

Whitchurch High School

Governors' Report to Parents

2020/21

Dear Parent

On behalf of all Governors, I have great pleasure in presenting to you our Annual Report. We hope you will find the report interesting.

Mrs Joyce Slack (Chair of Governors)

Summary Report

The academic year 2020-21 was the second to be disrupted by Covid entailing an extended period of lockdown which covered the entire Spring Term. This, in turn, led to the cancellation of external examinations and the introduction of Centre Determined Grades for outcomes at Key Stages 4&5.

The Autumn Term saw a full return to school but under very different circumstances to the ones to which we had become accustomed. New Health & Safety procedures were implemented across both sites and a comprehensive programme of contact tracing was initiated whenever there was a positive case in the school community. This took up many hundreds of hours of work but meant that we never – unlike many schools – closed a whole year group for longer than a single day. Therefore, we were able to maintain a semblance of normality for much of the term.

The Spring Term was an entire period of on-site school closure where the school migrated to on-line learning mostly via Microsoft Teams.

All pupils returned to school for the Summer Term where enormous amounts of work were entailed in producing Centre Determined Grades for all students in all subjects in Years 11, 12 and 13.

We look forward to an academic year which will, hopefully, be far less affected by covid.

Governors and their responsibilities

All governors are unpaid volunteers and share a wide range of legal responsibilities for the running of the school. In addition to meetings of the full governing body, governors serve on a range of committees.

The main areas of work of the major committees are outlined in this report. In addition to the committees listed below, there are others, which meet from time to time as occasion demands. These include appointment panels for Head and Deputies as well as all teaching staff appointments, and committees dealing with disciplinary matters, grievances and possible redundancies.

The governing body for 2020/2021 was composed of the following members:

	Type	Name
1	Community	Dr Paul Bulpin
2	Community	Mrs Denise Kelland
3	Community	Mr David Roylance
4	Foundation	Mrs Joyce Slack (Chair)
5	Foundation	Mrs Sian Hopkins (Vice chair)
6	Foundation	Mr David Collins
7	Foundation	Mr Ian McIlquham
8	Foundation	Mr Max Vine
9	Parent	Mr Peter Kille
10	Parent	Mr David Greaves
11	Parent	Mrs Kelly Vanstone
12	Parent	Mr Ashley Collins
13	Parent	Mrs Hayley Jeans
14	Parent	Mrs Ceri Reed
15	Parent	Mrs Nicola Davies
16	LA	Mr Andrew Davies
17	LA	Dr Mike Newman
18	Head teacher	Mr Mark Powell
19	Teacher	Mr Nick John
20	Teacher	Mrs Noreen Linfoth
21	Support Staff	Mr Richard Burge
22	Observer	Mr Scott Britt (Deputy Headteacher)
23	Observer	Mr Wayne Lilly (Business Manager)
24	Observer	Mr Steve Williams (Estates Director)
	Lead Student	Cara Erasmus
	Lead Student	Sam Hill
	Clerk	Mr Gareth Coombs

Chair of Governors: Mrs Joyce Slack Email: whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk

Clerk to the Governing Body: Mr Gareth Coombes gcoombs52@outlook.com

Post Inspection Action Plan

The school was inspected in January 2016 and the recommendations borne out of that inspection formed the basis for the school's post inspection action plan.

The recommendations were as follows:

- Improve standards in key stage 4
- R2 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment
- R3 Strengthen self-evaluation and quality assurance activities to focus on standards and pupil progress
- R4 Improve arrangements to develop pupils' Welsh language skills

In November 2017, Estyn reviewed the school and concluded:

The school is judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school has been removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.

Governors' Committees

Nearly all sub-committees met remotely during this time . Strategic developmental issues were limited and most discussions formed around the impact of the pandemic upon the life of the school. Key issues discussed and debated included:

- Grant expenditure especially the RRRS grant designed to help students' academic recovery from lockdown
- Estates development especially in respect of Ty Seren, the new Social Sciences Block and Health & Safety measures around the school sites.
- The development of Blended Learning and on-line events such as Parents Evenings.
- Financial updates regarding the school's transition from a deficit to a surplus end of year balance.

