



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council



**ARCHDIOCESE
OF CARDIFF**
ARCHBISHOP + GEORGE STACK

*"With Christ at the centre;
Inspire, Believe and so Achieve"*



Governors Annual Report to Parents

Academic Year

September 2023 - July 2024

Number of Roll July 2023 - 125

At St. Joseph's Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary School we aim to promote a welcoming community where everyone feels valued, appreciated and can achieve their full potential. We celebrate uniqueness, value diversity and recognise differences.

With Christ at the Centre we provide a happy, safe, inclusive, caring and worshipping environment where each child's gifts are nurtured and Christian values are promoted.

We will develop spiritually, socially, emotionally and intellectually and encourage children to follow the example of Jesus, to love one another as he loved us.

The school recognises that parents are the first educators of their children. We are committed as Governors and Staff to developing the whole child in partnership with the home and Parish; working together to achieve success as we celebrate God's love in our lives.

St. Joseph's School is a Roman Catholic School, and welcomes children who are both Catholic/other faiths or no faith. We are happy to provide an opportunity for prospective parents to visit our school and experience for themselves the calm, welcoming Christian ethos and work ethics and show them the facilities that St. Joseph's can offer their child.

The Governing Body are keen to foster all aspects of school life and are particularly interested in the maintaining of high standards of work and personal behaviour set in the context of our Catholic Faith.

"The children feel that at St. Joseph's learning is fun"

Mr J. McMorrow

(Headteacher)



Mr R. Davies

(Chair of Governors)



"With Christ at the centre; Inspire, Believe and so Achieve"

Mission Statement

"With Christ at the Centre, we are a happy, safe and caring school. As a family, together we follow the example of Jesus, to love one another as he loved us."

Our aims are to:

- Create a Catholic, caring atmosphere in which the children are made aware of God's love for them as individuals and as members of His family, and where children experience and are taught Gospel values
- Plan and provide a challenging curriculum and high quality teaching to meet the needs of every child
- To read fluently and accurately, with understanding, feeling and discrimination.
- To develop a legible style of handwriting and satisfactory standard of spelling, syntax, punctuation and usage.
- To communicate clearly and confidently in speech and writing, in ways appropriate for various occasions and purposes.
- To listen attentively with understanding.
- To learn how to acquire information from various sources, and to record information and findings in various ways.
- To understand the application of mathematical ideas in various situations in home, classroom, school and local area.
- To master basic scientific ideas.
- To investigate solutions and interpret evidence to analyse and to solve problems.
- To develop awareness of self and sensitivity to others, acquire a set of moral values and the confidence to make and hold moral judgements, and to develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour.
- To be aware of geographical, historical and social aspects of the local environment and the National Heritage, and to be aware of other times and places.
- To acquire sufficient control of self and of tools, equipment and instruments, to be able to use music, drama and several forms of arts and crafts as means of expression.
- To develop agility and physical co-ordination, confidence in and through physical activity, and the ability to express feelings through movement.

In summary to be:

- Ambitious capable learners
- Healthy confident individuals
- Ethical, informed citizens
- Enterprising, creative contributors

Governing Body

Chair of Governors:	Mr. R. Davies
Vice chair:	Cllr. Malcolm Cross
Foundation Governors:	
	Fr. R. Aziati
	Mr. Pawel Waszak
	Mr. B. Thomas
	Mrs. T. Williams
	Miss Z. Thomas
	Mrs. N. Pascoe
LA Governor	Cllr. Malcolm Cross
Parent Governor:	Mrs. V. Browning
Teacher Governor:	Miss A-M Burgess
Non-Teaching Staff Governor:	Mrs B. Francis
Headteacher:	Mr J. McMorrow
Clerk to the Governing Body:	Ms Jade Hawthorne

Diocesan Director of Education: Mrs A. Robertson

Archbishop's House

41/43 Cathedral Road

Cardiff

CF11 9HD

Telephone: 02920 233838

Chair and Clerk contactable via St. Joseph's RC Primary School, Ashvale, Tredegar.
(01495 722899)

