

St Marys RC Primary School
Annual Governors' Report To Parents 2015-2016

Annual Governors' Report to Parents

Year 2015-16

Annual Governors Report To Parents
2015-2016



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The Governing Body for 2015- 2016

Mr T Pritchard Chairperson
Mrs J Williams Vice-Chairperson
Mr J Cavaciuti Foundation Governor
Mr A Nyinaku Foundation Governor
Mr J Baker Foundation Governor
Fr L Hennessy Parish Priest
Dr Russell Hathway Foundation Governor
Mrs Sarah Jones Foundation Governor
Mrs J Fitzgerald Teacher Governor
Mrs C Morgan Ancillary Staff Governor
Mr Simon Wilson Parent Governor
Councillor Jen Morgan LEA Governor
Mr T Uthuppukutty Foundation Governor
Mr D Seymour School Clerk (Tel 01495 310596)

Governors' Duties

As Governors we aim to ensure that we provide the best possible education, we have three important functions:

- We help set up the school's strategic development
- We monitor the quality of the school's provision
- We monitor the annual budget for the school
- Produce statutory policies
- Process any formal complaints, staff grievances and appeals
- Oversee performance management
- Appointing staff and pay reviews

To carry out our roles effectively we regularly visit the school for events, observe classes and to meet with staff.

Minutes for Governors meetings are available from the school.

The Governing Body wishes to thank everyone involved in the running of the school for their hard work and efficiency, and to thank parents for their kind support throughout the year.

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Pupil Numbers 2015-2016

Class	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Numbers	21	31	29	30	29	28	30	30

School Attendance 2015-2016

(Period: 01/09/2015 to 31/08/2016)

Group	% Attendance
Year 1	93.9
Year 2	93.06
Year 3	95.14
Year 4	92.66
Year 5	95.69
Year 6	95.30
Totals	94.3

Although our attendance and punctuality has improved we strive to attain the highest standard. The main factor that reduces our attendance figures is term time holidays. We ask that parents avoid taking children on holidays during the term.

School Times

School begins at 9.00am and ends at 3.20pm for Nursery and 3.30pm for the rest of the school. Lunch is taken from 12.00-1.15 for Foundation Phase pupils and 12.15-12.15 for KS2 pupils. (The time difference takes into account the statutory requirements given for Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 pupils). There is one morning 20 minute break from 10.30am-10.50am.

School Term Holidays

School Term Dates 2015/2016

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	01/09/2015	26/10/2015	31/10/2015	18/12/2015
Spring	04/01/2016	15/02/2016	19/02/2016	24/03/2016
Summer	11/04/2016	30/05/2016	03/06/2016	20/07/2016

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School Trips

Trips and visits intend to both enrich and provide focus for topics studied in class.

School Visits

1 st November 2015	Year 1 and 2 Techniquest
2 nd November 2015	Year 6 St Fagan's
4 th November 2015	Year 5 Bedwellty House
10 th December 2015	Year 4 Eden Centre
14 th December 2015	Nursery & Reception Bedwellty House
17 th December 2015	Year 3 Bedwellty House
20 th January 2016	Year 2 Caerphilly Castle
27 th January 2016	Year 6 Techniquest
10 th February 2016	Year 3 Techniquest
11 th April 2016	Year 5 & 6 Llangrannog Residential Visit
13 th April 2016	Year 4 Techniquest
13 th May 2016	Year 3 & 4 Gilwern Outdoor Centre
24 th May 2016	Reception & Year 2 Techniquest
26 th May 2016	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Hay Festival
24 th June 2016	Year 1 Swansea Grand Pier
7 th July 2016	Harry Potter World London
12 & 13 th July 2016	Swansea Blackpill Lido
13 th July	Year 3 Raglan Castle

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Social and Cultural Activities

St Mary's Primary continues to support a full range of social and cultural activities, these include:

- Christmas Concerts/Carol Service
- Book Fairs
- World Book Day
- Supporting charities (Children in Need Raising £405.00, Cafod £325.00)
- Macmillan Coffee Mornings (raising £432.00)
- Cafod Assemblies
- Supporting the local Foodbank Charity as part of our Harvest celebrations
- Easter Worship Services

Our Choir welcomes the opportunity to take part in Christmas carol services at the local residential homes; and school events.

Our Drama/Dance group has performed A Mid-Summers Night Dream at a National Shakespeare Festival.

