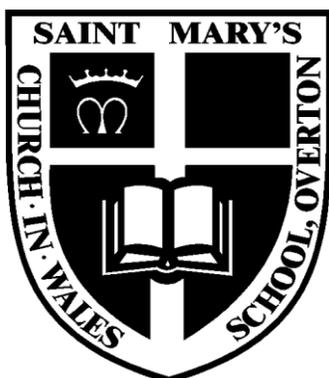




St Mary's Church in Wales VA School, Overton



The Governors' Annual report to Parents

Full Report

2017 – 2018

School Lane

Overton

Wrexham LL13 0ES

01978 710370

## **Introduction**

It is our pleasure to bring to you this year's Governor's Report to Parents, which covers the developments within St Mary's CIW Aided School, from September 2017 to November 2018. We hope you find this report informative, providing you with an insight into school and its key developments over the past twelve months.

One of the earliest developments was the appointment of Mrs. Louise Williams as the school's new Headteacher. We thank Mr. Morris for holding the fort as Acting Headteacher during the interim period. Under her leadership, Mrs. Williams has created a settled school that has successfully moved from Amber to Yellow in the Welsh Government's categorisation of school performance.

This indicates that the school:

- Have secured good levels of learner outcomes in key performance indicators
- Know, understand and take action to address most of the areas in need of improvement
- Have many aspects of their performance which are self-improving
- Seek tailored challenge and support and deploy this according to need

These improvements are not the work of one person, but are as a result of the entire staff working together as a team under Mrs Williams' leadership.

Unfortunately, very soon after Mrs Williams' arrival at the school, our team received the devastating news that one of our pupils, Daisy Haynes, had passed away at Alder Hey Hospital, following a battle with Leukaemia. The pupils, staff, and the wider community were deeply affected by this loss, and we continue to remember Daisy with great fondness. A beautiful Daisy sculpture provides a well-used reflection area at the front of school. Pupils continue to be supported in dealing with their loss, and any other difficulties they may have, by regular circle time held in each class, where concerns are shared and everyone works together to find solutions and use of specific intervention groups such as the Student Assistance Programme (SAP) School also has a quiet corner for reflection, where pupils can take some time out of the hustle and bustle of school and just be still, contemplate or pray. Daisy is still very much with us in spirit. Her love of art and nature was celebrated in the annual school Eisteddfod in March, where a special art prize was awarded in her memory. This will now be a feature of the Eisteddfod each year. This year's winner was a talented artist, and fittingly, one of Daisy Haynes' closest friends.

Please find below details of what the staff and pupils have been getting up to over the past twelve months.

## **Visits and Visitors**

The school organizes a wide range of experiences for the pupils during the year, amongst those are:

Llangollen International Eisteddfod	Internet safety sessions	Outlook Meadow
Greenacres farm park    ChesterZoo	Growing Up and Spectrum	Tim Pugh (artist)
Numeracy at Bangor on Dee racecourse	De-fib and Heartstart training	Don't Touch/Tell workshops
Birmingham Science Museum	Chester Storyhouse Theatre	PC Kim safety visits
Conwy castle	Residential trip to Conover	St. Asaph Cathedral

## **Charities**

Charities supported were:

Macmillan, CLIC Sargent, Nightingale House, Jeans for Genes day, Sport Relief, Comic Relief and Children in Need, Remembrance poppy appeal, Wrexham foodbank.

## **Pupils and parents**

Pupils at St Mary's are encouraged to be Ready to Learn as part of the Ready, Safe, Respectful ethos of the Pivotal behaviour management, which has been implemented by the school. One of the ways of showing mutual respect is the handshake between staff and pupils at the beginning and end of the day. Pupils and staff also use hands up for quiet and encourage 'Wise Walking' throughout school. Each of these measures is designed to remind and encourage respect and underpins the school's Christian values.

It has been noticed that pupils' use of Welsh has coincidentally increased with the introduction of the handshake, as they are tending to greet staff in Welsh. Welsh is also being promoted by the introduction of Patrwm y Pythefnos, where everyone learns and practices a new Welsh phrase each fortnight, led by the Criw Cymraeg.

Our St David's Day Eisteddfod is one of the ways in which we at St Mary's celebrate our Welsh heritage. The children dress up in traditional costumes or red outfits and show their talents at speaking and singing in Welsh. They also work very hard to produce some quite spectacular art work. This year, the wider community was able to appreciate the art and craft abilities of the pupils, as sculptures they created were displayed in St Mary's Church and judged by the Women's Institute.

St Mary's is very fortunate to have parents who are not only talented, but willing to share their talent and enthusiasm with the pupils. Parents who are artists have come in to work with the children, as well as local artist Tim Pugh, who introduced the pupils to the concept of creating art from recycled materials. Parents who are writers have inspired pupils to write their own book (which was sold at the Summer Fete), and the authors Emma Carrol and Vashti Hardy have visited to talk to pupils along with a Storyteller for Nursery and Reception and the Booka Alternative Book Fair for the whole school. Parents whose skills lie in gardening and growing vegetables have inspired the pupils to grow their own produce, which the Foundation Phase pupils sold with great delight in their pop-up market. Parents have also run craft and coding clubs during the year. Pupils also enjoy participating in the school choir, led by Mrs Ashworth, they take part in various events throughout the year, including church services and collaborations with other choirs, including the Rhos Orpheus Male Voice choir.