S T A F F

Mr J McMorrow	Headteacher
Mrs B Godwin	Foundation Phase Co-ordinator
Reception/Nursery teacher	
Miss N Lawrence	Year 1/2
Miss J DaviesMiss R Moore	Year 3/4
Miss A Burgess	Year 5/6 Teacher & Deputy Headteacher
Mrs G Cummings	Teaching Assistant
Ms. G Goode	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Z Selwood	Teaching Assistant
Mrs. B Francis	School Secretary
Mrs. J O'Leary	Administrative Assistant
Mr. S Jones	Caretaker
Ms. L Colwell	Cleaner
Mrs. C Jones	Midday Supervisor
Mrs. C Ingles	Midday Supervisor
Miss R. Llewellyn	Cook (BGCBC)
Miss J. Hall	Dining Room Assistant (BGCBC)
Mrs. D. Aldred	Dining Room Assistant (BGCBC)
Miss S Williams	Dining Room Assistant (BGCBC)

Target Setting

At St. Joseph's we use a range of information to support the target setting process.

We expect teachers to be familiar with:

- National Test scores
- Teacher assessments
- Taith 360
- Child Development Baseline Assessments.
- NFER Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy
- GL assessments

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the year and teachers will record pupil progress at intervals across the year. Pupils will be assessed in the 6 Areas of Learning and experiences. Summative assessments will also be used and these may inform intervention strategies.

Each teacher discusses the targets that s/he sets with the Headteacher. We make comparisons with the performance of similar schools in order to ensure that the targets that we set offer a real challenge to the children.

Pupils are taught through the medium of English but are taught Welsh as a second language every day as part of the curriculum. Spanish will be taught from September 2023.

Current School priorities are available in the SDP which is on the school website.

School Gifts

St. Joseph's have donated to various charities during the year namely CAFOD, Blaenau Gwent Foodbank, MacMillan coffee morning, Children in Need and The Royal British Legion, Mary's Meals, Missio, and CLIC charity.

Safeguarding

We have made a number of improvements at the school to ensure your children are safeguarded from danger. Parents are warmly welcomed at the school but we would like to ask parents to kindly wait in the foyer until a member of staff is available to attend to their needs.

Additional Learning Needs

Pupils with **Additional Learning Needs** are entitled to the full range of curriculum experiences and will as far as possible follow the same curriculum as their peers. It may however be necessary to modify or simplify some of the tasks. Teachers differentiate within the school by using a variety of teaching styles and presentation, different resources or worksheets, pace and complexity of information presented and the level of teacher support. Additional support may be provided in small groups from a qualified teacher or teaching assistant. The ALN Co-ordinator has responsibility for ensuring the smooth running of provision within the school and keeps a register of specific needs and liaises where necessary with parents and outside agencies.

Single plan IDPs using PCP approach have been implemented where necessary and replace the SA & SA+ categories.

A level of resourcing is made available from the LA through a funding formulae. This money is used to resource provision in terms of staffing and materials to ensure all their needs are being met.

Parents and carers are encouraged to work in partnership with the school and be involved in the planning and reviewing of their child's targets on the IDP. The Co-ordinator for Additional Learning Needs is Mrs Bev Godwin.

Currently there are 15% of our children on the ALN register. We have identified 15% of children as being More Able and Talented and provide support for these pupils.

Other children have additional learning needs and as a school we try to ensure the best possible provision is given to meet their needs.

Sex and Relationships Education

The sex education within the school is based on the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. It seeks to explore family life and guide the young child to an understanding of his/her sexuality and a realisation of the importance of stable relationships which help to lay the foundations of adult life. RSE becomes statutory in all school from next year. We are currently using the TENTEN programme alongside Fertile Heart which have been approved by the Archdiocese.

Health and Safety

The school has regular Health and Safety checks by the Local Authority. We value the health and safety of the pupils and staff at our school and to this end we constantly monitor the safety of the building. The Health and Safety Governor is Mr Ben Thomas and regular Health and Safety updates are given to him by the Headteacher. All Staff have had training on fire safety.

Toilet Facilities

There are four sets of toilet facilities in the school for use by pupils: one set for Nursery, a set for Reception/Y1/2, a set for junior boys, a set for junior girls. All toilet facilities are in an excellent condition. The toilets are cleaned daily by the caretaker.

In September 2023, the school council reviewed the school's Toilet Policy and they monitor this carefully to ensure that the locks always work, there is plenty of paper and soap and they are always clean.

