

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Governing Body of Mountain Ash Comprehensive School

Annual Report to Parents 2017-18

This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions.

1. Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Mrs Claire Jones, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, New Road, Mountain Ash, CF45 4DG.

2. Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Councillor P Jarman, 3 Middle Row, Cwmpennar, Mountain Ash, CF45 4DN.

3. Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the governing body.

Name	Category of Governor	Appointed by	Retirement Date
Cllr P Jarman Mr H Milton Mr D Allen Mrs H O'Sullivan Vacancy	LEA	Council Members	23.09.19 23.09.19 19.01.20 20.09.20
Mr A Williams Mrs C Wakefield Mr C Brooks Mrs J Miles Mr G Newton	Community Governors	Governing Body	30.03.22 31.03.21 31.08.19 22.05.22 22.07.19
Mrs L Meikle Mrs S Burrows Mrs C Lock Mr C Francis Mrs A Evans Mr G Taylor	Parent	Parents	01.10.22 22.07.19 11.02.23 31.01.20 30.01.22 31.01.21
Mr I Sheppard Miss J Evans	Teacher	Teaching Staff	31.10.19 12.09.21
Miss C Gait	Support Staff	Support Staff	31.05.21
Mrs S Evans	Headteacher	Ex-Officio	N/A

When fully constituted, this governing body is made up as follows:-

Category of Governor	Number
LEA Representatives	5
Community Governors	5
Parent Governors	6
Teacher Governors	2
Support Staff Governors	1
Headteacher	1
TOTAL	20

4. Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

5. Election of Parent Governors

The next parent governor nominations will be sought in July 2019.

6. School Performance Data

The data below demonstrates school L2 performance across the last three years:

	English	Maths	Science	All subjects	RCT Average	Wales Average	L2+
2015/16	71%	43%	85%	87%	84.1%	84%	42%
2016/17	41%	34%	60%	48%	63%	67%	28%
2017/18	63%	52%	63%	61%	64%	67%	46%

Please find below the percentage results for Level 3 threshold (A Level) for the last three years:

	MACS	RCT Average	Wales Average
2015/16	98%	97%	96%
2016/17	86%	96%	97%
2017/18	92%	96%	98%

7. Financial Statement – Period Covered 2017-2018

Enclosed as Appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the financial year 2017/18. Information on the 2018/19 budget is available on request, via the Headteacher.

8. School Prospectus

A brand new school prospectus was created in September 2017. This will be updated annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Assembly Government or other related bodies. A copy of the prospectus will generally be issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from Primary to Comprehensive School. A copy is also available on the school website.

9. School Improvement Plan

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) the School Improvement Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take in delivering the curriculum. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements.

The School Improvement Plan for the 2018/19 academic year is based on school self-evaluation, which helps to identify priorities and incorporates the Post Inspection Action Plan. It has been considered and approved by Governors and is currently being implemented by the staff. Progress is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

10. Post Inspection Action Plan

Governors were responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with staff) an Action Plan to address the key issues raised by Inspectors following the most recent external inspection of the school, which took place in November 2018. A copy of the inspection report is available from the school.

Governors monitor progress of the plan which is incorporated within the School Improvement Plan at their termly meetings.

11. Use of the Welsh Language – Communication

This school is an English medium school, where lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of English. The use of the Welsh language is promoted by the use of incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day.

Should parents request that their child is taught at this school in a language other than English, this request will be given due consideration.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are catered for according to their needs with input from appropriate personnel.

12. Term Dates and Holidays 2018/19

	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2018	03/09/18	29/10/18	02/11/18	21/12/18
Spring 2019	07/01/19	25/02/19	01/03/19	12/04/19
Summer 2019	29/04/19	24/05/19	31/05/19	22/07/19

Christmas Day 25th December 2018
 New Year's Day 1st January 2019
 Good Friday 19th April 2019
 Easter Monday 22nd April 2019

May Day 6th May 2019
 Spring Bank Holiday 27th May 2019

The School day is as follows:

Morning 8:45 – Afternoon 15:00. The lunch break is held between 13:25 and 14:00.