As we are a Church Aided School, the church plays a big part in our lives. Each class in turn leads the regular school services in church and there are additional special services throughout the year, notably Harvest, Remembrance, Carol Services, Easter and the Year 6 leaver's service. One special service in 2018 was the Commissioning Service for Mrs Williams on January 21st where she was officially welcomed as the new headteacher. On December 2nd 2018, the church hosted another welcoming service, this one to induct Reverend Peter Mackriell as our newly appointed Vicar. The school choir took part and many parents and pupils joined us to welcome Rev. Peter as he takes on the role vacated by Canon David Child who retired on April 1st 2018. We are thankful for the guidance and support of Rev Kate Tiltman (our Bishop's Visitor) and Rev Sue Huyton (Vicar of Bangor on Dee) during our interregnum.

## **Staffing**

Mrs Burton, Nursery

Mrs Neal, Reception

Mrs Lawrenson, Year 1

Mrs Richards, Year 2

Mrs Ashworth and Mrs Dodwell share Year 3

Miss Nia Williams, Year 4

Mr Morris, Year 5

Mrs Lindsay Williams, Year 6.

Mrs Kate Edwards covers preparation and assessment time as do several of our teaching assistants.

The teaching assistants are Mrs Davies, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Wilde, Mrs Whittle, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Darlington. Mrs Jo Jones left in April.

Mrs Caroline Rogers joined us as the new school secretary in September. The school also welcomes several volunteers who come in regularly to support staff and pupils including Mrs Jones, Mrs Riley and Mrs Edwards.

In July we said a fond farewell to Mrs Jill Davies and Mrs Grace Haynes as both midday supervisors and members of the Before and After School team, as they retired, along with Mrs Cynthia Davies who led the Before and After School Club for many years.

This has led to an entirely new Before and After School Club structure, with Mrs Glynis Farley as Supervisor, assisted by Mrs Sarah Darlington, Mrs Jackie Tombs, Ms Abi Skeoch and Mr Callum Southall. Since September 2018, Mrs Tombs and Ms Skeoch have done an amazing job of juggling being caretaker and cleaner alongside their Club roles, but they are now able to have a little more free time, as we welcome a new Caretaker, Mr Johnson alongside the new cleaning team of Mrs Johnson and Mrs Conaghan. Mr Callum Southall is also working alongside the school's teaching staff, where, among other things, he helps provide sports education for pupils.

## **Sport and Wellbeing**

Participating in sport and keeping active is a vital part of leading a healthy lifestyle, and we are delighted to report that St Mary's has been awarded our 3rd NQA Healthy School Award. This award is only received by a handful of Wrexham schools and our Year 5 and 6 school councillors attended a special ceremony to accept this honour on behalf of the school. Part of being a healthy school means making good choices in terms of food, drinking plenty of water, and also what we do when we have the opportunity to get away from our desks and move around. St Mary's now have a group of specially trained Playmaker pupils in year 5 and 6 who encourage other pupils to be active at break times.

Of course, being active is not just restricted to break times. At St Mary's we give our pupils the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of sporting activities. We have regular PE lessons, and an annual Sports Day each summer, but also a wide range of sports clubs. In 2017/18 our pupils were able to take part in Gymnastics, Yoga, Taekwondo, Football, Netball, Tennis, A Star Sports, Swimming, Cricket, Bowling, Golf, Diddance and Bikeability Training. Our school swimmers won the

Cluster of Schools Swimming Gala in Penley and went on to represent our cluster in the Wrexham schools gala, our footballers reached the Final of the William Aston Cup, our Netball team were 2nd in the Medium sized Wrexham Schools league and our Athletics stars showed off their speed at the Queensway Athletics competition.

Health and wellbeing are also enhanced by spending time outdoors, and our Year 4 teacher, Miss Nia Williams now joins Mr Morris, Mrs Lawrenson and Mrs Richards as a qualified Forest School provider. This means that pupils in every class now have access to Forest School provision. Forest School gives pupils an opportunity to learn skills in a different way. Teaching is immersive, with pupils able to draw upon nature to understand concepts in mathematics, literature, art, music and science.

### **School Development Planning**

The way that pupils are taught at St Mary's is constantly evolving. Representatives from Wrexham authority and the regional consortia GwE have praised our Foundation Phase and held it up as a role model for local schools, therefore we are adapting the teaching methods in lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) to build upon those skill that pupils are learning in Foundation Phase and creating a smoother transition from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2.

Each year, the school and Governors work together to create a School Development Plan. This is an ongoing process where we evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the school, and identify areas which can be improved, then set out a plan of how to affect those improvements. We look at how effective our changes have been and decide whether we need to do more to achieve our objectives or whether those objectives have been met.

