

**Governors' Annual Report to Parents and Carers
1.9.2022 - 31.8.2023**

Headteacher: Mrs Angharad Bryn-Jones

Chair of Governors: Ms Clancy Brett

The Governors		End of term of office
<u>Chair of Governors:</u> LA Governor Governor: Ms Clancy Brett		December 2027
Please contact through the school office: Tel. 01874 623508		
Email: office@penmaes.powys.sch.uk		
Local Authority Governor	Mrs Jenny Miller (+ Vice Chair)	February 2027
Parent Governor	Antony Layzell	December 2027
Parent Governor	Helen Davies	June 2026
Parent Governor	Mandy Thomas	October 2026
Voluntary Organisation Governor	Mrs Gill Abram	September 2026
Community Governor	Rev. Steven Griffith	July 2025
Community Governor	Dorcas Slaney	June 2024
Teacher Governor	Su Pierce	October 2026
Staff Governor	Bethan Woods	October 2025
In attendance		
<u>Clerk to the Governors:</u> Beth Groves		
Contact details: Tel. 01597 826402		
email: beth.groves@powys.gov.uk		

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to be writing to you to introduce the Governors' Report for the last school year 2022-23 and hope you will be interested in reading about the continuing progress of Ysgol Penmaes. The school continues to grow and develop and has made some very good progress. The school has been supported by the School Improvement Advisor and feedback has been extremely positive.

The school has made very good progress in improving teaching and learning which has impacted positively on outcomes in several areas. For example, improving progress in maths in the foundation phase, in particular, consolidating pupils' understanding of the use of fractions; improving behaviour regulation; improving pupils' use of expressive language and improving reading through precision teaching. The stakeholder questionnaire responses have highlighted that nearly all pupils feel listened to and well supported, and as a result many pupils are able to recognise what good mental health and wellbeing looks like. Once per half term pupils have taken part in project weeks, and the theme for the projects are chosen by the pupils; topics have included, unicorns, cooking and rollercoasters, with pupils taking the lead in their learning. Many pupils have stated that they would like to have more project weeks and more weeks/days dedicated to mental health and wellbeing.

Leadership of ALN in the school is very effective. The headteacher has a clear and inclusive vision which is understood by all stakeholders and is successfully implemented across the school. There are many examples of leaders sharing best practice in ALN across the sector, for example, through attending Powys referral panel and work streams, strengthening the leadership in other provisions and leading the development of the council's first satellite provision for pupils with additional learning needs at Crossgates School.

The school's vision is to ensure that every pupil achieves their full potential in a safe, secure and enriching environment. Ysgol Penmaes offers a curriculum that promotes ambitious, capable and informed pupils at a developmentally appropriate level. The school places a strong focus on the wellbeing of all. As a result, Penmaes provides an effective learning environment for all pupils and staff. The vision has been created by and shared with all stakeholders. It forms the starting point for self-evaluation and improvement priorities.

The school has developed highly effective self-evaluation processes involving all stakeholders. A wide range of monitoring activities are used effectively, formal assessments, stakeholder questionnaires and pupil data in order to inform all staff of all aspects of school improvement, such as pupil progress, pupil wellbeing, teaching and learning, processes for care, support and guidance and leadership.

The governors would like to thank all the school community- all staff, pupils and families for their continued unprecedented support throughout. Feedback received from all Stakeholders regarding self-evaluation of school continues to be really positive with many commenting on the effective communication systems, how well led the school is, the welcome received, the commitment and dedication of staff and the regular updates provided. Parents/carers and the community are an important asset to the school in supporting the raising of standards and improving pupil outcomes.

However it is also important to note that the last academic year hasn't passed without its challenges and Covid continued to disrupt resulting in some class closures. The team at Penmaes has continued to go over and above in delivering meaningful learning opportunities regardless of the challenges faced and for this we as governors are very grateful.

The School Development Plan (SDP) was regularly reviewed to reflect any changing conditions and the following objectives were the focus for the year :

Ysgol Penmaes School Improvement Priorities 2022 - 2023

1: (Learning): To raise standards and pupil progress in Language Literacy and Communication with a focus on reading, writing and oracy across the school. *(this includes W2L, International Languages, Makaton as well as Speech, Language and Communication)*

2: (Wellbeing & attitudes to learning): To effectively embed wellbeing interventions e.g Thrive and ELSA in order to support pupil behaviour, analysing any trends using the school behaviour core and providing an in-reach service where identified in order to improve behaviour and wellbeing intervention outcomes. To continue to support staff wellbeing through an effective staff mental health and wellbeing team.