13. Community-Focused Schools

A community-focused school is one that: 'provides a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. Across Wales many schools already provide some community services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes.

Following restructuring within the Youth Engagement and Participant Service (YEPS), we now have one full time member of staff who has the title of Youth Engagement Officer (YEO). The YEPS staff have worked closely with the school to target young people who have various issues including low attendance and attainment. The YEPS service have also provided a range of activities including after school clubs that runs three evenings per week at school and activities within the local community as part of their extended provision programme, as well as the school holidays.

These activities have included a range of sporting activities including dance and 5 a side football, gaming club, movie making, mindfulness, fashion design, cartoon drawing, table tennis, positive peer support sessions, driving school, homework club and gardening.

This timetable of activities is constantly reviewed and young people within the school play a big part in how this timetable looks by including them in the brainstorming sessions and the planning of certain activities so that they meet the need of the pupils.

Vulnerable profiling data also plays an important role in which activities, year groups and genders to target to make sure that the service provided is as inclusive as possible.

14. Review of School Policies

The school has a large number of policy documents covering both curriculum and non-subject areas. These documents are constantly reviewed and revised by staff/governors to

incorporate changing trends and legislation. Key policies are available on the school website. Other policies can be requested via the Headteacher.

15. Additional Learning Needs

The school's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs is consistent with the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in January 2002. The school's Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them.

The SENCO also liaises with all members of staff to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.

During the 2017-18 academic year, on the date of the PLASC census:

- 195 pupils were on School Action.
- 32 pupils were on School Action Plus.
- 5 pupils were Statemented.

There were no changes to the policy during the 2017-18 academic year.

16. Access for Disabled Pupils

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in drawing up the School Improvement Plan/Post Inspection Action Plan, and the day to day operation of the whole site.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information, are included in the planning process.

The Authority has in place an Accessibility Strategy and in line with this strategy, has had an audit of the school site undertaken as part of an Authority wide brief to identify any potential barriers and (ultimately) improve the access to the school.

17. Fabric of the Building

The building is generally in a good state of repair. Over the past year the following refurbishment/repairs have been carried out:

- painting in various areas of the school
- repairs to guttering, brickwork and manhole covers
- general repairs to doors, windows, radiators, etc
- general repair and maintenance work around the school
- installation of a new coffee shop in the Upper Hall
- installation of new internal doors and other adjustments to meet the needs of a pupil who is blind
- replacement of flooring in the stairwell of the three storey block, in the administration corridor and in some classrooms
- replacement of the roof on the three-storey building and new mansard windows
- Replacement of the roof and the installation of new radiators in the technology block
- Refurbishment of an ICT classroom in the three storey block

18. Target Setting

The implementation and review of the school's strategies and targets is documented in detail in the School Improvement Plan. Further information can be found in the Assessment, Recording and Reporting policy and the Target Setting Policy.

19. Attendance information

Listed below is the school's attendance for the previous three completed terms.

TERM	ATTENDANCE (%)	AUTHORISED ABSENCES (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES (%)
Autumn term 2017	91.9%	4.5%	3.6%
Spring term 2018	90.9%	5.5%	3.6%
Summer term 2018	86.7%	4.2%	9.1%

Absence from school is a contributing factor in low pupil achievement, so the Welsh Assembly Government is targeting improved attendance. Parents can help this situation by informing the school if they feel that there are any problems that are preventing pupils from attending or causing the pupil to feel that they do not want to attend school.

20. Admission/Transition Arrangements

The County Borough Council is the Admissions Authority for all schools (other than Church schools, where the schools' governing body is the Admissions Authority) within the Authority's boundary. The schools admission arrangements are, therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication Starting School. This book is made available to parents at the point of their application for their child's admission to school. The contents of this book can also be accessed online on the Authority's website.

Pupils will usually remain in the school until they complete their Year 11 GCSE examinations, with the option of returning to the Sixth Form. However, pupils may apply to transfer to any other Comprehensive School subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy.

21. Destination of School Leavers Summer 2018

Returned to Sixth Form	44%
College of Further Education	49%
Employment/Training	6%
Unknown (presumed NEETS)	0.5%
Unemployed	0%
Moved out of area	0.5%

