



# **Beca and Bro Brynach Federation of Schools**

## **Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2023-2024**



## Contact Details

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Bro Brynach: 01994 448268	<a href="mailto:admin@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru">admin@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru</a>	<a href="http://www.brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru">www.brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru</a>

## A Word from the Chair

*For our Federation, the academic year 2023-24 has been a positive journey. Inspectors from ESTYN visited both schools in November 2023 and we were delighted to welcome two very positive reports in January, particularly highlighting the caring and supportive atmosphere in both schools and the excellent outdoor learning provision. Their suggestions for further improvement have been incorporated into our new School Development Plan which is already being implemented. We were also very happy in January 2024 to welcome Mr Mark Bowen as the new Headteacher of the Federation. He has taken on the role with enthusiasm, bringing in new ideas such as the school App, the half-termly newsletters, and extending opportunities for pupils and parents to offer feedback on school activities.*

*It is wonderful that all our pupils now have access to universal free school meals. Please note that if you are eligible, you should still register for Free School Meals, because being registered gives your child access to further support at school (through our pupil development grant) and financial assistance at home (through School Essentials).*

*As Governors, we would like to thank all the school staff for their unfailingly cheerful dedication to the wellbeing and education of the children in our care. Our schools are at the heart of our rural communities, and we value all the time and care that goes in to making them such lovely places for our children to grow.*

Dr Erica Thompson, Chair of Governors  
[erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru](mailto:erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru)

## A Message from the Headteacher

*On behalf of our whole team at Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your welcome as the Federation's new headteacher and for your continued support throughout this year. Both schools continue to thrive as happy and successful learning communities, a success made possible by the collective efforts of all our stakeholders—parents, carers, staff, pupils, and governors—working together. The professionalism and dedication of our staff have been exceptional and are a credit to us all. Your consistent support as families has been invaluable, and we deeply appreciate it.*

*This year has been a particularly busy and successful one for both schools. We do our best to share these experiences with the community - both schools issue a half-termly newsletter that provides a snapshot of school life, showcasing events, activities, and pupils' experiences. May I extend my gratitude to the staff for their efforts in preparing the newsletter, updating social media and for organising such valuable opportunities for our pupils.*

*We are continuing to make great progress on our journey in the new Curriculum for Wales, which is now statutory. Our pupils have benefited from engaging and meaningful learning opportunities, with particular highlights including outdoor learning experiences such as Llan Llanast and Mawrth Mwdlyd, educational visits and holing Federation themed days.*

*It has been a privilege to lead Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach since January 2024, and I am proud of the fantastic teams we have at both schools. Staff and pupils make our schools inspiring places to learn and grow. Through robust self-evaluation processes and regular monitoring activities, we remain committed to maintaining and striving for high standards of teaching and learning across the Federation.*

*I look forward to your continued support and input as we strive to support every pupil achieve their full potential in the year ahead.*

Mr. Mark Bowen  
Headteacher  
Ysgol Beca & Ysgol Bro Brynach

## The Governing Body

The Governing Body and the Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and by policies of the Local Authority (LA). While the LA is the employer of staff, the Governing Body and Headteacher have separate and particular responsibilities for the selection and management of staff. The internal management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

Name	Office	Term Expires
Mr. Mark Bowen	Headteacher	
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	Local Authority Representative	04.12.26
VACANT	Local Authority Representative	04.12.26
Mr. Wyn Evans	Local Authority Representative	04.12.26
Mr. Owain Young	Local Authority Representative	22.05.27
Dr. Adam Bowen	Parent Representative (Beca) and Vice-Chair	04.12.26
Mrs. Kay Mathias	Parent Representative (Beca)	04.12.26
VACANT	Parent Representative (Bro Brynach)	04.12.26
Dr. Erica Thompson	Parent Representative (Bro Brynach) and Co-chair	04.12.26
Mrs. Cathy Davies	Community Representative and Co-chair	30.01.27
Mrs. Sue Jones	Community Representative	30.01.27
Ms. Abigail Duggins	Community Representative	26.09.27
Mrs. Eleri Davies	Community Representative	05.12.28
Mrs. Sarah Roberts	Community Representative	05.12.28
Mrs. Alicia Williams	Staff Representative (Beca)	04.12.24
Mrs. Delyth Morris	Staff Representative (Bro Brynach)	04.12.24
Mr. Ben Batcup	Teacher Representative (Beca)	05.12.25
Mrs. Mari Reynolds	Teacher Representative (Bro Brynach)	04.12.24

Members of the Governing Body reflect the diversity of the local community. The chair is elected at the beginning of every academic year. The Governing Body is responsible for implementing Local Education Authority policies and Welsh Assembly Government legislation. Their role is like that of the board of directors in the world of business. The full Governing Body meets once every term. The Headteacher prepares detailed reports to be received and discussed by the governing body. These reports contain information about pupil achievements, curricular developments, staffing matters, etc. Governors regularly attend relevant training, monitor the school's performance carefully and support several school activities.

