

Governors' report

A summary of the **2006** Annual Report to Parents

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This is a short version of the governor's yearly report to parents. The full version of the report, which includes a mass of data on school targets and performance, as well as a financial statement, will be available on the school web site. A printed copy is available on request.



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



Year 6 children spent a day with us in October

In spring this year Barry Comprehensive was named the most improved school in Wales for the third year running. In 2001 42% of pupils scored five or more A-C grades at GCSE. In 2006 71% did so. There was success, too, across the range of ability. The potential of students varies from year to year but we believe we can show a pattern of sustained and effective effort to raise achievement through good teaching; an environment in which most students want to learn; and a sound partnership with parents.

At sixth form level, too, where we are partners with Bryn Hafren, our students generally achieve their personal goals. Nonetheless, we think a review of the sixth form would be timely. Meanwhile the school has helped pioneer the Welsh Baccalaureate, and this has widened opportunities for our youngsters.

This summer, thanks to the effectiveness of the Vale council's education department, we overcame the problems posed by a fire that destroyed our kitchen area.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR PARENTS

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Your chance to discuss school issues with the governors and head

Tuesday, 5 December 2006
6 pm in the Learning Resources Centre
Governors will consider issues raised at their next meeting and report back to parents.

WHAT ARE GOVERNORS FOR?

Governors may be parents, teachers or people from within the wider community. They are unpaid volunteers. They are accountable for the effectiveness of the school, its curriculum, financial planning, and staffing. They have duties relating to personnel and pupil discipline. They appoint the head and make arrangements for the appointment of teachers and other staff. Their purpose is to help the school serve its community by providing the best possible education for all. Governors get to sit in the front row at concerts, plays and presentation evenings.

SCHOOL TARGETS

The target for the percentage of pupils getting five or more A*-C GCSE grades was 62%; in fact 71% hit this goal. The attached data sheets show targets for the next three years. We can show good progress since our last inspection in exam results, attendance, teaching approaches, and ICT.

STRATEGY SETTING

The governors' School Improvement Group focuses on teaching and learning strategies and pupil welfare. It discusses proposed changes to the curriculum and reports to the full governing body. This year the school has developed a three-year strategic plan based on our self-evaluation that should, amongst other targets ensure that we improve reporting to parents and help students at all levels understand how they can improve. Meanwhile the current school development plan has included a reorganisation of year nine subjects to improve provision for IT and for accelerated learning programmes, and a restructuring of GCSE option subjects.

STAFFING AND FINANCE

During the 2005-6 school year the governing body put in place a new staffing structure. This system was imposed by government and was inevitably worrying and unsettling. Governors sought to consult teaching unions fully in the review process. Meanwhile we want to ensure that we continue with the small teaching groups that have been effective in raising pupils' attainment.

This is proving an increasingly difficult objective as we have had two poor financial settlements in a row and in real terms a contraction of funding. This situation has been addressed through deficit budgets. We owe the Vale Council over £180,000 and have agreed to pay this back over five years. Nonetheless we remain successful in attracting additional resources to the school (for example from special grants), and the school financial administration has been complimented highly by the auditors.

The Governors

Parents

Mrs T Batt (2004), L Cosgrove (2004), J Doel (2006), M Dyas (2005), Mrs L Tinsley (2004), Mrs A Westerland (2003) (The next vacancy for a parent governor will fall in November 2007)

Community

Mrs K Beaudette (2004), R Grant (2003), Dr M Griffiths (2003), D Kennett (2005), N Paulakis (2003)

Teaching staff

Mrs S Bagshaw (2006), Mrs J Ford (2005)

Non-teaching staff

A Desrosiers (2003)

Headteacher

D Swallow

Vale Local Education Authority

G Ellis (2004), Cllr A D Hampton (2004), Cllr E T Williams (2004), J Williams (2003), D M Lloyd (2006), (C Britten until October 2006)

Non-voting co-optees

S James, Mrs C Oxenham, J Stacey Marks

Chair: M Griffiths **Clerk:** D Currell

Deputy Chairs: K Beaudette and D Kennett,

Please contact the chair or clerk by writing to the school.

INSPECTION



The school will be inspected in February 2007

**Meeting for parents 31 January 2007
7 pm in the Learning Resources Centre**
All parents are invited to meet the inspectors and discuss the school's progress with the team. A formal invitation will follow early in the new term.