The Federation of
Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Primary Schools
Governors Annual Report to Parents 25 – 26

Belong	Believe	Be You!

Published March 2026

The governing body is no longer required to hold an annual meeting with parents to discuss the report. This requirement has been replaced with the duty on the governing body to hold a meeting with parents on receipt of a parental petition as outlined in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) 2013 Act.

No petition for a meeting was received during the year and no meeting was therefore held under Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The mission statement has been developed for the Federation, as a result of two schools Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Primary formally federating from 1st September 2019.

- *The two schools have a shared head teacher.*
- *Each school will retain its own identity.*



School Aims - Four Purposes

We want our pupils to develop the capacity for lifelong learning, to have a love of learning and make sure that the learning needs of all pupils are fully met.
We constantly evaluate and refine our Curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils.
Our work is guided by four core principles, which define the young people we aspire to nurture. These are brought to life through the delivery of twelve pedagogical principles.

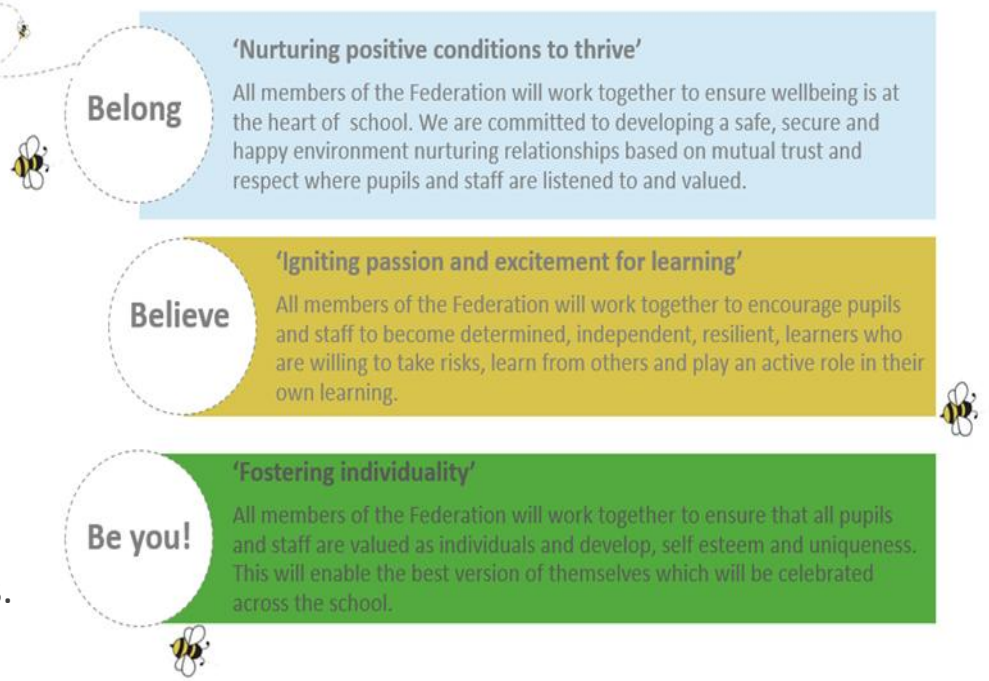
Our curriculum aims to enable all our pupils to be:

Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives. Who enjoy learning, make excellent progress and achieve their full potential. We aim for pupils to become successful learners, who use thinking skills effectively and work in a scholarly way.

Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy, confident individuals who lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society. We encourage pupils to be individuals, who make a positive contribution to society and use their talents and abilities for the benefit of others as well as themselves.



The Governing Body 2025/26

The Governing Body is responsible for the effective management of the school.
The Clerk to the Governors is Mr D. Hutchings, who may be contacted via the Educational Achievement Service (EAS) governor.support@sewaleseas.org.uk
Chair of Governors: Mr C. Woods who may be contacted via either school's email or telephone number.