### Appointment of Governors

Periodically, there are opportunities to elect parent representatives to the Governing Body. You will be informed of these vacancies as they arise. We currently have two vacancies (see table above). Community Governors are co-opted by the board with a mind to ensuring that we have a broad representation of the local community and of relevant skills. If you would be interested in joining, please contact the school or the Chairperson with an expression of interest. Staff Governors are elected by the staff of each school. Local Authority Governors are appointed by Carmarthenshire Council.

### How do I contact the Governors?

If you have any enquiry or comment for the Board of Governors, you can write to the Chair either by email or letter to the school office. Your contribution is always welcomed. Parents' meetings can be requested and will be offered as necessary to ensure that parents have the opportunity to hear about and feed into the schools' decision making. [Further information can be accessed here.](#) Parents may request a meeting by contacting the Chair of Governors through e-mail ([erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru](mailto:erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru)).

**Meeting with Parents under Section 94 of the School Standards Organisation (Wales) Act 2013** There has not been a meeting with parents to report back on to you in this report. No meeting has been requested by parents.

### **Governors' Expenses**

No Governor claimed individual expenses this year.

### **Self-Evaluation**

Monitoring and assessment exercises are regularly carried out by the curriculum groups and members of the school's Senior Management Team in accordance with the schools' improvement programme. Aspects that require further development are recorded in the School Development Plan (see below).

In addition, governors participate in monitoring activities when requested. This involvement provides Governors with valuable insights into the strengths and areas for development within both schools, enabling them to support and challenge effectively in their governance roles.

### **Policies**

The Governing Body regularly reviews school policies as part of an ongoing rolling programme. Policies are available on the school website and can also be requested by contacting the school office.

## **Safeguarding**

### **Safeguarding Contacts**

The Designated Safeguarding Person for both schools is Mr. Mark Bowen ([mark.bowen@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru](mailto:mark.bowen@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru)). Mr. Benjamin Batcup and Miss Sian Bryan are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Persons for Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach.

The Safeguarding Link Governor is Ms Abigail Duggins ([abigail.duggins@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru](mailto:abigail.duggins@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru)). We work closely with other local agencies to ensure a joined-up approach to safeguarding. If you have concerns about any aspect of safeguarding, please come to us.

### **Online Safety**

We would like to remind parents and guardians that the online safety environment is constantly changing. School staff attend regular training, and we discuss online safety with the children at an age-appropriate level, responding to any new developments. Please see <https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online> for additional resources, advice and training to help you and your family stay safe online and do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns about your child's online experience or behaviours.

### **Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policies**

Our schools do not tolerate bullying. We are proud of the inclusive, caring and warm ethos of both schools. We have anti-bullying and behaviour policies which are regularly reviewed and understood by the children.

## **Complaints Procedure**

Both Schools follow the Welsh Government requirements with respect to complaints received. The policy has been discussed and accepted by the Governors. Copies are available at either school if required.

- The first port of call is your child's class teacher, who will normally be able to deal with concerns informally.
- If this does not resolve your concern, or if your concern is about the class teacher, you should contact the Headteacher.
- If this does not resolve your concern, or if your concern is about the Headteacher, please contact the Chair of Governors.

## School Prospectus and Website

The school prospectus has been prepared by the school and has been published. An electronic copy of the prospectus can be found on the school website. A new website has been created for both schools and can be accessed here: <https://brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru/> or <https://beca.ysgolccc.cymru/>

## School Finances

The two schools maintain separate school budgets and accounts and will continue to do so. The Governors oversee spending to ensure that we are making effective use of our resources to provide the best possible education for all of the children in our care, fulfilling the School Development Plan, and addressing national priorities.