The objectives for the school in 2017-18 were:

- to improve outcomes in the foundation phase for those children who have been identified as requiring additional support
- to increase the profile of reading to give a richer reading experience to improve literacy outcomes
- to develop the Christian ethos of the school and ensure that the school's Christian character is recognised and celebrated in all that we do at St Mary's
- to raise the profile of IT across the school and raise standards of competence and confidence in both the staff and our learners.

We feel that those objectives have been met, and therefore we have set new priorities for 2018-19.

These are that:

- we develop and embed a Growth Mindset culture that enables children to become independent and resilient lifelong learners;
- to improve pupil engagement through Pivotal, ensuring that Ready, Safe and Respectful form the basis of all behaviours at St Mary's School
- to ensure that all pupils make at least good progress in maths across school
- to create an enthusiasm for the Welsh language that extends to all learners including staff and ensures bilingualism is embedded into our everyday school life
- to extend aspects of foundation phase provision into lower key stage two to improve engagement and independence.



## **The Governing Body**

Mike Done -(Chair)Foundation Governor	Louise Williams - Headteacher Governor
Angharad Veneklaas Slots -(vice)Foundation Governor	Nia Williams - Teacher Governor
Charlotte Copeman - Foundation Governor	Sonia Whittle - Staff Governor
Cynthia Davies - Foundation Governor	Emilienne Rebel - Parent Governor
Catherine Eve - Foundation Governor	John McCusker - Local Authority Governor
Rachel Harris - Foundation Governor	Val Stevenson - Community Governor
Steve Ketelle - Foundation Governor	Alison Gillespie - Clerk to the Governors

The Governing Body meets in full six times a year with various subcommittees meeting more frequently as the need arises.

## **Additional Needs and Attendance**

Each pupil is an individual, with their own unique needs and abilities. Class teachers and teaching assistants work together to support pupils on their learning journey. We aim to give each pupil the best chance of achieving their maximum potential, regardless of their ability in comparison to their classmates. 22% of the total school population of 190 pupils are currently classed as having Special Educational Needs.

While staff do their best to encourage children to develop an enthusiasm for learning, they can only do so while the pupils are at school. We therefore respectfully request that parents try to ensure that family holidays are not taken during term time as this disrupts the flow of teaching. Both late attendance and pupil attendance are monitored by the Headteacher and also the Educational Social Worker. The Welsh Assembly is keen to improve attendance in all schools and they have introduced a fixed penalty system which has been used by Wrexham Local Authority. St Mary's attendance figures for 2017/18 were:

Autumn 2017 95.1%

Spring 2018 94.5%

Summer 2018 94.7%

Giving an overall attendance of 94.8%

## **Term dates**

**Term dates for 2018/19** are as follows:

<b>Term</b>	<b>Term opens</b>	<b>End of half term</b>	<b>Term opens</b>	<b>End of term</b>
<b>Autumn</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	26 <sup>th</sup> October	5 <sup>th</sup> November	21 <sup>st</sup> December
<b>Spring</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	4 <sup>th</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> April
<b>Summer</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> April	24 <sup>th</sup> May	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	22 <sup>nd</sup> July

### Staff training/School Development days

<b>Autumn</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Spring</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Summer</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> April and 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

Once pupils have reached the end of Year 6, we bid them farewell and they continue their education at other settings. The destination of 2018's Year 6 Leavers was as follows:

Maelor School, Penley	19
Other local schools	2
Moved out of Area	2

We wish them well in the next step of their education and hope that the skills and values of St Mary's help them to prosper.

### School Finance

The Governors have overall responsibility of ensuring that school funds are spent prudently, and we try to maintain a good ratio of staff to pupils. Here is a breakdown of the school Budget, year ending March 2018:

#### **SUMMARY FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 17/18**

<b>BUDGET HEADING</b>	EXPENDITURE/	EXPENDITURE/	<b>BALANCE</b>
	(INCOME)	(INCOME)	
	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>PLANNED</b>	
		<b>BUDGET</b>	
<b>STAFFING</b>	573,910	551,679	-22,231
<b>PREMISES</b>	23,116	21,541	-1,575
<b>SUPPLIES &amp; SERVICES</b>	37,998	41,248	3,250
<b>MINOR WORKS</b>	2,617	0	-2,617
<b>EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	36,585	36,584	-1
<b>CONTINGENCY FUND</b>	0	21,023	21,023
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	674,226	672,075	-2,151
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	-113,242	-79,039	34,203
<b>BALANCE AS AT 1st April 2017</b>	-25,910	-25,910	0
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</b>	535,074	567,126	32,052

Our school prospectus is currently being updated and the latest version will be available shortly.

We hope you have found this an interesting and informative report. We're sure you'll agree it's been a busy year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, pupils and parents of St Mary's a happy and prosperous 2018/19 school year.

The Governing Body of St Mary's Church in Wales VA School, Overton.