Name	Start Date	End Date	Governor Type	Appointed by
Mr Carl Woods	1 September 2019	1 September 2027	***Co-opted Representative (Chairperson)***	Gov. Body
Mr James Bower	1 September 2019	16 November 2026	***Co-opted Representative***	Gov. Body
Miss Kirstie Davies	16 November 2021	15 November 2025	***Co-opted Representative***	Gov. Body
Mrs Leanne Lane	1 September 2019	16 November 2026	***Co-opted Representative***	Gov. Body
Mrs Emma Jones	1 September 2025	Indefinite	***Headteacher***	Gov. Body
Cllr Jan Jones	1 September 2022	----------	***LEA Representative***	LA
Mr Gareth Newnes	1 September 2019	----------	***LEA Representative***	LA
Mr Wesley Colyer	1 September 2019	----------	***LEA Representative***	LA
Mr Matthew Smith	1 September 2019	----------	***LEA Representative (Vice Chairperson)***	LA
Mr Jamie Arr	14 November 2022	13 November 2026	***Parent Representative***	Parents
Mr Robert Finney	14 November 2022	13 November 2026	***Parent Representative***	Parents
Mrs Lavinia Crabb	14 November 2022	13 November 2026	***Parent Representative***	Parents
Mrs Vicki Booton	23 October 2023	22 October 2027	***Parent Representative***	Parents
Mrs Emma Jeffries	21 February 2021	20 February 2025	***Teacher Representative***	Teachers
Ms Amy Thomas	21 September 2021	20 September 2025	***Teacher Representative***	Teachers
Miss Rebecca Davies	7 July 2020	6 July 2027	***Staff Representative***	Staff
Mrs Louise Murphy	18 September 2020	17 September 2027	***Staff Representative***	Staff
Mrs Lindsey Riella	Ex-officio	Indefinite	***Deputy Cwmfelinfach***	N/A
Mrs Claire Davies	Ex-officio	Indefinite	***Deputy Head Ynysddu***	N/A

Governor Vacancies:- *There are currently no vacancies on the Governing Body.*

Message from the Chair of Governors

As your Chair of Governors for Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Federated Body, it gives me great pleasure to present you this with this annual report for the academic year 2025-26.

September 2025 saw the start of a new era for our schools with our new Head, Mrs. Emma Jones officially taking over at the helm The warm welcome extended to Mrs. Jones by governors and staff has continued throughout the year.

Through her working with the Schools Cluster Group prior to her appointment, several of our staff were already familiar Mrs. Jones, her ways of working and her management style. This significantly helped smooth the transition from Mr. Witchell reign to Mrs. Jones, and I wish to record the Governor's appreciation to Mrs. Jones for an excellent first year as our Head.

Whilst Mr. Witchell has retired as our Head, I am very pleased to say that he has retained some professional links with our schools in as much as Mr. Witchell was appointed in September as our School Improvement Partner for a two-year period. His advice and guidance in this role will be welcomed for the future development of our schools.

Governors are pleased to record that our staff have embraced the changes Mrs. Jones has introduced to the school's processes wholeheartedly and that these changes are already showing signs of benefitting the schools as assessment results, again, show that pupils in our two schools have shown strong development both personally and academically.

Turning to the school's finances, we have, once again, been very fortunate that the budgets for both our schools has remained healthy throughout the year. This has allowed us to retain our healthy staff : pupil ratio and allowed us to invest a significant amount time in training and professional development for our staff.

In closing this report, I would like to reassure parents that all Governors of the Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Federated Body are fully committed to ensuring that the education provided by your schools is the best we can within our available means and resources.



Carl Woods (Chair of Governors)

Attendance: Attend today, Achieve tomorrow!

Annual Attendance and Absence for the Schools (%) 2025/26

School complies with statutory requirements; Attendance is regularly monitored by the LA. Governors are committed to ensuring that all pupils benefit from what the school has to offer. School works closely with the Education Welfare Officer, to ensure that families are provided with support when experiencing difficulty with school attendance.