<b>Overall Budget Summary</b>	<b>Ysgol Beca</b>	<b>Ysgol Bro Brynach</b>
Surplus carried forward from 2022-23	£89,354	£9,903
School expenditure 2023-24	£259,817	£440,698
Surplus carried forward to 2024-25	£75,206	£10,866

<b>Grants Received 2023-24</b>	<b>Ysgol Beca</b>	<b>Ysgol Bro Brynach</b>
School Standards	£20,833	£50,168
Pupil Development Grant	£6,444	£5,987
Curriculum Reform	£740	£1,112
Professional Learning	£1,834	£1,834
ALN	£1,948	£2,837

### Ysgol Beca

Gwelir isod crynodeb sefyllfa ariannol terfynol eich ysgol ar gyfer 2023/24.

Please see below a summary of your school's final outturn position for 2023/24.

£

Gwariant Net 2023/24	259,817	Net Expenditure 2023/24
Dyraniad Ariannu yn ôl Fformwla 2023/24	-245,669	Formula Funding Allocation 2023/24
Arian Wrth Gefn a Ddysgwyd Ymlaen o 2022/23	<u>-89,354</u>	Surplus Brought Forward from 2022/23
Arian Wrth Gefn yn Cario Drosodd i 2024/25	<u>-75,206</u>	Surplus Carried Forward to 2024/25

### Ysgol Bro Brynach

Gwelir isod crynodeb sefyllfa ariannol terfynol eich ysgol ar gyfer 2023/24.

Please see below a summary of your school's final outturn position for 2023/24.

£

Gwariant Net 2023/24	440,698	Net Expenditure 2023/24
Dyraniad Ariannu yn ôl Fformwla 2023/24	-441,661	Formula Funding Allocation 2023/24
Arian Wrth Gefn a Ddysgwyd Ymlaen o 2022/23	<u>-9,903</u>	Surplus Brought Forward from 2022/23
Arian Wrth Gefn yn Cario Drosodd i 2024/25	<u>-10,866</u>	Surplus Carried Forward to 2024/25

## Carmarthenshire Term Dates and School INSET Days

Term	Term begins	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn 2023	Monday 4th September	Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November	Friday 22nd December
Spring 2024	Monday 8th January	Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February	Friday 22nd March
Summer 2024	Monday 8th April	Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May	Friday 19th July
Autumn 2024	Tuesday 3rd September	Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	Friday 20th December
Spring 2025	Monday 6th January	Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February	Friday 11th April
Summer 2025	Monday 28th April	Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	Monday 21st July

### **INSET Days (School closed for staff training)**

- 2.9.2024
- 25.10.2024 (Bro Brynach) and 4.11.2024 (Beca)
- 6.1.2025
- 3.3.2025
- 21.7.2025

**One additional INSET day** will be arranged with at least two weeks' notice given.

## Information about the Beca and Bro Brynach School Federation

### **Leadership**

The Federation has a dedicated and experienced leadership team, which includes Mr. Mark Bowen, Miss Sian Bryan and Mr. Ben Batcup. Together, they work collaboratively to ensure the smooth operation and strategic development of both schools within the Federation.

### **The Federation's Language Policy**

Welsh is the official language of Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach. Welsh is the only medium of instruction in the Foundation Phase. English is introduced into the curriculum as a subject in Year 3. In accordance with the Bilingual Policy of the Education Authority, standardised learning resources are provided to ensure that pupils can communicate easily both verbally and in writing in both Welsh and English by the time they leave school.

### **Curriculum and Parent/Carer Engagement**

The Curriculum for Wales became statutory as of September 2022 and learning is identified as a learning continuum. A summary of the school's curriculum can be found on the school website.

The four purposes are at the heart of the curriculum and are the starting point and aspiration for the schools' curriculum design. The aim of a school's curriculum is to support its learners 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 of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

As part of the new curriculum, there is no right for parents to withdraw their children from relationship and sexuality education.

The Federation's curriculum will continue to be developed and reviewed, and staff will carefully plan to ensure curriculum requirements are successfully implemented to enable children to experience a wide range of teaching styles; including whole class, mixed ability groups, paired and individual approaches to learning. Planning from September 2024 will be building on pupils' previous knowledge and understanding.

Pupil voice will be an integral part of our curriculum. It will be pupil informed and dependent on the interests of the children as much as is possible, whilst still ensuring coverage of the curriculum. Each new theme begins with engaging 'Spark' sessions, where pupils can share what they already know and express what they would like to learn. Additionally, both schools invite parents/carers, together with their children, to complete a theme ideas sheet, providing families with a voice and meaningful input into the content of the term's theme.