Sporting events/noteable achievements

Pupils participate in a range of sporting activities within the local authority throughout the year.

Our children have previously taken part in the Annual Catholic Athletic Championships at Cardiff.

After school clubs take place on a Monday and a Tuesday.

Pupil absence rates

For children to access the curriculum it is important that they attend school regularly. Gaps in learning can occur with poor attendance. We are constantly trying to engage pupils in their learning and trying to improve pupils' absences. We are supported by the Educational Welfare Officer Mr Jonathon Henderson who visits the school to monitor absences. If your child has been ill, we understand that he/she may not be able to attend school but very often they may be able to return to school sooner than you think. Please phone the school for advice on time off for illnesses.

The school has reintroduced the CALLIO system to monitor absences.

Our current target for attendance for this academic year is 92.13% We actually achieved 92.1% in 2023-24. Families are actively discouraged from taking holidays during term time due to the impact this may have on their education.

Links with the community

The school constantly aims to develop positive links with the community. Links with the parish continue with Mass being said throughout the term by Reverend Fr Richard Aziati & Father Laurence. Parishioners and parents support this service at school. Fr Richard has visited the school to discuss religious issues and progress, and visited classes to talk to pupils and staff. He will be conducting Holy Communion preparation classes in conjunction with the school.

We had a number of pupils who were able to be Baptised and also make their First Holy Communion in June 2023.

The school has visited the church for Harvest, Christmas and Ash Wednesday. The classes have a rolling programme of visits to the Church.

Parents take an active part in supporting the school's fund raising efforts by attending the Christmas and Summer Fayres.

We continue to support those less well off than ourselves and send money to charities. At Harvest, pupils donated food hampers for the Food Bank in Blaenau Gwent. This year we have supported Hospice of the Valleys, CAFOD, The Royal British Legion, MacMillan and Children in Need. We thank Parents for their continued support. We have a regular donation from the Jesus Cares charity which we distribute to our families.

The Police schools Liaison team under the lead of PC Powell visits the school to deliver a planned programme of lessons to support the pupils in making the right choices and to be aware of any danger in the community. Pupils in Year 6 visit "Crucial Crew" and "Wings to Fly" events which helps them consolidate their understanding of the dangers in the community and how to cope with them.

Our Community Police visit school and address issues of parking outside the school. The school supports Careers Wales by welcoming pupils into the school for work experience. A number of students have attended the school from Bishop Hedley, Tredegar Comprehensive, and Ebbw Fawr for work placements / experience.

Gwent Music service provide singing lessons at the school for all age groups from Nursery through to Year 6.

Families First host drop in session for parents which ran throughout the year and there was one drop in session in the Summer term by the school nurse.

We have a Breakfast Club which runs every day from 08:20.

St. Joseph's is a Healthy School and as such sugary/sweet snacks are to be discouraged. Parents are advised to send their pupils to school with a piece of fruit or a healthy alternative.

Welsh Language

Although pupils are taught through the medium of English, Welsh Language is taught from Nursery through to Year 6. Pupils are encouraged to use incidental Welsh when interacting with each other. We are currently underway with the Siarter Iath accreditation and have weekly Welsh speaker awards. We promote the Welsh language through residential visits to Llangrannog and we have an annual Local History week where all of our pupils discover more about the rich history and culture in the local vicinity.

School Inspection

The school was last inspected in January 2018 and achieved five good grades out of five.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a range of after school clubs.

Religious Education

Religious Education is at the heart of the school's mission. As a Roman Catholic School, we put great emphasis on celebrating the work of God our Father in our lives, through the example of Jesus Christ. We try to live the message that Jesus gives to us "Love one another as I have loved you."

The school uses the "Come and See" RE programme approved by the Church for use in schools in England and Wales. A new scheme, 'Vine and Branches' has been introduced in Year 1/2 and 3/4. A new Religious Education Directory has been published. Although not statutory until 2025 the school have started to refer to

it. Pupils are assessed at the end of each theme although we are awaiting guidance on assessing using 'Vine and Branches.'

Children are encouraged to talk and reflect about their faith and learn about the faith of the Church.

Active links between home, school and parish are encouraged. Children are reminded of their responsibility as members of the church community and we encourage parents to become involved in the life of their parish. Faith begins at home! The school sends monthly religious calendars to parents.