Safeguarding Pupils

All schools have a statutory duty to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of their pupils. This duty includes adopting child protection procedures as well as actively promoting anti bullying measures, promoting positive behaviour and ensuring pupils' health and safety.

Our school's Child Protection procedures are such that if we have a concern about a child we will seek to discuss this with parents and, where possible, seek their agreement to make a referral to social services.

However, this will only be done where such a discussion will not place a child at increased risk of significant harm. That advice will be provided by the local social services department in consultation, where appropriate, with the police

The school's designated Safeguarding Officer (Mr. Baxter or Deputy Safeguarding Officer, Mr. Buckley) will clarify with these statutory agencies, when, how, and by whom parents and carers will be told about any referral.

Mrs Janine Williams is the governor charged with responsibility of ensuring that the school meets its statutory obligations in terms of having an up to date Safeguarding Policy and that correct procedures are followed. Mrs Williams presents a formal safeguarding report at all governing body meetings.

Racial and Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and all aspects of school life, regardless of gender, disability, race, creed or special educational needs. We have policies covering both Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality. Our Racial Equality Policy is reviewed annually.

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Changes to School Prospectus for Parents

The school prospectus is updated in the Summer Term every year. This mainly involves changes in personnel on the teaching and support staff, or in the Governing Body, as well as changes in uniform, the cost of school dinners, etc. Other routine annual changes include holiday dates for the forthcoming academic year, and the latest teacher assessment results for both Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

The parents of current pupils are notified of all such changes as they occur, via regular newsletters. All parents are sent a copy of the 2015/16 prospectus on request and a copy is available on the school's website.

School Inspection

Our last ESTYN Inspection was carried out in June 2016. The school's current performance and prospects for improvement were judged as adequate and inspectors placed us in a category of ESTYN Monitoring. A small team of inspectors will return in Summer/Autumn Term 2017 to monitor progress against the five recommendations listed below.

- R1 Improve standards in mathematical development and reading in the Foundation Phase, and writing across the school.
- R2 Improve pupils Welsh skills.
- R3 Develop accurate teacher assessments and pupil tracking systems.
- R4 Strengthen monitoring activities and address identified shortcomings robustly.
- R5 Ensure that the pupil deprivation grant is effective in meeting the needs of all eligible pupils.

We are pleased with the positive features, especially the good judgements given for wellbeing, care support and guidance, learning environment and partnership working:

A detailed Post Inspection Action Plan has been submitted to governors and the local authority and features clear strategies to address ESTYN's recommendations.

We are awaiting our Section 50 R.E. Inspection and anticipate it being conducted in Spring Term 2017

School Development Plan for 2015- 2016

Below is a brief summary of the School Development Plan that was drawn up in September 2016. The targets for improvement come from internal self evaluation of standards and external reviews carried out termly by the Education Achievement Service .

The plan focusses on the following five priority areas:

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1. Raising standards in Literacy
2. Raising standards in Numeracy
3. Raising standards in RE
4. To raise standards by developing teaching, learning and assessment
5. Safeguarding, attendance, wellbeing and under attainment due to social disadvantage

Exceptionally Able Children

Children, who are identified as being exceptionally able, have Additional Learning Needs. These needs are also registered within the school, although there is no statutory requirement to do so. It is important that their needs are met, and that after consultation between parents and teachers, they are provided with work at an appropriate challenging level. In some circumstances an able child will be provided with an Individual Action Plan (I.A.P.)

School Security

We welcome parents into school at all times and hope that our positive relationship with parents will help reduce any misunderstandings which may lead to awkward meetings with staff.

Visitors are expected to 'sign in' and report to the secretary or head teacher. Any aggressive persons will be asked to leave the premise.

All external doors to the school are kept closed and they can only be opened internally. Access for parents and for any visitors to the school is through the main entrance. Any visitor can gain access to the school by pressing the buzzer to the left of the main door and speaking through the intercom system.

This main entrance to the school is covered by a CCTV camera system, which records anybody coming into the school.

The health and safety of pupils, staff and all visitors is taken very seriously. The school has regular inspections from the Local Authority Health & Safety Team. The school was last inspected in March 2015 and received a good report.