The School Development Plan focuses on specific curriculum areas and other aspects of the school's operations, identifying key targets for improvement. These targets are monitored and reported on termly basis, this is checked through core visits from the schools' School Improvement Advisor.

We aim to provide a diverse range of purposeful learning activities appropriate for the age and developmental stage of each child. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the school curriculum, you can do so with your child's class teacher. We hold regular parents' evenings at which you can discuss your child's progress and targets, and open evenings when you can come to school and see your child's classroom environment and books. Parents / carers will receive an end of year report by their child's class teacher.

Both schools have social media pages, a school app and a half termly newsletter, with updates and photographs of school activities, where we have permission to share these. Access to these is available on the school website. We need parent/carer consent to share images of pupils. If you would like to update your consent for use of photography at any time, please contact the school.

### **Additional Learning Needs Provision**

Children and young people with ALN need extra support to learn. This would be because they either find it harder to learn than other children of the same age or have a disability that means they cannot use, or find it difficult to use, facilities for learning in our school. Some children and young people who need extra help in school do not have an ALN. This may be children who just need some help catching up.

The extra support given to children with ALN to help them learn is called additional learning provision (sometimes called ALP). This must be written into a support plan called an individual development plan (IDP). Additional learning provision for a person aged three or over is education that is additional to, or different from, what is made available to most children of the same age. Additional learning provision is specifically designed for children or young people who require extra assistance to make progress, beyond what most of their peers of the same age typically need. Additional learning provision can be delivered by teachers or teaching assistants. It can also be delivered by specialist services like a speech and language therapist or teachers of the deaf.

The ALN system emphasizes increased collaboration, and we will work with you, your child and other professionals following the person-centred approach to decide how best to meet your child's needs. Our school will move children



to the ALN system after giving you an IDP notice. An IDP notice means we have decided that a child has ALN and an IDP will be made for the child. A no IDP notice means we have decided that the child does not have ALN and an IDP will not be made for the child. For example, children may be given a no IDP notice because their needs have changed, and they no longer need additional support to learn. Sometimes, disagreements can arise. Most of the time, disagreements can be resolved by discussing the problem with us. If you are unhappy with anything, you should make your views known as soon as possible. Always speak to the school's additional learning needs coordinator (ALNCo) as soon as you have worries or concerns so that that can be resolved at an early stage. If you are still unhappy, then you can talk to the local authority to seek further advice.

Teachers at the school possess expertise and are committed to provide a purposeful education for all pupils including those with Additional Learning Needs. Parents / carers who have any concerns regarding the educational, physical, emotional development or behaviour of their child are invited to discuss them with the class teacher, Headteacher or ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator).

**Miss Sian Bryan** is the ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator) and works across both Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach.

### **Physical Education and Sports Activities**

We encourage all pupils to live healthily and to look after their bodies. Physical Education is an integral part of the school's timetable and sessions are allocated for physical education during the week. Teaching about the effect of physical education on the body and nurturing attributes such as effort, fair play, playing together, perseverance and self-confidence. The Physical Education provision at the school is varied and includes games, gymnastics, dance, swimming and athletics in line with curricular requirements. Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach have several sports teams that provide an opportunity for pupils to compete individually and as part of a team. These teams compete in Urdd competitions and in local festivals such as rugby, football, and netball.

Extra-curricular clubs have been led by the Urdd, school staff and volunteers. Thank you to all of those who have supported the schools with this provision.

Also, both schools come together during the summer term to participate in a Federation health and wellbeing day. This year, it was held at Llanboidy Football Club and the pupils enjoyed mixing and participating in various activities. In addition, pupils collected sponsorship money to raise funds for their respective school.

### **Students and Work Experience Pupils**

When opportunities arise, both schools do welcome students from Trinity St. David's University and Coleg Sir Gâr for placements as part of their training, as well as pupils from the area's Secondary Schools on work experience.

### **School Buildings & Premises**

The school premises are maintained to ensure a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for pupils, staff, and visitors. Regular inspections are carried out to identify any necessary repairs or improvements. Any works required to address health and safety concerns are promptly attended to by contractors appointed by the county, ensuring compliance with all relevant regulations and standards. The diligent work of the cleaners and caretakers in maintaining high standards of cleanliness throughout the schools is very much appreciated.