Finance

The total funding for the academic year 2023-2024 was £ 691,074.
See Appendix A for financial outturn 2023-2024.

Schools Delegated Budget

This is the money the school receives from the Local Education Authority for the provision of education for our children. The Budget is formula based and depends upon the number of pupils in the School in September each year. The Governing Body considers the budget carefully each year when it is allocated and plans how it will be spent for the coming year.

Information about the destination of pupils

During the last academic year we had 23 pupils in Year 6 and of these, 3 chose Bishop Hedley as their destination school, and 20 chose Tredegar Comprehensive.

Parents Evenings

Three parents evenings have been held at the school to discuss pupil progress and inform Parents of new initiatives such as Learning Logs and the Digital Competency Framework.

Complaints

We believe that our school provides a good education for all our children, and that the headteacher and other staff work very hard to build positive relationships with all parents. If any parent is unhappy with the education that their child is receiving, or has any concern relating to the school, we encourage that person to talk to the child's class teacher immediately. Every effort should be made to allay concerns at this level and with the least possible formality. The ideal is that no concern should ever become a formal complaint.

Occasionally, however, a concern will be too serious to be handled in this way, perhaps needing greater investigation; or the person concerned may not feel that the answers given so far have been acceptable or adequate. In such circumstances, the concern will become a **complaint** and the formal procedure should be rigorously followed. Even in these cases, every effort should be made to resolve the issue at the lowest possible level of the procedure. It should be very rare indeed that a complaint needs to be decided at the Appeal Stage by a Governors' Committee.

We deal with all complaints in accordance with procedures set out by the National Assembly for Wales. A copy of the policy is available from the school office or the school website.

Term dates and session times for 2024-2025

	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2024	02/09/24	28/10/24	01/11/24	20/12/24
Spring Term 2025	06/01/25	24/02/25	28/02/25	11/04/25
Summer Term 2025	28/04/25	26/05/25	30/05/25	21/07/25

6 Training days will be taken during the year. (Extra one for implementation of new curriculum).

Finally, I would like to thank you for supporting the school during this past year and enabling us to provide an education for your children that has been enriched by new experiences allowing all pupils to succeed and achieve success.

Chair of Governors: Robin Davies

Date: September 2024



Appendix: No meeting was held under Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Appendix A:

St Josephs RC Primary School	
Out-turn Statement 2023/2024	
Funding	£
Funding	691,074
Balance Brought Forward 2012/2023 (Surplus / - Deficit)	138,809
Total	£829,883
Employees	£
Teachers	373,428
Support Staff	107,229
Premises Staff	28,812
Midday Supervisors	6,760
Total	£516,229
Other Employee Costs	£
Supply	17,870
Travel/Expenses	0
Other incl DBS/Medical Fees	305
School Funded Training	-1,218
Total	£16,956
Energy	£
Electricity	20,750
Gas	14,336
Total	£35,086
Capitation	£
Capitation	13,635
Catering Provisions	
Total	£13,635
Premises	£
Rates and Rent	
Building Maintenance	10,492
Grounds Maintenance	5,061
Water	5,731
Miscellaneous Premises	6,031
Building Cleaning	0
Refuse Collection	1,798
Total	£29,114
Communications	£
Postage	20
Broadband	2,038
Telephones	881
Total	£2,939
Transport	£
Vehicle Maintenance/Insurance	0
Vehicle Hire	232
Total	£232
Central Services/SLA's	£
Building Maintenance SLA	7,701
Catering	29,203
Courier Service	221
Financial Support	7,088
Governor Support	2,303
Organisation Development	12,216
Legal Services	638
Music Support (Peripatetic)	0
Communications	124
Schools ICT	5,446
SMIFFS/Sickness Insurance	10,221
GDPR SLA	846
SMISS SLA	2,953
Creditors SLA	247
Total	£79,208
Total Expenditure	
Total	£693,399
Income	£
Miscellaneous	3,708
Interest	5,899
Maternity Compensation	6,763
Sickness Compensation	1,032
Total	£17,402
Total Income	
Total	£17,402
Net Expenditure	
Total	£675,997
Outturn	
Surplus / - Deficit	£153,886