



**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN WALES
(AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO
PARENTS 2019-20**

DECEMBER 2020

ISSUE NO.13



St. Michael's C in W (Aided)
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Table of Contents

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS	3
HEADTEACHER	4
SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2018/19.....	5
SCHOOL STAFF 2018/19.....	5
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019/20.....	6
SCHOOL SESSION TIMES	6
ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE 2018/19.....	6
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	6
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.....	7
SCHOOL PROSPECTUS.....	7
GOVERNORS EXPENSES.....	7
SCHOOL POLICIES.....	7
CHILD PROTECTION.....	8
HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	8
SECURITY	8
TOILET FACILITIES.....	8
ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS.....	9
MORE ABLE AND TALENTED	9
PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES	9
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.....	9
SCHOOL AMBASSADOR'S REPORT	9
HEALTHY SCHOOLS.....	10
USING WELSH LANGUAGE IN SCHOOL.....	10
SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES	11
TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES.....	11
LEAVERS	11
SCHOOL MEALS.....	11
COMMUNITY LINKS.....	12
FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL	12
ST. MICHAEL'S BUDGET REPORT – 2018/19	13
PDG STATEMENT 2018/19	14

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As a Governing Body we are legally required to present this report on “school life and performance” annually.

On behalf of the Governing Body it is my pleasure and privilege, as Chair, to present St Michael’s Governors Annual Report to Parents for 2019/20.

The year 2019/20 was a strange one for all of us, and we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mr Phillips and staff for their outstanding support and commitment during this time, and say again how much we have valued their contributions to the school life of the children.

Financial pressures continued throughout 2019/20 and difficult decisions were regularly having to be made in the effort to achieve a balanced budget. The Governing Body is central to financial decision making, and works closely with Mr Phillips in terms of staffing, structure, policies, and addressing health and safety/safeguarding issues with both the Local Authority and the Diocese. The school website is vital to communication with stakeholders and is regularly updated.

The cycle of self-evaluation and improvement planning continued to drive up standards and performance within the school and Governors had involvement in a monitoring role. Governors were also actively involved in School Development Plan priorities for the following year.

The Governing Body took advantage of opportunities for development and training both in terms of mandatory and non-mandatory training courses offered.

As a Governing Body we have statutory responsibilities, and within our “support” and “questioning” role we continued to work closely with Mr Phillips and staff to further improve standards and performance within the school, ensuring as far as possible that all children have the opportunity to realise their full potential within a safe, encouraging and happy learning environment.

During the year Matt Butler (parent governor) resigned his role as vice chair and Reverend Jeanette Wilkes willing took on this role. We express thanks to Matt for his input during his time as vice chair, and thanks to Reverend Jeanette for her commitment to the school.

At the beginning of the school year we welcomed Mrs Amy Lewis as school administrator and have found her cheerful adaptability and flexibility a great asset. She is the first point of contact for many people and sets the tone of a welcoming and listening school.

Up until March school life continued much as usual with particular highlights being the Foundation Phase nativity play and the whole school Eisteddfod. This brought together poetry and music, dance and art, and was a wonderful showcase of so much ability.

After March, everything changed and became challenging for everyone: for children, for families, for school staff, for governors. We have all had to embrace new ways of working, new ways of being.

A huge thank you to everyone: to parents and guardians for your help and support of the children as they experienced a different learning environment, to school staff as they prepared and delivered work at a distance, to those working at the Hub in Newtown to support children of key workers, and to the children themselves for working under new conditions.

It was this working together of parents, guardians, stakeholders, governors and staff, that the best possible could be offered to the children.

Maggie Rich
Chair of Governors

HEADTEACHER

I think you would all agree that the academic year 2019/20 was certainly challenging for us all! The Covid-19 pandemic spoilt much of what we had planned last year and you will see this reflected in the report. However, I would like to concentrate on the positives.