### **Toilet Facilities**

#### **Ysgol Beca**

Toilet facilities at the school meet the needs of pupils. For pupils in Year 3 – Year 6, the toilet conveniences are made up of 4 toilets, each in a separate cubicle next to their classroom. For pupils in Nursery – Year 2, the toilet conveniences are made up of 4 toilets, each in a separate cubicle next to their classroom. The toilets are cleaned daily by a cleaner. The school pays for the services of a cleaner employed by the Local Authority. There are toilets for staff/visitors including one that is accessible to wheelchair users which has a changing bed.

#### **Ysgol Bro Brynach**

Pupils in Year 1 - Year 6 have access to 4 toilets, each in a separate cubicle. Nursery - Reception pupils have access to 4 toilets each in a separate cubicle in their classroom. There are two sets of toilets for staff members and in addition

a disabled toilet and a changing bed. There are separate toilet facilities available for staff and pupils in the school hall building. The toilets are cleaned daily by a cleaner. The school pays for the services of a cleaner employed by the Local Authority.

### **School Staff**

We are very fortunate to have a hard working and committed team of staff at both schools who work extremely hard to ensure that all children have the best possible opportunities and enjoyment at school. I would personally like to thank them all for their continued commitment and diligence to their roles.

	<b>Ysgol Beca</b>	<b>Ysgol Bro Brynach</b>
Headteacher	Mrs Mai Giles (Acting: Sept 2022 – April 2023) Mrs Vanessa Roberts (Acting: April/May 2023) Miss Sian Bryan (Acting: June - December 2023) Mr Mark Bowen (from January 2024)	
Teachers	<b>Foundation Phase:</b> Miss Sara Gwyther and Mrs Helen Thomas (Jan-July 2023) Miss Georgina Phillips (September 2023 – July 2024) Miss Mared Dafydd (from September 2024) <b>KS2:</b> Miss Angharad John (Jan-October) and Miss Carys James (Jan- July 2023) Mr Ben Batcup (from Sept 2023)	Miss Jessica Morris (Nursery and Reception)  Miss Rebecca Wilson (Y1 and 2 until December 2023) Miss Sian Bryan (from January 2024)  Mrs Sarah Newman (Y3 and 4)  Mrs Mari Reynolds (Y5 and 6)
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Elinor Twose (until July 2024) Mrs Alicia Williams Mrs Vicky Russant (until Oct 2023)	Mrs Helen Seal Mrs Delyth Morris Mrs Diane Jones Mrs Davina Hawkins Miss Elin Lewis
Midday Supervisors	Mrs Helen Bourton	Mrs Danielle Bramwell
School Administrators	Mrs Irene Davies Mrs Vicky Russant (from May 2023 - Oct 2024)	Mrs Liz Llewelyn (until May 2023) Mrs Vicky Russant (from May 2023 - Oct 2024)
Clerk to Governing Body	Mrs Sarah MacDonald	
Caretaker	Mrs Helen Bourton	Mr Gethin Price
Kitchen Staff	Mrs Joanne Parker Mrs Helen Bourton	Mr Jonathan Balfour Mrs Cynthia Phillips
Cleaner	Mrs Helen Bourton	Mrs Daisy Dillon Ms Sharon Pickup

## **School Attendance Academic Year 2023-2024**

School	Attendance %	Authorised %	Unauthorised %
<b>Ysgol Beca</b>	93.5	6.07	0.43
<b>Ysgol Bro Brynach</b>	95.29	4.6	0.11

For the 2024-2025 academic year, both schools have an attendance target of 95%. Schools across Wales are continuing to work closely with the Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) to track and support those families where attendance is below satisfactory. The school and EWO aim to work in a supportive role but now have the power to process fines and refer to prosecution where attendance levels do not improve despite intervention. The school

monitors attendance and punctuality on a regular basis. Absence from school is a contributing factor in low pupil achievement, so Welsh Government continues to target attendance. Parents are encouraged to take holidays when school is closed, or these days may be recorded as unauthorised absences.

Where attendance falls below an acceptable level, the school will work in collaboration with the Education Wellbeing Officers and parents/carers to improve attendance rates. Warnings and fines may be issued where deemed necessary. Parents/carers must notify the school of their child's absence, providing a valid reason, whenever pupils are unable to attend. The school issues attendance information to parents/carers and the end of every term and when necessary. [Further information about school attendance can be accessed here.](#)

If you wish to take your child out of school for a holiday you must complete a holiday request form available from the school office.