In-Service Training

In-service Training for our teaching and non-teaching staff forms an integral part of school life. They take the form of:

- Courses provided by other agencies, attended outside school
- Twilight sessions where external advisers visit school to provide training
- Training provided by the headteacher and, on occasions, by other teachers
- Day time visits to our school from external advisers to provide individual targeted support

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- Staff meetings – held weekly in school where information is disseminated amongst staff
- Closure days – there were 5 in the year 2015-2016. These days are taken at the discretion of individual schools, and where possible, are taken before or after a scheduled holiday period.

The School Development Plan along with Performance Management Targets and Individual Needs, form the main thrust of staff training. Funding for staff training came from the following sources:

The 2015/16 School Effectiveness Grant (including Numeracy Literacy Welsh & Foundation Phase Training) is £19,216.

Whole school training days in 2015/16 were used to instruct staff in the following:

1 st September 2015	Sign Language	School Closure
4 th November	1 Page Profiles	Twilight
6 th November	I Pad Training	In School
12 th November	Christian Ethos	Twilight
20 th November	Come, Follow me	School Closure
11 th January 2016	E Safety Training	Twilight
1 st February 2016	Safeguarding Training	Twilight
22 nd February 2016	Big Write Plus Training	School Closure
15 th April 2016	Team Teach	School Closure
20 th May 2016	First Aid	School Closure

In addition to the above, teaching and support staff attended an extensive range of courses, principally focussing on numeracy, literacy, ICT and intervention group support.

Use of Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) 2015-16

We are required by WG to publish for details about the PDG we receive and how we spend it.

- The total number of pupils on school roll for September 2015 is **228**
- The school's FSM population is currently **33%**

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- The total allocation of PDG to this school for September 2014 to July 2015 is **£68,700**
- The school undertakes the following activities in order to support pupils facing the challenges of poverty and deprivation :
 - Training eight members of staff to deliver 'Numeracy Catch Up' programmes to FSM pupils in Years 2-6.
 - Training eight members of staff to deliver 'Number Recovery' programme to FSM pupils in Years 1-6.
 - Training nine members of staff to teach Communication Matters throughout the school.
 - Training three members of staff to deliver "My Mark, My Message" throughout the school.
 - Training two members of staff to support "Tackling The Tail of Underachievement" in Literacy
 - Training one member of staff to deliver the literacy invention programme 'Success in Six' for year 6 FSM pupils.
 - Develop extra- curricular clubs, through school based staff and external providers, to boost Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills
 - Developing the use of I-pads throughout the school to raise standards. E.g. using green screening and programming skills.
 - Training for two teachers on becoming an Autism Friendly School and providing effective support for More Able and Talented Pupils
 - Train Digital wizards to support the use of technology throughout the school.
 - Training all staff in the Hwb+ digital platform, to facilitate improved home school links.
- The school's PDG, SEG and WEG Plans are regularly scrutinised by the Governing Body, supported by advice from the EAS and monitored by the Local Authority.

Abbreviations

LNF – Literacy & Numeracy Framework

FSM – Free School Meals

ALN – Additional Learning Needs

MAT – More Able & Talented

PDG – Pupil Deprivation Grant

SEG – School Improvement Grant

WEG – Welsh Improvement Grant

KS2 – Key Stage Two (Juniors)

FP – Foundation Phase (Infants)

EAS – Education Achievement Service (South East Wales Education Consortium)

Community and Outside Links

St Mary's actively develops links with the wider community with local clergy, local businesses, the fire station, local police officers, Brynmawr library and our own Church St Mary's.

Our links with all of our transitional schools continue to grow. At Brynmawr Foundation School, a selection of Year 6 MAT children took part and won a 'Jaguar 3D Challenge' to design and build the fastest car using systems and controls. Key Stage 2 pupils took part in a Community Rotary Concert at Brynmawr Foundation School to mark the centenary of World War One. Our Pupils have also attended numerous transition days with St Albans, Bishop Hedley, Crickhowell and Abertillery Comprehensive schools.

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Links with the Urdd Camp at Llangrannog and Gilwern Outdoor Pursuits Centre are strong. With all Key Stage 2 children benefiting from a range of activities such as orienteering and climbing on their visits. Fully qualified instructors support the children in these sessions.

We have a programme with our Police Liaison Officer, PC Penrose, which involves all year groups from Y1-Y6 in a series of talks aimed to raise awareness of citizenship. We also invite visitors in to lead assemblies.

Year 6 attended both 'Crucial Crew' and 'Wings to Fly' which are run by Gwent Police to help our children acquire the necessary skills to live a safe and healthy life.