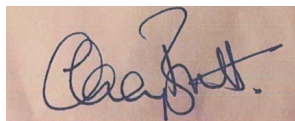
3: (Teaching and Learning experiences): To continue to implement the Curriculum for Wales with a focus on assessing, differentiation, monitoring and professional learning; ensuring pupil involvement in effective and innovative peer and self- assessment processes.

4: (Care Guidance and Support): To broaden expressive arts opportunities with a focus on encouraging pupils to use their imaginations to increase engagement, participation and to foster increased self-confidence whilst developing and promoting links with the wider community and Cynefin.

5: (Care Guidance and Support): To work in collaboration with the Local Authority to support ALN Transformation including national and local priorities and the conversion of Statements of Special Educational Needs to Individual Development Plans.

6: (Leadership Management): To establish a new and highly effective senior leadership team and to strengthen governor involvement in addressing whole school priorities with a focus on monitoring and evaluation processes; whilst continuing to play a pivotal role in the ALN transformation processes and procedures. including conversions from Statements to IDPs as well as satellite development across the Local Authority.

I hope you will find our report of interest. This report always follows the Welsh Government format but is smaller this year because it omits data which WG agreed was not possible to use as fair year-on-year comparisons. If you wish to have any further information or to have a meeting with the governors, please contact Clancy Brett who is the Chair of the Governing Body.



Clancy Brett - Chair of Governors 2022 - 2023

This report is compiled under the requirements of the Governors' Annual Report to Parents All Schools Education Act 2002, Section 30; School Governors Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011 and School Governors Annual Reports (Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 and related guidance.

Section 94 of the 2013 Act gives parents a right to petition for a meeting with the governing body of the school at which their child is a registered pupil. Please contact the Chair of Governors or the Headteacher for further advice and guidance on this if you wish to hold a meeting with the Governing Body.

We are situated in the cathedral town of Brecon and we are a busy, forward-looking school that provides high quality specialist education for pupils aged 3-19 with a wide range of additional learning needs including Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Penmaes campus, completed in September 2006, includes a purpose built school, equipped with a sensory studio, interactive soft play room, hydrotherapy pool and specialist rooms for science, design technology and food technology. On campus there is a small residential unit (Golwg y Bannau), run by the Local Authority. These integrated facilities provide pupils with the very best learning opportunities, experiences and resources which support the school as a centre of excellence.

Our Vision is clear: ' At Ysgol Penmaes we continually strive to do more than just educate, it is our aim to offer every learner the opportunity to achieve their full potential in a safe, secure and enriching environment. We offer a curriculum that promotes ambitious, capable and informed learners at a developmentally appropriate level. Penmaes places a strong focus on the well-being of all, facilitated through highly effective communication processes. Learning is delivered in a way that facilitates an immersive multi-sensory curriculum that is fun and provides real life authentic experiences which help to build resilience; positively impacting development, whilst ensuring the promotion of collaboration and independence. As a special school, we ensure a common language for learning along with celebrating and embracing Cynefin/place whilst planning, teaching and learning ensures a broad, balanced and creative curriculum promoting the 4 purposes of the Curriculum for Wales and encouraging learners to be the best they can be.

Our Mission Statement is: Successful Healthy Individuals Nurturing Excellence

Our School Values are fundamental:

- Friendship and kindness
- Resilience and perseverance
- Empathy and trust
- Communication and respect
- Responsibility and teamwork
- Positivity and creativity
- Tolerance and trust

All of our values promote healthy, positive relationships. By modeling the values we aim to raise learners' self-esteem and confidence in learning, whilst creating a positive school community environment for all.

We are fully committed to providing a caring, stimulating and vibrant environment where everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential. We strongly believe in working in close partnerships with

parents and carers, the community, children's services, health professionals and other agencies to support all aspects of a child's development. Our curriculum is tailored to meet the individual needs of pupils, with the emphasis upon individual achievements to ensure all pupils experience success. All pupils in the mandated year groups have an Individual Development Plan aligned with the ALN Transformation. The school is an English medium school although all pupils are taught Welsh as a second language at a level appropriate to their abilities. Some Welsh speaking staff are able to support pupils whose home/first language is Welsh.