**Request:** A few children arrive late for the start of school. This not only puts them at a disadvantage but also disrupts the learning of others. Please, make every effort to ensure that your children arrive on time as this helps them develop habits that will benefit them, not only now, but in the future. Pupils can arrive between 8:40 and 9:00. Registration begins at 9:00. Regular attendance at school is essential and missing school can have a significant impact on achievement over the course of a year as shown below:

Attendance 95-100%	The best chance of success	Your child takes full advantage of every learning opportunity.
Attendance 90-95%	Missed at least 2 weeks of learning	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
Attendance 85-90%	Missed at least 4 weeks of learning	Your child could be at risk of underachieving and needs extra support from you to catch up with work.
Attendance 80-85%	Missed at least 5½ weeks of learning	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Attendance under 80%	Missed at least 7½ weeks of learning	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You risk being sued.

## School Times

<b>Ysgol Beca</b>			
Gates open at 8:40. Pupils should arrive between 8:40 – 9:00. Pupils should be collected promptly at 15:00.			
<b>School Group</b>	<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon Session</b>
Nursery – Year 2	9:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 13:00	13:00 – 15:00
Year 3 – Year 6	9:00 – 12:15	12:15 – 13:00	13:00 – 15:00

<b>Ysgol Bro Brynach</b>			
Doors open at 8:40. Pupils should arrive between 8:40 – 9:00. Pupils should be collected promptly at 15:15.			
<b>School Group</b>	<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon Session</b>

Nursery – Year 2	Nursery – Reception Pupils: 9:00 – 11:45  Year 1 – 2: 9:00 – 12:00	11:45 – 13:00	13:00 – 15:15 <i>Afternoon Part-time Nursery Pupils:</i> 13:00 – 15:15
Year 3 – Year 6	9:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 13:00	13:00 – 15:15

## School Improvement and Strategy

### **ESTYN Inspection**

ESTYN reports for both Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach are available on the ESTYN website. Ysgol Bro Brynach were asked to produce a report on effective practice following the inspection: [Effective use of the outdoor areas to develop pupils' skills across the curriculum.](#)

### **Our School Development Plan Priorities (2024-2025)**

<b>Priority 1: Develop an effective plan under the guidance of the county's numeracy to improve pupils' problem-solving skills when applying and connecting the 5 skills in a variety of real-life contexts across the curriculum.</b>
<b>Priority 2: Develop a digital system that tracks pupils' progress, enabling teachers to adapt their teaching to support and challenge all pupils appropriately.</b>
<b>Priority 3: Supporting pupils to improve their use of Welsh in informal situations.</b>
<b>Priority 4: Develop the roles and effectiveness of leaders at all levels to ensure improvement across the Federation.</b>
<b>Priority 5: Refine planning to ensure that pupils make solid progress in their digital skills.</b>

Both schools are working towards these priorities with a comprehensive strategy for monitoring, evaluation and improvement, led by the Senior Leadership Team and supported by the Local Authority and the Governors.

Following the recent Estyn inspection and report, Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach will prioritise acting on the areas for improvement identified by Estyn to ensure continued development and success. The key areas for improvement highlighted by Estyn are:

- **R1 Continue to develop effective leadership across the federation**
- **R2 Ensure that planning enables pupils to make sound progress in their digital skills**
- **R3 Ensure consistency in the arrangements for embedding the role of pupils in their learning across the federation.**

### **Developing the Beca and Bro Brynach Federation of Schools**

We continue to strengthen collaboration across the Federation, creating opportunities for pupils and staff alike. Pupils enjoy joint educational visits, themed days at each other's schools, and the chance to build friendships that will support them as they transition to secondary education. For staff, the Federation fosters a collaborative environment, enabling shared planning, the exchange of strengths, and teamwork to drive improvements across both schools.

## Healthy School

As always, we continue to promote an active lifestyle at both schools that allow children to develop their physical skills and their awareness of healthy eating. We do this through formal lessons and the use of visitors from external

agencies which promote exercise for fun and healthy eating. We also continue to make good use of our school garden to develop pupils' understanding of growing food. All pupils take part in outdoor learning activities throughout the year. All our classes learn about being healthy through their curriculum topics, with pupils having the opportunity to benefit from visitors such as the Carmarthenshire Sport Development Officers, School Nurse, Fire Service, NSPCC, and PCSOs to learn more about keeping their bodies and minds as safe and healthy as possible. The school is also completing the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing survey to ensure that the school focuses on the wellbeing of pupils and all stakeholders.