Firstly, can I express my thanks to all of our parents and carers and congratulate you on the efforts that you made during the spring lockdown. I know as a parent myself how stressful the whole experience was, but it was a pleasure to witness the work that was done and the many videos and photographs that were shared. They really cheered us all up every day.

I'm sure you would also join me in thanking our staff for their efforts in continuing to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for our children and maintaining contact with all of our families throughout. Many members of staff also worked at the regional childcare hub in Newtown at the height of the pandemic, putting themselves on the frontline for the good of the children.

Can I also thank our governing body for their support to the school during this time and to the Friends of the School who kept the pupils entertained with their fantastic videos.

My biggest tribute goes to our children who again proved their resilience and determination to succeed and who continue to amaze us every day. We at St. Michael's are always proud of our pupils and we missed them very much during the spring and early summer. It was great to have our pupils back for a short period in the summer and I know that we have all enjoyed being back to a new kind of normal this term. Let's hope that the new year will bring a fresh start for us all.

During last year, two major school improvement projects were completed in the form of a new heating system and of course our new roof. We were fortunate, with the help of the diocese to access Welsh Government funding to complete this work and are very pleased with the outcome.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mr Marc Phillips
Headteacher

SCHOOL GOVERNORS (2019-20)

Chair of Governors: Rev. Maggie Rich

Vice Chair: Mr Matthew Butler (Resigned March 2020)

Rev Jeanette Wilkes

Headteacher: Mr Marc Phillips

Clerk: Mrs Amy Lewis
c/o St. Michael's School
Tel: 670208

Foundation Governors:

Rev. Maggie Rich
Mr Simon Eastwood
Mr Martyn Davidson
Miss Ffion Evans
Mrs. Sue Benbow
Mr. Terry Batten

Ex.Officio: Rev. Jeanette Wilkes

Parent Governor: Matt Butler
Resigned March 2020

Local Authority Governor: Cllr. Kath Roberts-Jones

Community Council (co-opted): Mr David Jones

Teacher Governor: Miss Caitlin Welch

Non-Teaching Staff Governor: Mrs Donna Leach

SCHOOL STAFF (2019-20)

Headteacher: Mr M Phillips

Deputy Headteacher: Mr David Jarman

Class1: Mrs E Holloway

Class2: Mrs. Caitlin Mumford

Miss J Hughes (Maternity Cover until March 2020)

Class3: Mrs S Rendall / Mrs H Kuipers

Class4: Mr D Jarman

Foundation PPA Cover - Mrs A Derwas

Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator:

Mr David Jarman

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs J Ainscow
Miss L Hopkins
Miss R Pughe
Mrs J Mumford
Ms J Howarth
Mrs D Leach

Administrator: Mrs Amy Lewis

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-21

Autumn Term 2020

Term Starts: Wed 2nd Sep
Term Ends: Fri 16th Oct

Half Term Starts: Mon 19th Oct
Half Term Ends: Fri 30th Oct

Term Starts: Tue 2nd Nov
Term Ends: Fri 18th Dec

Non-Pupil Day : Tue 1st Sep
Non-Pupil Day : Mon 4th Nov

Good Friday: Fri 2nd April
Easter Monday: Mon 5th April

Spring Term 2021

Term Starts: Tue 5th Jan
Term Ends: Fri 12th Feb

Half Term Starts: Mon 15th Feb
Half Term End: Fri 19th Feb

Term Starts: Mon 22nd Feb
Term Ends: Fri 26th March

Non-Pupil Day – Mon 4th Jan

May Day: Mon 3rd May
Spring Bank Holiday: Mon 31st May

Summer Term 2021

Term Starts: Tue 13th Apr
Term Ends: Fri 28th May

Half Term Starts: Mon 31st May
Half Term Ends: Fri 4th June

Term Starts: Mon 7th Jun
Term Ends: Fri 16th Jul

Non-Pupil Day – Mon 12th Apr

SCHOOL SESSION TIMES

Infants:

Morning: 09.00 - 12.15
Break: 10.45 - 11.00
Lunch: 12.15 - 13.15
Afternoon: 13.15 - 15.00
Break: 14.30 - 14.40

Juniors:

Morning: 08.45 - 12.15
Break: 11.00 - 11.15
Lunch: 12.15 - 13.15
Afternoon: 13.15 - 15.15



ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE 2019-20

Schools are not required to report on attendance for 2019/20 due to the Covid situation.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We greatly value our status as a Church in Wales (aided) school and are committed to continuing the strong links we have with both the Cedewain Mission Area and the Diocese of St. Asaph.