Visiting inspirational speakers have been invited to school to address KS2 pupils and host exciting question and answer sessions.

Educational visits to a range of Welsh Heritage sites e.g. Cardiff Castle help to foster the importance of Cwricwlwm Cymreig throughout our school. School places a high priority on fostering understanding of our Welsh heritage, and our St David's Day celebrations involve a range of activities, including a competitive Eisteddfod in the afternoon, where parental support is invaluable in preparing the participants.

School continues to develop links with numerous local groups. The Rotary club has visited the school to lead numerous assemblies throughout the year to share with the children what important work they do. Blaenau Gwent Music have provided visiting instrumentalists and organised musical events for the children.

Extra Curricula Activities 2015/2016

Trips and Visits – All classes undertake at least two trips per year, with visits intended to enrich and provide focus for topics studied in class. All the pupils take part in a special Christmas trip to the pantomime or cinema. Father Christmas visits the school with gifts for all pupils, prior to the end of the Autumn Term. The safety of our children is paramount, and risk assessments are carried out in respect of all locations visited.

Residential Educational Courses – Years 5 & 6 visit the Urdd Centre at Llangrannog for a three day outdoor activity camp. Staff attend these courses as tutors, accompanied by outdoor pursuit specialists. The school monitors all such experiences closely. It is pleasing to report the great success of our residential trip, where children spent three days experiencing a wide range of challenges such as horse riding, quad bike riding, go cart driving, rock climbing, and woodland skills.

Music and Drama – Both are important part of School life and we are delighted with our different groups within the school who develop these skills. Key Stage 2 pupils read at the town's Remembrance Day service and laid a wreath to honor those who lost their lives in conflict.

Our drama group participated in a Shakespeare Festival at the Beaufort Theatre and successfully performed A Mid-Summer Nights Dream to a large audience.

Year 6 pupils, as part of an annual tradition, visited local nursing homes to lead a carol service with residents. Staff from all the homes always comment highly on the behaviour of our pupils, as their friendly nature makes this a highlight for the Christmas period for the residents.

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Blaenau Gwent Music Support provided additional musical experiences for our children throughout the year, including; Celtic music workshops, brass and violins lessons. Unfortunately due to budget cuts, we will be unable to sustain this level of expert tuition in coming years without levying an additional charge.

Direct links with the outside community are designed to give our children first-hand experiences. Children utilise the resources in the local town to inspire and develop their class topics. In the past year our children have visited numerous local churches, chapels, park, library, fire station, ASDA, Tesco. Visiting speakers range from CAFOD representatives to senior military personnel. This year has seen visits from parents who are passionate about their jobs, artists, firemen, nurses; all helping to convince our children of the importance of gaining a good education. PC Penrose our school police officer visits on numerous occasions during the school year to challenge children to think about their role in keeping themselves and others safe. Mrs Tufty, and our school nurse Liz Phillips also attend numerous sessions throughout the year. All these visitors help to support the school's work on Personal and Social Education (PSE) and many of them help to develop school Christian ethos.

Year 2 took part in a ten week block of road safety workshops called 'Kerbcraft' with the road safety consortium during the autumn term and Year 6 pupils successfully undertook cycle proficiency training in July.

Sporting Achievements

We provide a balanced physical education, as outlined in the National Curriculum. We undertake such activities as games, dance, athletics, gymnastics and swimming lessons, and inter-school matches in tag rugby and football.

The school has a football team, rugby team, netball team, swimming team and cross country team which are supported by external coaches and school staff.

We also run a Play To Learn, Multi Sports, Karate and Football Clubs after school club each week.

Separate sports days are held for Nursery and Reception Classes, Years One and Two and Key Stage Two pupils each summer.

The Friends of St. Mary's

The Friends of St. Mary's are a group of parents and volunteers who have raised a significant amount of money for the school since 2003.

All those involved have played an important part in the school's development. This partnership is of the utmost importance if our school is to continue to offer the best facilities it can to our children. All parents are welcome to join. The team organise discos, fetes, Santa visits and other fund raising events throughout the year.

The group has been successfully led by Mrs Bella Wilson throughout the year and in addition to raising funds has grown in size.

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Finance Information

Please see appendix A (2015/16 Financial Out-turn Statement)

School Developments (Buildings)

During the year we have installed new security fencing and secured the finance to create two further intervention rooms.