In 2022-23 pupils were grouped across eleven classes including one class split over two bases which catered specifically for pupils with ASD. Each class had up to fourteen pupils with one teacher and allocated teaching assistants depending on individual needs within the classes. The satellite provision at Crossgates primary school continues to develop and caters for pupils with a range of Additional Learning Needs. This includes one teacher and allocated teaching assistants based on need. Admission to the satellite provision is the same as admission to Penmaes. The school operates the same school term dates as other Powys local authority schools. Dates can be found on the Powys County Council website: www.powys.gov.uk and on the school website.

The school has a set of male and female toilets on each floor as well as access to a disabled toilet on the first floor. There are 2 hygiene rooms which each contain a toilet as well as 4 toilets being accessible within the hydrotherapy pool area/changing rooms. Staff have access to male and female toilets on each of the 2 floors of the school. The toilets are cleaned regularly by the caretakers and cleaners of the school.

The School Curriculum

The curriculum in Wales is ever evolving and a journey that Penmaes is on. The new curriculum promotes planning, trailing and refining which is beneficial for all. Pupils at Penmaes access a broad and balanced curriculum and this will continue to evolve as the school continues on its journey. All of our pupils will continue to access the Digital Competency Framework(DCF) and Areas of Learning and Experience.

Penmaes is an enquiry focus school which provides opportunities for action enquiry to take place internally on identified areas for development. The school also has a pedagogy lead who supports the school and LA on curriculum developments.

During the last academic year the curriculum has developed and the school has started to plan for progression and assessment in line with the Curriculum for Wales expectations. This has taken place in a collaborative way with meaningful learning intentions being identified with a focus on skills, knowledge and experiences. From entering school up until and including year 9 Penmaes refers to Routes for Learning and progression steps where applicable. Teaching staff at Penmaes have had to be creative and innovative when designing the school curriculum to ensure that all pupils' needs are met.

Pupils aged 14-19 have access to Learning Pathways where appropriate and in years 10—14 can access schemes externally accredited by WJEC or ASDAN (Award Scheme for the Development of Accreditation Networks) Towards Independence, Transition Challenge and Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. However, curriculum pathways are determined by individual need as opposed to age and so many children at Penmaes may be learning outside their chronological phase, at a stage which is more meaningful to them. Where appropriate pupils may follow the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and courses that lead to Entry Level qualifications.

There are four purposes (underpin the design & development for Curriculum Wales 2022):

- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical informed citizens of Wales and the world
- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives

The school has worked with a Cardiff based illustrator in order to devise characters to support the 4 Purposes and with the aim of making them more meaningful. The aim is to launch these in September 2023.



There are six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs):

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology

The School Prospectus

All new parents receive a copy of the school prospectus and any person may access an up to date copy of the prospectus on the school website or by contacting the school office. The prospectus gives details of the school day, school organisation, procedures, policies and contacts of other agencies that work in partnership with the school. The pupils at Ysgol Penmaes have also developed a pupil friendly prospectus that can also be requested from the school office.

Governor Self-Evaluation and Policy Review

The governing body has continued to meet on a half term basis and has conducted reviews and adopted whole school policies to ensure that the school is compliant. Governors take part in whole

school self-evaluation and monitoring and are also instrumental in school visits with the School Improvement Advisor, Health and Safety walks, attending school council meetings and listening to pupils read. The chair and vice chair have met with the Headteacher on a regular basis to provide challenge and support.

School policies can be requested from the school office or from the school website.

Destinations of School Leavers

In July 2023 there were 11 school leavers –

July 2022		
Provision	Male	Female
Residential College		1 (Y14)
Specialist Day College	1 (Y14)	
Home with Parents	1 (Y13)	
Local College (NPTC Brecon)	4 (Y14) 1 (Y12)	1 (Y14)
Transition to New School	1 (Y4)	
Out of County (Local College)	1(Y14)	

Attendance:

During the academic year 2022-2023 the attendance percentage was 87.07% with 11.36% authorised absences and 1.58% unauthorised absences. The school target was set at 95%. During the summer term 2023, 40 pupils were awarded with certificates for attendance figures above 90%. Attendance for pupils eligible for E-FSM during the academic year was 82.73%.