Rev. Jeanette Wilkes took up her post in the Autumn Term and has delivered weekly acts of worship, with Rev. Maggie Rich, the Baptist chapel minister, continuing to visit us once a month. The school held a Harvest Service in the Autumn, followed by a Foundation Phase Nativity play and a beautiful Christmas Concert in St Michael's Church. The end of the term was, as is customary, marked by a school Christingle Service. Our whole school Humanities topic in the Spring, involved classes visiting the church, war graves and war memorial, to carry our research about the church, WW1 and the Old Schoolhouse. Sadly, due to Covid, our annual Easter celebrations were unable to take place. Year 6 pupils watched the diocesan Leavers' Service online in school at the end of the year.

During the year, we were also pleased to welcome members of the Cedewain Mission Area Storytellers group to school to perform imaginative, engaging bible stories for the whole school to enjoy.

St Michael's Worship Team goes from strength to strength and is expanding all the time. The team help to prepare and lead worship in school and in the joint church services for the school and local community. As part of their remit, the team also informs parents of events and church charity appeals, such as the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal and the Children's Society Christingle collection.

Mrs. Rendall - Worship Co-ordinator

CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022

With the release of the refined guidance for Curriculum for Wales in January 2020, the next phase of work has commenced here at St-Michaels. Curriculum realisation is a challenge for our school and we continuously drive to instil the four purposes for all the learners in our school.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This is reviewed annually and is implemented by teachers and governors on an on-going basis. The school has worked alongside our Challenge Advisor from Powys LA, Mrs Nia Vaughan, to raise standards in the core subjects through focused planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Our priorities for 2019/20 were:

- 1) To increase the amount of Literacy and Numeracy used across the curriculum
- 2) To improve standards in spelling and reading
- 3) To use and monitor a clear cycle of self evaluation
- 4) To further implement and develop planning for the new curriculum
- 5) To align RE with the four purposes

Our priorities for 2020/21 include:

- 1) To improve the phonics knowledge of pupils in the foundation phase
- 2) To improve pupils skills in Literacy and Numeracy

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The school prospectus is available on the school website. If you would like a paper copy, please ask Mrs. Lewis in the office.

GOVERNORS EXPENSES

Governors have not claimed any expenses from the school in relation to any of their school activities or attendance at meetings.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Policies are reviewed by members of staff and Governors on an on-going basis and amended where necessary. In 2019-20 the policies reviewed included: Admissions, Child Protection, Safeguarding and

Behaviour.

New policies, including those recommended by Powys Authority are considered and endorsed by the Governing Body as appropriate.

CHILD PROTECTION

The safety and wellbeing of our children is of the utmost importance. Staff, governors and volunteers all must be vetted by the criminal record bureau before they can work alongside children. These are updated every three years. Staff undertake regular training in child protection and most volunteers have also received training.



If any member of staff has cause to be concerned that a pupil may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or any other form of abuse the school will not hesitate to follow Child Protection Procedures and inform the Social Services Department of its concerns.

The appointed Governor with special responsibility for these matters is Mrs Kath Roberts-Jones

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety matters are regularly reviewed through inspection and Governor visits. The appointed Governor with special responsibility for these matters is Mr Simon Eastwood.

SECURITY

Your child's security is always at the forefront of the minds of all staff. In light of this the gates surrounding the school are kept locked and during this academic year. Access to visitors is through the main entrance only and the office has been moved downstairs in order for this to be monitored. A coded entry lock has also been installed on the internal access door. Staff wear lanyards and visitors will also need to sign in and be given a visitor pass.