	Cwmfelinfach 2025/2026		Ynysddu 2025/2026	
Attendances	**Combined**	**%**	**Combined**	**%**
Attendance	**26035**	**91.15**	**34493**	**93.29**
Authorised	**1848**	**6.4**	**1887**	**5.10**
Unauthorised	**679**	**2.3**	**592**	**1.60**

Admission Arrangements

The school operates the current Local Authority School Admission Arrangements. Admissions criteria are clear, fair and objective, for the benefit of all children including children with special educational needs or with disabilities.

Belong, Believe, Be you at Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Primary Schools…

Financial Statements 2025/2026

Cwmfelinfach	2025-26		Ynysddu	2025-26	
Employees	Staff costs—teaching / non-teaching Including cost of relief cover	£1,042,358.72	**Employees**	Staff costs—teaching / non-teaching Including cost of relief cover	£810,903.66
Premises	Including energy, building maintenance, improvements and insurance costs	£89,844.42	**Premises**	Including energy, building maintenance, improvements and insurance costs	£70,297.26
Supplies and Services	Including capitation costs, SLA's and additional tuition School Development Plan	£81,233.01	**Supplies and Services**	Including capitation costs, SLA's and additional tuition School Development Plan	£82,019.26
Total Expenditure		**£1,213,436.15**	**Total Expenditure**		**£963,220.18**
Additional Income	National Assembly Government grants, reimbursements, donations etc.	£276,019.66	**Additional Income**	National Assembly Government grants, reimbursements, donations etc.	**£175,774.66**
Net Expenditure	Including total surplus and contingency	£937,416.49	**Net Expenditure**	Including total surplus and contingency	£787,445.52
Formula Allocation	Funds provided by the LEA including retrospective adjustments and carried over from 2024/2025	£877,069.94	**Formula Allocation**	Funds provided by the LEA including retrospective adjustments and carried over from 2024/2025	£770,567.81
Deficit / Surplus		**£70,158.00**	**Deficit / Surplus**		**£139,172.00**

Cwmfelinfach	Equity Grant	2025/26
Support Staff	*School-based staff supporting interventions.*	*£42,047.00*
Supply	*Zach Franks Dance*	*£3,000.00*
Communications	*Text messaging, website*	*£1,753.00*
Health & Wellbeing	To support pupils' emotional literacy, social and life-long skills, RSE and resilience in an age-appropriate manner	*£1,500.00*
	Standards Grant	**2025/26**
Support Staff	Foundation Phase staff to ensure ratio of pupil: staff is maintained.	£74,792.00
Ynysddu	**Equity Grant**	**2025/26**
Support Staff	*School-based staff supporting interventions.*	£24,941.00
Supply	*Zach Franks Dance*	£3,000.00
Health & Wellbeing	To support pupils' emotional literacy, social and life-long skills, RSE and resilience in an age-appropriate manner.	£1,175.00
	Standards Grant	**2025/2**
Support Staff / Supply **Capitation**	Foundation Phase staff to ensure ratio of pupil: staff is maintained. iTeach support, text messaging service, subscription costs.	£49,258.00 £2800.00

School Prospectus

The School Prospectus/Parent Handbook provides a great deal of information that will facilitate the school and home working closely together for the benefit of the pupils. Our prospectus is distributed to all new parents. Extra copies are available from the main school office. There have been no significant changes to either document in the last year.



















The Federation of

Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Primary Schools

Summary of School Development Plan 2025 – 26

The Federation identified 3 overarching areas to prioritise. See below for a Summary of impact.

