Pioneer use of J2E via Hwb to replace current system.
- Broaden LNF across curriculum by linking with PLPS and Thrive.
- Develop standardisation process to include Hwb for LNF.



TARGET 5 – D.A.R.R.

To further develop and embed the principles and practice of DARR across the school.

- Through evaluation and cyclical improvement, refine PLAT
- Broaden holistic assessment and quality assure data.
- Complete assessment map of Post 16 classes alongside P16 TLR holder
- Improve methodology and consistency of annual report to parents.
- Continue to share standardised analysis of specific appropriate data to target audiences
- Produce appropriate targets from Data analysis for SLT discussion and Governor approval



SAFEGUARDING

All staff are fully trained, policies and procedures are well embedded and all processes are followed rigorously. DBS checks are current for all staff and visiting professionals. The **well-being of pupils is of paramount importance** and all concerns are noted and responded to in line with school, LA and WG policy

COMPLAINTS

The school has an open door policy and an excellent relationship with parents and third parties. Any complaints are handled in line with the school's complaints procedure. No formal complaints are recorded 2015/16. All parental concerns are dealt with in a timely fashion and are resolved in the best interests of the child.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Financial Information:

2014/15 - £2,532,026 2015/16 - £2,391,276 Est'd 2016/17 £2,304,470

There is currently an expectation that we will end this financial year with a surplus budget. However it should be noted that from LA estimates, a shortfall is predicted for next year if current spending patterns continue.

PREMISES

The school has many policies that relate to Health and Safety and the good order and maintenance of the building. All issues with the building are addressed as they occur and are managed by the LA technical services department.

PUPIL EXCLUSIONS

None



Name of School:	Postal address:
Pen-y-Cwm Special School	Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6AN

September 2015

Tel. No.	Fax No.	School LA No.
01495 357755	-	677/7011

e-mail address:	schooladmin@penycwm.com
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Website:	penycwm.com
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Staffing Levels (FTEs)	Teaching	Specialist TA's (inc HLTA's)	Classroom TA's	Admin.	Cleaners	Dinner Supervisors	Canteen Staff	Total
	16	22	49	2	6	4		

No. on Roll		N	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	B	0	1	4	1	10	3	1	5	25
	G	1	0	1	2	2	4		1	11
	T	1	1	5	3	12	7	1	6	36

No. on Roll		Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Total
	B	6	8	8	4	7	5	4	6	48
	G	4	5	0	2	1	1	4	4	21
	T	10	13	8	6	8	6	8	10	69

Ethnicity	White	Mixed Background	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Chinese British	Other Ethnic Groups
	103	2				

Statemented Pupils		2015 - 2016
	No. of pupils	105 pupils
	% of school roll	100%



Free School Meals	2014 – 2015 (January 2015)	
	No. of pupils: N – Yr 6 –9 pupils	
	% of school roll	8.5%
	No. of pupils: Year 7 – 13 – 24 pupils	
	% of school roll Yr 7 - 13	22.8%

Attendance		2014 – 2015
	%	89.91%

Parent-Teacher Consultations - attendance at	No. of pupils represented	Autumn	Spring	Summer
	% of school roll	61	59	74
		63%	61%	77%



SCHOOL ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2016/2017

Event	Date	Comment
AUTUMN TERM	01.09.16	Term begins
Roald Dahl Day	13.09.16	Whole School
Teaching Assistant Meeting	15.09.16	All Teaching Assistants
MacMillan Coffee Morning	30.09.16	School based fundraising
Training Day (1)	06.10.16	Team Teach/First Aid (Half Staff)
Training Day (2)	07.10.16	Team Teach/First Aid (Half Staff)
Thrive drive!	10.10.16	Whole Class screening
Half Term	24.10.16	Happy Holiday!
Children in Need	18.11.16	Whole school fundraising event
Carol Service	13.12.16	Whole school production
Christmas lunch	14.12.16	Provided for all staff
Christmas party	15.12.16	Party and disco
End of term	16.12.16	Usual finish time
SPRING TERM	03.01.17	Term begins
TA Meeting	19.01.17	All Teaching Assistants
Training day (3)	27.01.17	tbc
Half Term	20.02.17	Happy Holiday!
Welsh Week	27.02.17	Classes – carousel of activities
World Book Day	02.03.17	Link to Roald Dahl day/Welsh week
Eisteddfod	03.03.17	Whole school
Comic Relief	17.03.16	Whole school fundraising event
Training Day (4)	31.03.17	tbc
End of term	07.04.17	Happy Holiday!
SUMMER TERM	24.04.17	Term begins
Bank Holiday	01.05.17	May Day
Training Day (5)	19.05.17	tbc
Thrive drive!	22.05.17	Whole Class screening
Dance Festival	25.05.17	Whole School
Half Term	29.05.17	Happy Holiday!
European Week	05.06.17	Classes – carousel of activities
Sports Day	22.06.17	Whole School event
Annual Reports	23.06.16	AR progress reports to parents
*Sports Day	05.07.17	Back-up plan – inclement weather
Summer Prom	13.07.17	Post 17 pupils
Parent consultation aft.	27.06.17	Teacher consultations with parents



Parent consultation aft.	28.06.17	Teacher consultations with parents
Afternoon tea	11.07.17	Musical event/Strawberry Tea
Leavers' assembly	20.07.17	End of year celebration
End of term	21.07.17	Class fun day/parties!

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING BY VICTORIA

At the end of September Dosbarth Cyfarthfa and Aberdyfi organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise money for cancer sufferers. The students baked the cakes and iced them. The students also decorated the life skills room and

turned the class into a café. On the day there were a variety of cakes on sale as well as hot and cold drinks. A very big thank you to everybody that bought a cake on the day and helped us raise £144.



THE QUEEN

As part of their literacy lessons Dosbarth Aberystwyth wrote letters to the Queen to say congratulations for being the longest reigning monarch in British history. The pupils were delighted to receive a letter from the Lady in

Waiting replying to their letters.





PSALTY BY OLIVIA

Parents and friends of Pen-y-Cwm were treated to a fantastic play called Psalty 's Christmas Calamity . The play was about a hymn book by the name of Psalty. Reverend Shopland asked Psalty and the children to sing in a Christmas



Concert . But Psalty's pages were very dusty and the music didn't sound very good. They tried to fix it by washing the pages but that didn't work. They tried to give Psalty Tonic but that made him feel sick. The children put their faith in God and the concert went well Psalty was played by Miss Hall and all the children sang fantastically. The



parents enjoyed and joined in with some of the carols. Mrs Williams would like to thank Everyone involved for a marvelous show that recognized the real meaning of Christmas.

HARVEST /FOODBANK BY MARGARET

This term for harvest class Cyfarthfa collected food for the local people in need. The whole school donated food items. The donations have made a big difference to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank. The weight in

food collected was 56.7kg. The food that was collected by the school was sent to the Church on the Rise for distribution. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone.



And finally, a thank you.....

As always, thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. Your support and encouragement are so very much appreciated.

Darya Brill-Williams

Head Teacher