TOILET FACILITIES

The school provides separate toilet facilities for boys and girls. These are cleaned to a very high standard and stocks replenished daily by our cleaners.

There is one designated disabled toilet equipped with a changing bed.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Good practice working towards Additional Learning Needs Reform continues to be implemented at St. Michael's. All learners on the ALN register now have One Page Profiles, which are shared throughout school, in order to ensure that children's needs are met, and understood by all members of staff. A One Page Profile is a document which celebrates children's strengths, as well as outline approaches to learning and behaviour management which are imperative to support individual growth. All children on the ALN register also have an IEP, which is an effective tool to help plan, teach, monitor and evaluate a particular student's progress.

Emotional learning activities enabled children to develop good relationships with peers and adults alike, and to start to regulate and understand their own behavior, these opportunities are provided within the classroom setting or with volunteers on a weekly basis. Children at School Action Plus on the additional needs register are entitled to Annual Reviews in a person centred format, and these have continued to be successful and enjoyable events including the participation of the learner, with a friend. With the current pandemic, annual reviews and meeting with external agencies have been completed on TEAMS.

Mr Jarman - ALN Coordinator

MORE ABLE AND TALENTED

Children with special aptitudes or abilities in areas such as diverse as language, maths, sport, music, IT or art etc are also identified and opportunities and activities to encourage them to pursue and develop their talent are provided wherever possible by members of staff.

PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

The Governors are committed to admitting pupils with a disability, provided appropriate and suitable provision can be made by the school, or the appropriate authority, to accommodate their particular needs. Should a child / children with a disability be admitted to the school, the Governing Body will ensure that they join in everyday activities with other pupils.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Governors are committed to admitting pupils with a disability, provided appropriate and suitable provision can be made by the school, or the appropriate authority, to accommodate their particular needs. Should a child / children with a disability be admitted to the school, the Governing Body will ensure that they join in everyday activities with other pupils.

SCHOOL AMBASSADOR'S REPORT



Our super ambassadors were again voted for by the pupils and play an important role as members of the school council.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council continued their hard work last year in ensuring that pupils have a say in their learning and various issues relating to school life. They held meetings to listen to the views of the pupils and acted upon these. The council organised a range of events and fundraisers to support the school, local groups and situations further afield.

ECO SCHOOLS

The ECO council have worked hard to ensure that pupils are aware of the importance of looking after our planet and encourage pupils to lead an eco-friendly lifestyle at school, including reducing waste and saving water.



FAIRTRADE

'Fairtrade' has been actively promoted throughout the school year. We organised coffee mornings using fairtrade goods and the children found out about how fairtrade works in their classes. We are now in the process of renewing our status as a 'Fair Achiever.'

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

The 'Healthy School' is one which takes responsibility for maintaining and promoting the health of all who 'learn, work, play and live' within it not only by formally teaching pupils about how to lead healthy lives but by enabling pupils to take control over aspects of the school environment which influence their health. It actively promotes, protects and embeds the physical, mental and social health and well-being of its pupils through positive action.

St. Michael's is a member of the KIVA anti-bullying program. All pupils in Key Stage Two complete an online annual KIVA survey on bullying in the school. The data is comparable year on year and can be used to measure our progress in tackling bullying as a whole school. Our KIVA team, consisting of myself, Mr Phillips and Mrs Holloway will tackle individual cases of bullying, through a very stringent procedure, involving the bully, victim /s and parents when necessary. All staff in the school, including dinner supervisors have received training and support the KIVA team in their work. KIVA teaching and learning resources, provided with the training, is used in PSHE lessons in years 3-6. For more information regarding KIVA, please see their website, where there is a lot of information on the ethos behind KIVA and the success it has already achieved not just in the U.K, but across Europe.