Target 1: Teaching & Learning	Target 2: Equity & Wellbeing	Target 3: Leading & Improving
Priority1: Continue to improve & develop effective approaches to teaching and assessment	***Priority 2:*** Mitigate the impact of poverty and discrimination through an equity and equality approach	***Priority 3:*** Ensure collaboration in practitioners' enquiry & pedagogic skills enables learner progress in meeting school National priorities
Triad working provided protected time for professional dialogue, peer observation & feedback. Staff shared effective practice & strengthened pedagogy, with clear steps linked to PDR targets. Implementation of Monster Phonics & continued RWI development had significant positive impact, with most pupils making good or better progress in phonics, reading, spelling, and improvements were evident in pupils' independence, vocabulary and writing. Welsh language provision continues to strengthen, with consistent use of incidental Welsh, Criw Cymraeg activities, Welsh across the curriculum and increased understanding of Cynefin. This was also recognised by Estyn. Staff PL & cluster collaboration support progress towards Cymraeg Campus goals, although pupil voice indicates that opportunities to engage with Welsh reading materials need to increase.	Both schools have strengthened their commitment to equity and inclusion through poverty-proofing audits, pupil voice, self-evaluation and targeted interventions. Adjustments to practice have been made in areas such as trips, fundraising and food provision, while pupil progress data demonstrates good and significant gains in reading, spelling and mathematics, with further support identified where needed. ALN provision continues to develop through staff training, enhanced leadership capacity, regular review of provision and collaboration with external professionals. Staff and pupils have also contributed to developing a more inclusive curriculum, with greater representation, purposeful celebration of diversity and a continued focus on anti-racist practice. Attendance, wellbeing and positive behaviour remain priorities, supported through initiatives such as Criw Caredig, attendance rewards and the Travel Tracker.	HT / SLT regularly monitored staff progress against PDR objectives, with SDP review meetings providing professional dialogue, reflection, & setting future targets. Cluster school collaboration on literacy, phonics & maths development, supported by professional inquiry, expert training, & shared INSET, strengthened consistency & progression across schools. AoLE teams & middle leaders shared knowledge & lead developments, while staff engaged in collaborative work across the cluster. Safeguarding is a key priority, with regular policy reviews, training for staff, governors, & enhanced safeguarding training for SLT. Pupil progress meetings supported identification of pupils requiring additional provision & appropriate classroom adaptations. Leadership capacity continues to develop through NPQH & senior leadership programmes, alongside SLT providing professional support to schools across Caerphilly and beyond.



Term Dates and School Times

Term	Begins	Half-Term Begins	Half-Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	02.09.2025	27.10.2025	31.10.2025	19.12.2025
Spring	05.01.2026	16.02.2026	20.02.2026	27.03.2026
Summer	13.04.2026	25.05.2026	29.05.2026	20.07.2026

Cwmfelinfach Primary School

Nursery: *9.00 -11.45am*

Foundation Phase: *8.50 -12.00 1.00-3.15pm*

Key Stage 2: *8.50-12.00 1.00 -3.15pm*

Ynysddu Primary School

Nursery: *9.00-11.40am*

Foundation Phase: *9.00-12.00 1.00-3.15pm*

Key Stage 2: *9.00-12.00 1.00-3.15pm*

Inclusion and Additional Learning Needs



Both schools are fully committed to meeting the needs of every learner. We provide a supportive, inclusive environment where all pupils are encouraged to achieve their very best. Learning is carefully **differentiated within classes** to meet the needs of all pupils — from those who are **More Able and Talented** to those requiring **Additional Learning Support**. A range of **targeted intervention programmes** are in place across the schools to support small groups and individual learners. These interventions are closely monitored, with progress carefully tracked and recorded to ensure every child makes steady and meaningful progress.

Pupils who receive additional hours of support have access to this provision within their regular class setting, ensuring inclusion and continuity in their learning.

Specialist Resource Bases

Ynysddu Primary School also hosts two **Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs)** on behalf of **CCBC**:

- **Nurture Class 1** – for Foundation Phase pupils
- **Nurture Class 2** – for Lower Key Stage 2 pupils

Each class provides specialised support for up to **eight pupils** from schools across the Caerphilly Borough. The SRBs offer a nurturing, structured environment designed to help pupils develop their confidence, emotional wellbeing, and readiness for learning.