### **Fruit Shop**

The Fruit Shop is active in both schools. The purpose of the shop is to encourage eating healthy snacks and fruit and vegetables can be purchased daily, weekly or termly. Pupils who do not wish to buy fruit from the shop are welcome to bring their own fruit and vegetables themselves as a snack. As a school we do not allow unhealthy snacks.

### **Healthy Packed Lunches**

Pupils are welcome to bring a packed lunch to school. As a school that actively promotes health and well-being, we encourage parents/carers to prepare healthy packed lunches for their children, reinforcing our consistent messages about healthy eating and drinking.

### **Drink**

Water and Milk are the only drink we will provide in both schools to comply with the Regulations Healthy Eating in Schools. Children are encouraged to follow healthy lifestyles and to keep hydrated during the day by accessing clean drinking water. Pupils can bring water bottles daily. Free Milk is available for all learners in Nursery to Year 2. Fresh water is also available for pupils to drink with their lunch in the lunch hall.

### **Free School Meals for all Primary School Children**

As a result of the increasing pressure in terms of food costs on families, the free School meals scheme was introduced in September 2022 and now all pupils of primary school age receive universal free school meals. Please be aware that families can continue to access or register for a School Essential Grant (see below).

## **Additional Information**

### **PDG and School Essentials grants available for families**

Don't forget to apply for Free School Meals if you can – even if your child already gets a free school meal as part of universal provision. In addition to the free meals, **being registered also gives your child access to further support at school (through our PDG) and financial assistance at home (through School Essentials).**

A School Essentials Grant provides financial assistance of up to £125 per child for the purchase of items such as school uniform, shoes, waterproofs, sports kit, equipment (bags, stationery), IT equipment (laptops, tablets).

[Check if you're eligible](#) for help with school essentials and [apply online](#) through Carmarthenshire Council website.

## **Community Links**

### **Ysgol Beca**

The school enjoys a strong and ever-developing relationship with the local community, which plays an active role in supporting the education and well-being of our pupils. The community regularly engages with the school by participating in activities such as reading with pupils, holding gardening sessions, and leading folk dancing workshops. The local vicar frequently visits to hold assemblies, as do other visitors to enrich pupils' experiences. The school is proud to host a community garden, which serves as a shared space for learning and collaboration. Educational visits are arranged termly to complement the curriculum, and we are grateful for regular visits from the Police Education Officers, Road Safety Officers, Fire Safety Team, and School Nurse, who provide essential learning experiences in safety and well-being.

The Urdd is an important aspect of the school. Pupils can compete in local, county and national Eisteddfodau individually and/or as part of a group. Ysgol Beca will continue to compete in Pembrokeshire's Urdd competitions.

We are deeply appreciative of the ongoing support from the PTA and the Community Council, whose contributions are invaluable in enriching the life of the school and fostering a strong sense of community.

### **Ysgol Bro Brynach**

Ysgol Bro Brynach enjoys a strong and ever-developing relationship with the local community, which plays an active role in supporting the education and well-being of its pupils. The community regularly engages with the school by leading French lessons and various creative projects. The local vicar frequently visits to hold assemblies, along with other visitors who enrich pupils' experiences.

The school takes full advantage of local facilities, such as the new park and climbing frame, providing pupils with additional opportunities for play and physical activity. Pupils also visit the church regularly and participate in community events such as the Christmas fair, strengthening the connection between the school and the local community. Corlan, a local choir, use the school hall to practice weekly.

Educational visits are arranged termly to complement the curriculum, and we are grateful for regular visits from the Police Education Officers, Road Safety Officers, Fire Safety Team, and School Nurse, who provide essential learning experiences in safety and well-being.

The Urdd is an important aspect of life at Ysgol Bro Brynach. Pupils can compete in local, county, and national Eisteddfodau individually and as part of a group. Ysgol Bro Brynach will continue to compete in Carmarthenshire's Urdd competitions.

We are deeply appreciative of the ongoing support from the PTA and the local community, whose contributions are invaluable in enriching the life of the school and fostering a strong sense of community.

**Diolch am eich cefnogaeth barhaus!  
Thank you for your continued support!**