Mrs Rendall - KIVA Co-ordinator

USING WELSH LANGUAGE IN SCHOOL



English is the primary educational language throughout the school with Welsh being taught as a second language in all classes. This continues if the pupils move to Newtown High School. The school curriculum follows the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2 (Yrs 3 - 6) and the Foundation Phase curriculum for Reception and Year 1 and 2 pupils. We follow the local authority scheme of work which includes continuity and progression. There is not an opportunity for parents to choose the language in which instruction is given. The school encourages the pupils to use Welsh as much as possible with emphasis on the cultural awareness of the pupils in relation to Wales through the Cwriculwm Cymreig.

All members of staff work hard to develop use of the Welsh language through other subjects. We are very fortunate that numerous members of staff have attended sabbatical courses to improve their own language skills which allows them to help the children and adults to do the same.

Criw Cymraeg are a group of pupils who are responsible for ensuring that each class is aware of a 'welsh phrase of the week' and a 'welsh game of the week'.

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

The school is committed to providing 2 hours of P.E. provision per week for every pupil. Take up of after school clubs is good. There is a very good choice of out of school and extra-curricular experiences (netball, football, tag rugby, rounders, athletics, Fun and Faith, Urdd and fun and fitness) These cater for all ages and provide opportunities for pupils to develop social and life skills.

During the past year opportunities to compete in sporting events has been sadly limited due to Covid-19. We did however manage to participate in a range of activities including hockey, rugby, football and cross country. We look forward to joining other schools at events as soon as it is safe to do so.

TRIPS

Sadly, our opportunities for visits were severely restricted during 2019-20 but the whole school did enjoy a great day out at Chester Zoo. Year 5 enjoyed their residential visit to Llangrannog and we had visits from various organisations including the police.

LEAVERS

Most Year 6 pupils at St. Michael's moved on to Newtown High School whilst a minority elected to go to Bishops Castle Community College. We are always very proud of our leavers and hope that they will always remember their time at St. Michael's fondly. We wish them every success in the future.

Transition links between Year 6 and Year 7 are well embedded and very successful. Pupils can visit local high schools for transition days in the summer term and we meet with staff from each high school to discuss the pupils that they will be receiving.

SCHOOL MEALS

Meals are provided by the School Meals Service and delivered to the school from the canteen in Maesyrrhandir School, Newtown. A varied and healthy menu, set by Powys Catering, is issued each academic year along with details of costs.

Alternatively, children may bring their own packed lunches (*No glass bottles please*). As a 'Healthy School' we encourage all pupils to eat a healthy, balanced lunch every day and expect parents to prepare a healthy lunchbox for children who bring a packed lunch – sweets, chocolates and fizzy drinks are not allowed and please keep chocolate biscuits, crisps etc to a minimum.

'Parent Pay' continues to run smoothly and reduces workload for school staff.

COMMUNITY LINKS

'The school has a very positive partnership with parents.' *Estyn Inspection Report Feb 2013*

We are very grateful for the continued support of parents at our school. Without your help many trips and activities would simply not happen and we value the time that is given freely by our volunteers. We are also thankful for parents who can come into school to help out in class. Your generosity is also appreciated in donating to fundraising events, for school funds and other charities. We are aware that we often seek financial contributions and are very careful that any money donated is spent wisely for the benefit of the pupils.

Very strong links with the local community including St. Michael's Church give pupils a sense of belonging and place. They 'do their bit' for others because of the strong values and ethos of commitment in the village.

FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Friends of the School is an open and friendly group of parents, working towards a common goal; fundraising to enhance the education and experiences of ALL our children at school and strengthening the school community. These funds are used to purchase what the school requires throughout the academic year, from stationery and resources to developing the school's computer science resources. In particular WeDo Lego which is a progressive programmable device and programmable drones.

The Role of FOS Chair and Treasure were taken over in November by Paula Pryce and Ceri Corfield respectively, following the stepping down of Caroline Morgan, who had been in post as Chair for 3 years and Dawn Edwards who had been treasurer for 1 year.