ADYaCh
Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a Chynhwysiad
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

Sporting Activities, Healthy Eating and Community Links

We are proud to promote **healthy lifestyles, wellbeing, and strong community values** across the federation.

Sporting Activities and Healthy Eating; Both schools are actively working towards the **National Quality Award (NQA)** for Health and Wellbeing, with all staff contributing to this important goal. We encourage pupils to make healthy choices and stay active through a wide range of opportunities, including:



- **Healthy lunchboxes** and a **healthy tuck shop**.
- **Regular after-school clubs and activities** that promote fitness and teamwork.
- **Enriched curriculum activities**, including **Forest Schools**.
- **Weekly PE and games lessons**, as well as **dance sessions** with Mr. Franks.

Our schools also take part in **Cluster Sports**, participating in football, netball, cross country, and other events that promote teamwork, determination, and enjoyment.

Community Links

Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Primary Schools take pride in being at the heart of their communities. We work closely with local organisations such as the **local church**, **Lower Sirhowy Valley Partnership**, **care homes**, **Sirhowy Valley Bee Company**, and the **local allotments**.

Our pupils regularly represent the schools in community events, including **carol services**, **Armistice Day commemorations**, and a range of other local celebrations — helping to strengthen their sense of *cynefin* and pride in where they live.

Parental Involvement

We believe that education is most successful when schools and families work together. Parents are encouraged to engage with school life through **Class Dojo**, where we share pupils' work, achievements, and important updates.

We also hold **Parent Engagement Sessions** each term, which have been extremely well received, offering parents the chance to see learning in action. Throughout the year, parents meet with teachers to discuss progress, and we provide full **annual reports** in line with statutory requirements.

Our Vision and Curriculum

Wellbeing and Nurture; Are at the heart of everything we do. We set high expectations for both pupils and staff, encouraging everyone to reach their full potential. Positive attitudes and behaviours are celebrated and rewarded, creating a caring, respectful, and supportive school community. **Authentic Learning Experiences;** Our staff bring learning to life through exciting, hands-on experiences linked to real-life contexts in our local area. This helps children develop a strong sense of *cynefin*—belonging and connection—while working towards the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.

Pupil Voice; We believe our pupils should have a say in their learning and school life. Through a range of pupil voice groups, learners share their ideas, take responsibility, and help shape school decisions. Their views are valued and make a real difference. **Professional Learning;** We are proud to be a community of learners—both pupils and staff. Our teachers work closely together across the federation, sharing ideas and supporting one another through coaching, mentoring, and professional development to provide the best possible education. **Progression and Assessment;** We carefully track each child's progress and use assessment every day to help move learning forward. This includes teacher feedback, self-assessment, and peer review, ensuring all children know how to improve and succeed.

Our Curriculum; We follow the **Foundation Phase** and **Curriculum for Wales** frameworks. Learning is organised through engaging topics that change each term, ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum across all Areas of Learning and Experience. At the centre of our curriculum are the **Four Purposes**, helping all children to become:

- **Ambitious, capable learners** ready to learn throughout their lives.
- **Enterprising, creative contributors** ready to play a full part in life and work.
- **Ethical, informed citizens** ready to take part in Wales and the world.
- **Healthy, confident individuals** ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.



Through meaningful, enjoyable learning experiences, we help every child grow in confidence, curiosity, and capability—preparing them for a happy and successful future.



Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)

Our schools organise learning through six **Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)**. These areas bring subjects together to help pupils make meaningful connections across their learning.

