



Beca and Bro Brynach School Federation Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2022-2023

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A word from the Chair

This is the first report of the Federated Governing Body of Beca and Bro Brynach since we formally joined forces in November 2022. It has been a challenging year for both schools working with interim leadership while we persevered with recruiting a new permanent Headteacher for our Federation. The Governors are proud of both school communities for pulling together as a team and keeping the ship afloat during this time. It is a measure of the resilience of our schools that in addition to maintaining the caring and supportive learning environment we offer, our progress towards wider goals has continued. Particular thanks must go to Miss Sian Bryan who has ably stepped up as Acting Headteacher since June and has been an absolute lifesaver for us all. A highlight from last summer was celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ysgol Beca and saying a massive Penblwydd Hapus to all who have been associated with Beca over the years, with a great party including a fabulous singing session with the Welsh Whisperer. We have also recently been visited by ESTYN inspectors, an opportunity to show our strengths and constructively discuss how to make further progress. Next term we will be delighted to welcome our new Headteacher Mr Mark Bowen to the schools and very much look forward to working with him.

Dr Erica Thompson, Chair of Governors
erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru

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).**

School Essentials 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.

About the Governors

Name	Office	Term Expires
Miss Sian Bryan	Headteacher (Acting)	<i>ex officio</i>
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	Local authority	04-Dec-26
Mr Bradley Challinor	Local authority	04-Dec-26
Mr Wyn Evans	Local authority	04-Dec-26
Mr Owain Young	Local authority	22-May-27
Dr Adam Bowen	Parent (Beca)	04-Dec-26
Mrs Kay Mathias	Parent (Beca) and Vice-Chair	04-Dec-26
Mr Robert Morgan	Parent (Bro Brynach)	04-Dec-26
Dr Erica Thompson	Parent (Bro Brynach) and Chair	04-Dec-26
Mrs Cathy Davies	Community and Vice-Chair	30-Jan-27
Mrs Sue Jones	Community	30-Jan-27
Ms Abigail Duggins	Community	26-Sep-27
vacant	Community	-
vacant	Community	-
Mrs Alicia Williams	Staff (Beca)	04-Dec-24
Mrs Delyth Morris	Staff (Bro Brynach)	04-Dec-24
Mr Ben Batcup	Teacher (Beca)	05-Sep-25
Mrs Mari Reynolds	Teacher (Bro Brynach)	04-Dec-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 LEA policies and Welsh Assembly Government legislation. Their role is similar to 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.

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.

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 Chair 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 will be offered as necessary to ensure that parents have the opportunity to hear about and feed into the schools' decision making. Parents may request a meeting by contacting the Chair of Governors (erica.thompson@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru).

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 Upper Management Team in accordance with the schools' improvement programme. Aspects that require further development are recorded in the School Development Plan (see below).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding contacts

The Designated Safeguarding Person for both schools is Miss Sian Bryan (sian.bryan@brobrynach.ysgolccc.cymru).

The Safeguarding Link Governor is Ms Abigail Duggins (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 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.

Overall budget summary	Ysgol Beca	Ysgol Bro Brynach
School expenditure 2022-23	£249,440	£432,131
Surplus carried forward from 2021-22	£95,583	£62,748
Surplus carried forward to 2023-24	£89,354	£9,903

Grants received 2022-23	Ysgol Beca	Ysgol Bro Brynach
Foundation Phase	£15,300	£26,100
Pupil Development Grant	£6,900	£9,200
EIG	£3,178	£4,530
Professional Learning	£1,702	£2,481
RRRS	£6,164	£8,640
ALN	£1,331	£1,441

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

INSET days

- **Friday 27th October**
- **Friday 22nd December**
- **Monday 8th January**
- **Monday 8th April**

Further INSET days will be arranged with at least two weeks' notice given.

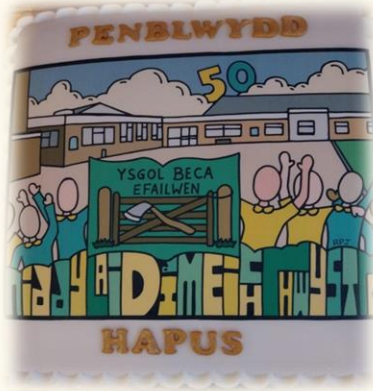


October: Ysgol Beca pupils hosted Rugby World Cup activities including a quiz with pupils visiting from Bro Brynach



Session times
 9am – 3pm
 Lunch: 12-1pm (Foundation Phase)
 or 12.15-1pm (Key Stage 2)
 Please notify the school immediately
 of any absence: 01994 419423

Penblwydd Hapus Beca!
 We celebrated the school's 50th birthday in the summer with a fabulous party, lovely cake, and enthusiastic singing with the Welsh Whisperer!