This year has been a very difficult year for all charities due to the global pandemic prohibiting any organised events and social gatherings. Because of this, many of the planned fundraising events for the year had to be cancelled. Such as the Easter Trail and raffle, which would have been new for 2020, and lady's day, which was a great success in the summer of 2019. Some money was lost from planning the Easter trail and raffle as prizes had already been purchased and tickets produced; however, these were unforeseen circumstances.

The academic year of fundraising started off with a welly walk. The first year we did it had been so successful and this time was just as much fun. It was particularly muddy and wet, but that made it even better. The total amount raised from the welly walk was £1,640.70.

Christmas is always a busy time in school. FOS sourced supplies from Tesco for the Christingle service. Brought crackers for the children to pull while having their school Christmas lunch and not only provided lots of sweet treats, crisps, drinks, cakes and prizes for the children's Christmas discos, but we got to join in with the kids too! Providing the games, music and disco lights (Juniors). Everyone had a great time and the kids loved seeing their parents in school.

In February FOS introduced a 'make the rules day'. This is where the children decide which fun rules they are going to make for the day and then adhere to them for 1 day only. Such as wear your own clothes, have a non-fruit snack, wear you PJ's all day at school. This proved more successful than recent non uniform days and we raised £86.15. As always this is an optional donation from parents.

There was another great clothes collection for bags 2 school, which brought in £333.60. Easyfundraising continues to provide funds throughout the year, from parents continuing to access the site when online shopping.

Unfortunately due to lockdown and the children not being in school for the end of the academic year, there was no leavers party. However before lockdown FOS had contributed towards the year 6 hoodies. These were new for FOS but something we were proud to support, they all looked so smart.

During the year, in addition to what has already been mentioned, FOS have also paid for

- Hockey coaching
- Production of digital characters
- 2 Skips to aid with school clearance
- Parentkind (online resource for PTA's/FOS groups which also provides public liability insurance)

We have been lucky enough to secure grants from Gareg Llwyd Windfarm (£6,726.00), Kerry Community Council (£500) and Celt power (£400). The bulk of which, will be spent on amazing outdoor hands on learning equipment and activities for foundation phase.

Overall, the total of all the hard work in the year was £9,976.49 a tremendous amount of money for school! Some of which has not yet been spent due to the children finishing their school year early, however FOS will be keen to help the children with whatever resources necessary to enhance their wellbeing after such an unprecedented summer, when they return in September for the new school year.

None of this would be possible without the time and dedication of the FOS committee, FOS members and the support of the parents of St Michael's school. Thank you for providing gifts, prizes, cakes and your valuable time. I hope this will continue into the next year, so that we can continue to make our children's experience at St Michael's school the absolute best it can be.

ST. MICHAEL'S BUDGET REPORT – 2019/20

Total Delegated Funds	407,270
<u>EXPENDITURE AREA</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
SALARIES & WAGES	388,040
PREMISES	45,841
SUPPLIES, OFFICE & OTHER EXPENSES	37,722
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	471,603
TOTAL INCOME	(68,604)
NET EXPENDITURE	402,999
Underspend	(4,271)

PDG STATEMENT 2019-20

The Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) is allocated to schools with pupils who come from low income families and are currently known to be eligible for free school meals (e-FSM) and pupils who have been looked after continuously for more than six months (LAC).

Schools are expected to make the best use of this funding to implement sustainable strategies that will quickly bring about changes for learners eligible for free school meals or who are LAC.

As a school we have agreed the following three steps:

1. to identify the target group of pupils, its characteristics and needs
2. to plan interventions which make the most effective use of resources
3. to monitor and evaluate the impact of resources

In 2019-20 St. Michael's School was provided with a PDG allocation of £6,900

At St. Michael's we have a comprehensive plan, agreed and monitored by Powys Local Authority and ERW, to promote progress and remove barriers to learning for students eligible for this funding.

We have used the funding available to:

Continue to fund teaching assistant cover to provide intervention and support programmes that are proven to have the greatest impact and to be sustainable such as Nesy, Catch Up Literacy and Catch Up Maths.