Across the federation, the traditional role of *subject leader* has been replaced by **AoLE Leads**. Each school has a lead teacher for every area, ensuring that planning, teaching, and progression remain consistent and high quality across all classes. The six Areas of Learning and Experience are: **Language, Literacy and Communication**, **Mathematics and Numeracy**, **Science and Technology**, **Health and Wellbeing**, **Humanities and Expressive Arts.**

These areas work together to provide a rich, balanced, and creative curriculum that supports every learner to achieve the **Four Purposes** and reach their full potential.



Our Federation Mission and the Four Purposes

Following the federation of **Cwmfelinfach** and **Ynysddu Primary Schools**, our **mission statement** was refreshed to reflect our shared values and the vision of the **Curriculum for Wales**. To help pupils truly understand and connect with the foundations of the new curriculum, we placed **pupil voice** at the heart of the process. Learners across both schools worked together to **design and create child-friendly characters** representing each of the **Four Purposes**. These characters make the curriculum meaningful and memorable for all pupils, helping them to understand what it means to be:

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





By involving pupils in this way, we ensure they feel ownership of their learning and pride in being part of our federation's shared vision for the future.



The Welsh Language

The schools' main language of communication is English. Welsh is taught as a second language to all pupils across Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Both schools place high prominence on the use of the Welsh language around the school and within classes. As part of the Language, Literacy and Communication Area of learning, all pupils aim to develop their oracy, reading and writing skills using the Flic a Flac and Antur Anhygoel schemes of work.

Both schools are following the Cymraeg Campus Award scheme.

After School Clubs

Cwmfelinfach:- Eco Club, Science Club, Netball, Fitness, Football, Netball, Country Dancing, Choir, Story Club.

Ynysddu:- Choir, Digital Club, Book Club, Film Club, Country Dancing, Multi-Sports, Football, Friendship, Crochet, Chess.

Both schools buy in the services of Caerphilly Music Service. All pupils across Key Stage 2 have access to this provision either as part of whole-class tuition or in small groups. Instruments include; recorders, ukulele, P Buzz, J Sax. Additionally, the school buys in specialist support from Upbeat Music to support topic-based themes.

Toilet Facilities and Cleanliness



Cwmfelinfach

Nursery—3 pupil toilets & 1 staff toilet
Foundation Phase—3 pupil toilets and a urinal tray.
Key Stage 2—4 girls & 3 boys toilets and a urinal.

There are an additional 3 staff toilets in the main building and a disabled toilet located in Year 6 demountable.

Ynysddu

Main Block—Lower KS2 3 toilets.
Upper KS2 Boys 3 urinals & 2 toilets;
Girls 4 toilets.
Staff—2 toilets (one of which is DDA compliant.
Beehive—Cl1 3 toilets; Cl3 3 toilets & 1 staff toilet.
Youth Club—2 toilets.

All toilets are cleaned by Caerphilly Cleaning under an annually agreed contract.

Cluster Work and Transition

The federation benefits from a close working relationship with Islwyn High School, our feeder high school. The headteacher meets regularly with the Senior Leadership team other headteachers from the ***Islwyn Cluster*** primary schools. All schools within the cluster collaborate to share resources, expertise, and strategies. As a cluster we strive to improve pupil support, curriculum consistency (especially during transitions), and overall educational outcomes by tackling issues like attendance or disadvantage together. Our cluster is proactive; creating networks for joint planning, accessing professionals and organising shared events (sports, arts, science, residential trips) to provide a coordinated, effective learning continuum for all pupils.

Cluster working provides important opportunities to share and develop joined-up experiences for learners across their learning journey. To ensure equity for learners within the Islwyn cluster we have developed a cluster curriculum vision. The Islwyn cluster is committed to realising the four purposes of the curriculum through:

•Instilling pride in our learners, of their communities and identity, developing their sense of 'Cynefin'
•Placing wellbeing at the heart of our schools, in order to shape positive futures
•Nurturing success in order to open a world of opportunities
•Promoting equity and equality whilst celebrating diversity
•Inspiring curiosity and igniting a love of lifelong learning
•Empowering learners to build connections across their learning; enabling achievement for all.