Gardening Club
 The school grounds and garden are very special and we would like to thank Mrs Emma Raven and the PTA for their ongoing support and hard work making the playground beautiful, productive and educational.



Beca on S4C
 We had fun with Ben Dant from Bendibwmbwls 😊

Staffing changes
 Mrs Helen Thomas retired in 2023 after many years of service to the school community. We wish her a wonderful retirement with her family. We also said farewell to Miss Sara Gwyther, Miss Carys James who has gone travelling to Australia, and Miss Angharad John who is joining the police service!



CogUrdd
 Well done Osian!



Social Media
 Join [the Ysgol Beca Facebook page](#) to view updates about school activities.

Annual Report

Session times:

9am – 3.15pm

Lunch: 12-1pm

Please notify the school immediately of any absence: 01994 448268

Part-time nursery pupils attend from 1pm to 3.15pm



Urdd

Success and two medals for Maria!



Go Bro Brynach!

Well done to our amazing tag rugby and netball teams



Cymro / Cymraes yr Wythnos



Many thanks to our PTA for their fun events raising money for the benefit of our children and school, including the Easter Egg Hunt, the Summer Fete /Duck Race and the Christmas Party. The PTA are always in need of volunteers to help, please contact via the school.



Connect with [the Ysgol Bro Brynach Facebook page](#) to view updates about school activities. There is also a [Bro Brynach Parents Facebook group](#) for parents and carers.

About the Beca / Bro Brynach School 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, standardized learning resources are provided to ensure that pupils are able to communicate easily both verbally and in writing in both Welsh and English by the time they leave school.

Additional Learning Needs Provision

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

Miss Sian Bryan is the ALNCo working across both Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach.

Students/Work Experience Pupils

The schools 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 diligent work of the cleaners and Caretakers in maintaining high standards of cleanliness throughout the schools is very much appreciated. Diolch.

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. Diolch

	Ysgol Beca	Ysgol Bro Brynach
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	Foundation Phase: Miss Sara Gwyther and Mrs Helen Thomas (Jan-July 2023) Miss Georgina Phillips (from Sept 2023) KS2: 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+2) Mrs Sarah Newman (Y3+4) Mrs Mari Reynolds (Y5+6)
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Elinor Twose 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 Liz Llewelyn
Clerk to Governing Body	Mrs Sarah MacDonald	
Caretaker	Mrs Helen Bourton	Mr Gethin Price
Kitchen Staff	Mrs Joanne Parker	Mr Jonathan Balfour Mrs Cynthia Phillips
Cleaner	Mrs Helen Bourton	Mrs Daisy Dillon Ms Sharon Pickup

School improvement and strategy

ESTYN Inspection

Ysgol Beca and Ysgol Bro Brynach were both visited by inspectors from ESTYN in November 2023. We were excited to be able to show the inspectors our two caring and supportive schools. We look forward to the publication of both reports, which will be available on the ESTYN website in January 2024.

Our School Development Plan (September 2023)

Priority 1: Stabilise leadership across the federation. Strengthen self-evaluation processes so that leaders at all levels act more strategically when evaluating the quality of the provision and implementing the necessary improvements.

Priority 2: Refine and embed teaching and assessment methods that have the greatest impact on pupils' learning and incorporate this good practice across the federation.

Priority 3: Strengthen the provision to support pupils to enjoy and make progress in their reading skills, especially advanced reading skills.

Priority 4: Provide a wide and progressive range of learning experiences that fully develop pupils' digital skills.

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 Estyn inspection and report, we expect to revise the School Development Plan to act upon any priorities identified there for further improvement.

Curriculum and parent/guardian engagement

We aim to provide a diverse range of enjoyable and 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 open evenings when you can come to school and see your child's classroom environment and books. Both schools have social media pages with updates and photographs of school activities, where we have permission to share these. If you would like to update your consent for use of photography at any time, please contact the school.

The Beca / Bro Brynach Federation

We are continuing to embed working across the Federation. Pupils have opportunities to go on trips together, visit each other's schools to use the different facilities, and to make friends who will be with them as they progress into secondary education. From the staff point of view, the Federation allows joint planning to share work and build on specific strengths. Moving to a formal Federation has been a positive experience.

Leadership

We are delighted to welcome Mr Mark Bowen as our new Headteacher of the Beca / Bro Brynach Federation in January 2024. With our thanks for her service as Acting Head, in 2024 Miss Sian Bryan will return to her post as Assistant Headteacher and Class Teacher of Year 1 and 2 at Ysgol Bro Brynach.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth barhaus!