The Headteacher ensures that attendance is regularly reviewed in collaboration with the Education Welfare Service.

Moving forward into 23-24 the Headteacher will continue to monitor attendance regularly and recognise the achievements made by pupils. The attendance of pupils who are Children Looked After and are eligible for E-FSM will continue to be a priority and will be monitored closely.

Data

September 2022- July 23 Penmaes trialled a new way of recording pupil progress and this was done through individual pupil progression reports rather than scores or levels. Trailing this allowed the school to record progression in more of a narrative way. Teachers updated these termly and ensured that next steps were outlined and commented on during future terms. From analysing the progression reports it is evident to see that nearly all pupils made progress based on their individual needs and abilities.

A number of pupils sat the All Wales Reading Test in the autumn term and were retested in the summer term. Most pupils made progress and their reading scores increased. A very few showed regression.

Precision Teaching sessions were also carried out and the data from these shows nearly all pupils made progress.

In the senior department of the school from January 2023 the following WJEC units were achieved:

Unit Title	Entry Pathway	Completion date	Results
Planning a Journey E2	Independent Living Preparing for Work	May 2023 (leavers) July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Food & Health E2/E3	Preparing for Work Independent Living Science Today	May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Serving Food & Drink E2/3	Preparing for Work	May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Introduction to Plant Care E2	Science Today Preparing for Work Independent Living	May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Science and our Universe E2	Science Today	May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Energy in the Home and in the Workplace E2	Science Today	May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Choices & Decisions E2	Independent Living Science Today	July 2023	May 2023 3 x Y11 pupils - pass
Maintaining Healthy Skin and Nails E2	Preparing for Work Independent Living	1 pupil May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Introduction to Land Maintenance E2	Preparing for Work Independent Living Science Today	May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate
Introduction to Animal Care E2/3	Preparing for Work Independent Living	1 pupil May 2023 July 2023	May 2023 entry 100% pass rate

Finance 2022-2023

The governors and school continued to maintain the budget.

Budget for the financial year 2022-2023: £2,245,974

In addition, total income: £237,689

Net expenditure: £2,317,043

No governors received traveling or subsistence allowances.

Staff Professional Development

Staff attended a range of whole school and individual courses; access included in-house training, courses hosted by external providers and also on-line virtual work streams and training opportunities:

Topic	No. of staff
People Handling Refresher Training	Numerous (as identified)
Wales Safeguarding Procedures	
Buccal training	
Cyber security and GDPR online training (mandatory training)	
Office Health and Safety for office based staff (mandatory training)	
Fire awareness training	
VAWDASV (mandatory training)	
Prevent (mandatory training)	
Powys mandatory training	
Epilepsy Training (virtual and face to face)	
Pool Plant foundation online course	
Pool Plant operators online course	
Attention Autism	
Fire Marshall training	
Forest Schools leader training	
WJEC training	
THRIVE Childhood Licensed Practitioner	
RSE Statutory Framework	
Relational Teaching	
Lyn Sharratt's 5 Questions	
Team Teach refresher training	
Bach and Iach Circus Skills	
Aspiring Middle Leaders	
Aspiring Senior Leaders	
Creative Movement and Dance	
Curiosity Training	
Thrive CPD	
Getting started with Grid online workshop	
Pedagogy	
TEACCH	
RVE	
Functional Behaviour	
National network meetings	
ALNCo Champions	
Mantle of the Expert	

Community Links

The governors are fully supportive of the school in its links with the local community.

2022-2023 saw Covid restrictions ease and more opportunities for community focused school developments. The Headteacher commenced working with the local college in order to reinforce and further develop working relationships. The purpose of this is to look at transition opportunities as well as what courses the college offers now and moving forward. This is something that will continue to be driven forward at a strategic level in September 2023.

The school has provided expressive arts opportunities for pupils which has seen professionals coming in to perform and lead workshops as well as pupils going out into the community. A small group of pupils have started to access Theatre Wildcats. Other pupils link with the college for weekly performing arts sessions and the result of this has been an end of year show.