The rear of the Church has undergone extensive regeneration work and pupils and parishioners now enjoy the use of a secure courtyard for outdoor learning and parish events.

Disabled Pupils, Staff and Visitors

Our school is fully committed to making sure we do not treat disabled people less favourably than others. We are endeavouring to implement the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act by making the curriculum, the school building and all information accessible to all, regardless of any disability they may have. The curriculum is differentiated, good, level access to all parts of the school and a disabled toilet located in an easily accessible location.

The Governing Body has in place an accessibility action plan (available on request) which highlights further adjustments that will be made to the curriculum, building and information produced by the school over the coming years.

Toilet Facilities

There are seven sets of toilet facilities in the school for use by pupils. Nursery have one set of unisex toilets, Foundation Phase, lower and upper Key Stage Two have two sets of toilets each. All have been recently refurbished to a high standard.

How To Solve A Problem – Making a complaint

We make every effort to work harmoniously with parents and we are always pleased to discuss concerns in order to find a resolution. If you have any concerns, please let us know as soon as possible. There may be need for ongoing meetings with the head teacher and the class teacher to evaluate the situation and usually a resolution is found.

However, if despite all the school based efforts, you are still not satisfied then it is your right to complain formally. You will need to contact the Chair of Governors, Mr. T.R. Pritchard, in writing. You can also write to the Clerk of the School Governing body, Mr Daniel Seymour at EAS Governor Support, Tredomen, Gateway Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7EH

A panel of governors will investigate your complaint thoroughly with the full co-operation of school-based staff. You will be notified of the outcome.

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This is a summary of the complaints procedure:-

Stage One - Complaint made to teacher and/or head teacher (they investigate within 5-10 working days)

Stage Two - Complaint made in writing to Chair of governors

Stage Three - Complaint made to governors' complaints panel

A full copy of the Complaints Policy can be obtained from the school office.

LIST OF STATUTORY POLICIES THAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNING BODIES OF SCHOOLS IN WALES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED OF GOVERNING BODIES

Copies of all these policies are available from school and website.

STATUTORY POLICIES

Admissions Policy
Charging Policy
Child Protection Policy
Complaints Procedures
Curriculum Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Performance Management
Pupil Discipline (Including Anti-Bullying)
Race Equality Policy/Equal Opportunities Policy
Sex Education Policy
Additional Learning Needs Policy
Staff Discipline, Conduct, Capability and Grievance Procedures

STATUTORY DOCUMENTS

Accessibility Plan
Action Plan Following School Inspection
Governors' Allowances (Schemes for Payment)
Governors' Annual Report to Parents
Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
Home - School Agreements
Instrument of Government Policy
Governing Body Minutes
Prospectus
Register of Pupils
Register of Business Interest of Headteacher and Governors
Target-Setting for Schools

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LIST OF NON-STATUTORY RECOMMENDED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

POLICIES

Health and Safety
Sustainable Development

DOCUMENTS

School Development Plan

Benchmarked Academic Performance

This report uses data for 2016 for LA and Wales comparative information

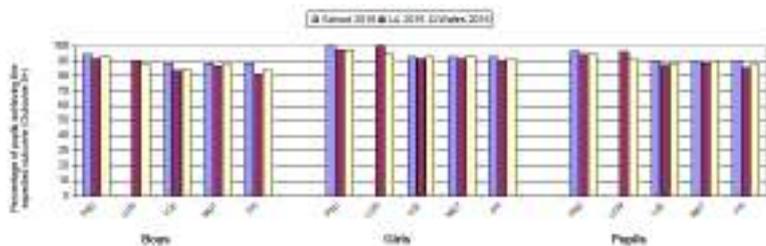
St Mary's Roman Catholic - Brynmawr
Blaenau Gwent

LA/School no: 677/3308

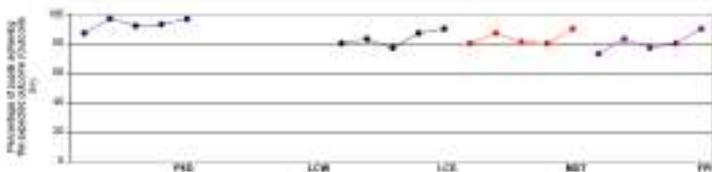
School comparative information: Foundation Phase Outcomes 2016 with benchmarking