Penmaes has collected the food bank at various times throughout the year in order to support local disadvantaged families.

The school has continued to work with the school liaison Police Officer to deliver the school beat programme to pupils across the school.

One senior class has accessed facilities such as the boxing club and the snooker club in the local community.

Meetings have taken place in order to set up meaningful work experience opportunities for pupils in years 13 and 14 in the senior department. It is envisaged that this will pick up pace in September 2024.

During the summer term Penmaes was awarded a grant from Keep Wales Tidy for both a small garden area and a larger allotment. The aim is to develop these further in Autumn 2023 with the hope of having parent volunteer days to support the development of the allotment.

Ysgol Penmaes also applied for a new minibus from the Variety Club and was successful in gaining this from the Variety Golf charity. This has allowed pupils to access more in the local and wider community.

Special Education Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

All pupils' in mandated year groups have transitioned from Statements of SEN/ALN to Individual Development Plans (IDP) and these are reviewed annually or sooner if required. These are online plans accessible to all professionals working with pupils with ALN. These IDPs will remain with pupils until the age of 25. All pupils at Penmaes have a profile on the Tyfu platform. The aim being to store information in one central place that is accessible to those permitted access. The school will continue to provide you with updates as required.

All pupils have their ALN needs met through the provision of trained staff, specialist resources, adapted equipment and differentiated curriculum. Close working partnerships with other agencies support improved pupil outcomes and well being.

A few pupils may be considered as More Able and Talented in relation to the majority of pupils with ALN in Penmaes; these pupils may show greater ability in one subject area or they may show talent artistically, in sport or in performance. We aim to support pupils where we can with these skills and

talents through links with mainstream schools, the PRU and through in-house additional provision.

Strategic Equality

Ysgol Penmaes continues to be committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of disability, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, marriage and civil partnership. The school promotes a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils continues to be monitored and data captured is used to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. Ysgol Penmaes tackles discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Ysgol Penmaes diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The school has increased activities to promote mental and physical health and well-being by offering Bach and Iach circus skills sessions as well as whole department PE in the senior department of the school. Cardiff Blues rugby team has also carried out rugby sessions with pupils. A small group of pupils have also attended Rugby festivals at other special schools in South Wales.

Term dates 2022-2023

Autumn term:

- Monday 5 September 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022
- **Half Term - Monday 31 October 2022 to Friday 4 November 2022**
- Monday 7 November 2022 to Wednesday 21 December 2022

Spring term:

- Monday 9 January 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023
- **Half Term - Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 24 February 2023**
- Monday 27 February 2023 to Friday 31 March 2023

Summer term:

- Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023
- **Half Term - Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023**
- Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023

Non-pupil days:

- Thursday 1 September 2022
- Friday 2 September 2022
- Monday 24 July 2023

There will be two further non-pupil days, agreed on a cluster basis. Information will be shared with you.

- **Good Friday** - Friday 7 April 2023
- **Easter Monday** - Monday 10 April 2023
- **May Day Bank Holiday** - Monday 1 May 2023
- **Spring Bank Holiday** - Monday 29 May 2023
- **Royal Welsh Show** - Monday 24 July - Thursday 27 July 2023

Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn term:

- Monday 4 September 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023
- **Half Term - Monday 30 October 2023 to Friday 3 November 2023**
- Monday 6 November 2023 to Thursday 21 December 2023

Spring term:

- Tuesday 9 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024
- **Half Term - Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024**
- Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 22 March 2024

Summer term:

- Monday 8 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024
- **Half Term - Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024**
- Monday 3 June 2024 to Friday 19 July 2024

●

Non-pupil days:

- Friday 1 September 2023
- Friday 22 December 2023
- Monday 8 January 2024
- There will be three further non-pupil days, two in the autumn term and one in the summer term. Please check your school website for these details
- [Cluster Inset Days 2023-24 \(PDF\) \[139KB\]](#)

Useful dates:

- **Good Friday** - Friday 29 March 2024
- **Easter Monday** - Monday 1 April 2024
- **May Day Bank Holiday** - Monday 6 May 2024
- **Spring Bank Holiday** - Monday 27 May 2024
- **Royal Welsh Show** - Monday 22 July - Thursday 25 July 2024