Percentage of boys, girls, and pupils achieving at least the expected outcome (Outcome 5+):

	Boys			Girls			Pupils		
	School 2016	LA 2016	Wales 2016	School 2016	LA 2016	Wales 2016	School 2016	LA 2016	Wales 2016
PSD	94	91	92	100	97	97	97	94	94
LCW	0	90	87	0	100	94	0	96	91
LCE	88	83	84	92	91	92	90	87	88
MDT	88	86	87	92	91	93	90	88	90
FPI	88	81	83	92	90	91	90	85	87



School Performance over time (2012 - 2016)



Contextual Information

Benchmarked against schools with a similar percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals.
School's results shown in greyed boxes. Column headings refer to:

- Quarter 1 - School is in the top 25 per cent.
- Quarter 2 - School is in the top 40 per cent but not the top 25 per cent.
- Quarter 3 - School is in the bottom 50 per cent but not the bottom 25 per cent.
- Quarter 4 - School is in the bottom 25 per cent.

More than or equal to 32 per cent eligible for FSM

	Quarter 4	Lower Quartile	Quarter 3	Median	Quarter 2	Upper Quartile	Quarter 1
PSD		89		90		91	94
LCW		85		86		86	91
LCE		79		80		80	88
MDT		87		87		90	90
FPI		76		82		86	88

The benchmarks have been calculated using a three-year average for Free School Meal data.

Notes:

- 1 - - No historical data available
- 2 - Areas of learning: PSD = Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity; LCW = Language, literacy and communication skills (in Welsh); LCE = Language, literacy and communication skills (in English); MDT = Mathematical development; FPI = Foundation Phase Indicator. To achieve the FPI, a pupil must achieve at least five expected outcomes (Outcome 5+) in both PSD and MDT and either LCE or LCE.
- 3 - If there were no pupils eligible for assessment in a subject for a particular year the graph will be dotted and show a gap for that year.

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This report uses data for 2016 for LA and Wales comparative information

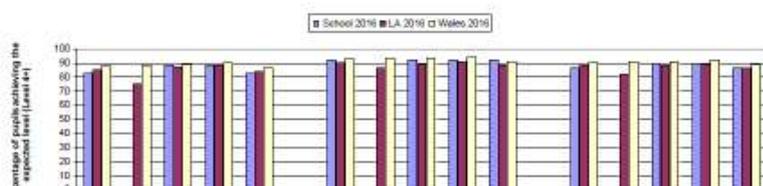
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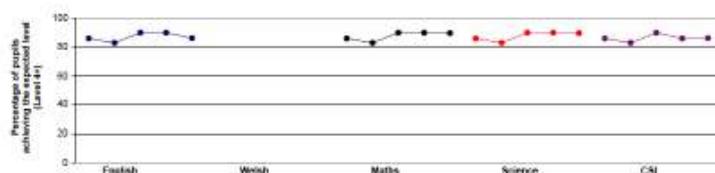
School comparative information: National Curriculum Assessments 2016 with benchmarking Key Stage 2

Percentage of boys, girls, and pupils achieving at least the expected level (Level 4*):

	Boys			Girls			Pupils		
	School 2016	LA 2016	Wales 2016	School 2016	LA 2016	Wales 2016	School 2016	LA 2016	Wales 2016
English	82	85	88	92	90	93	86	88	90
Welsh	0	75	88	0	86	93	0	82	91
Maths	88	87	89	92	89	93	90	88	91
Science	88	88	90	92	91	94	90	89	92
CSI	82	84	86	92	88	91	86	86	89



School Performance over time (2012 - 2016)



Contextual Information

Benchmarked against schools with a similar percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals.

School's results shown in greyed boxes. Column headings refer to...

- Quarter 1 School is in the top 25 per cent.
- Quarter 2 School is in the top 50 per cent but not the top 25 per cent.
- Quarter 3 School is in the bottom 50 per cent but not the bottom 25 per cent.
- Quarter 4 School is in the bottom 25 per cent.

Free School Meal Group

More than or equal to 32 per cent eligible for FSM

	Quarter 4	Lower Quartile	Quarter 3	Median	Quarter 2	Upper Quartile	Quarter 1
English		79		86	88	91	
Welsh		71		88	90	93	
Maths		81		88	90	93	
Science		81		88	90	93	
CSI		76		84	88	89	

The benchmarks have been calculated using a three-year average for Free School Meal data.