Summary Priorities – School Improvement Plan 2021/22

The School Improvement Plan for 2021/22 falls under four main priorities:

- To provide high-quality accelerated learning and student support in order to help overcome barriers to progress.
- To implement new and developed student wellbeing programs and policies.
- To further develop implementation of high-quality teaching & learning practices and procedures including curriculum development and strengthening the foundations for implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.
- To improve and develop the school estate and administration systems.

Toilet Facilities

The school meets Health and Safety Requirements for the number of toilets needed for the pupils on roll. The school also has disabled toilets in different buildings. The Cleaning Team clean all toilets on a daily basis.

Additional Learning Needs

Our SRB is at the heart of our school community and continues to expand in numbers in response to request from the LA. It is fair to say that some pupils with Severe and Complex Learning Difficulties would have found lockdown challenging all, though, all had access to on-line learning and/or to hub provision.

See table below for numbers of pupils receiving ALN support.

Year	SA+ or School Based IDP	Statement
	20/21	20/21
7	51	19
8	22	20
9	12	24
10	10	27
11	44	10
12 / 13	24	23
Total	163	36

All pupils referred to in the table above will have access to a differentiated and graduated level of support to assist them in accessing the curriculum. This may be in class, via class structures and/or with the support of a Teaching Assistant.

Colleagues are offered training regularly, and have improved and developed programmes to address the needs of students, in key areas such as literacy, speech and language, SPLD support, ADHD strategies, AI and VI support, mobility support, intimate care and working with a young people with ASD.

Welsh

Whitchurch High School is an English medium school where Welsh is taught as a second language. All students attend Welsh lessons in Key Stage 3 and study the full course GCSE in Key Stage 4. In addition, there is an opportunity to choose Welsh as an AS or A level in Key Stage 5 where we work closely with two other secondary schools in partnership. Students are encouraged to use the language outside of their Welsh lessons with their peers and staff members. This is endorsed via initiatives such as 'Shw Mae Day'. There is a strong link between the Welsh department and the feeder primary schools through annual transition activities and regular meetings. Outside lessons, the school promotes the use of the Welsh language reflecting the Welsh Government document 'Our Language: Its Future, Iaith Pawb'.

Equal Opportunities

The Equality suite of policies is comprehensive and meets statutory requirements. We equality impact assess existing school policies to ensure they uphold our strongly held belief that there should be no discrimination against any individual in Whitchurch Comprehensive School. These are renewed on a regular basis by our various Governor Committees.

However, we still find it difficult to obtain accurate data from parents and request that you contact the school to notify us of any changes in personal circumstance.

Links with the Community

Whilst we have always forged strong links with the wider community, it has been close to impossible to sustain these in a meaningful way due to protocols around the pandemic.

School Term Dates

Autumn Term 2020

Starts	Half-Term	Ends
01/09/20	26/10/20 – 30/10/20	18/12/20

Spring Term 2021

Starts	Half-Term	Ends
04/01/21	15/02/21- 19/02/21	26/03/21

Summer Term 2021

Starts	Half-Term	Ends
12/04/21	31/05/21 – 04/06/21	20/07/21

Autumn Term 2021

Starts	Half-Term	Ends
02/09/21	25/10/21 – 29/10/21	17/12/21

Spring Term 2022

Starts	Half-Term	Ends
04/01/22	21/02/22 – 25/02/22	08/04/22

Summer Term 2022

Starts	Half-Term	Ends
25/04/22	02/05/22 – 03/06/22	22/07/22

Policies

The following policies were reviewed, updated and adopted during the academic year:

Discipline Policy and Procedure
School Leave Policy and Procedure
School Carers Policy
Attendance and Wellbeing Policy
Attendance and Wellbeing- Employee Guide
Attendance and Wellbeing- Employers Guide
Mental Health- Managers Guide
New and Expectant Mothers H&S Guide
Child Protection Policy
Pay Policy

The ever-shifting position in relation to covid protocols led to there being several updates to the Health & Safety Policies and Procedures as the year progressed.

Numbers on Roll

Year Group	Pupil Numbers (SRB in brackets)	Efsm %age
7	396 (16)	15.2 %
8	402 (12)	19.4%
9	400 (11)	17.8%
10	408 (18)	17.9%
11	404 (9)	18.3%
12	224 (4)	
13	227 (14)	
Total	2461 (84)	
efsm (compulsory year groups)		17.7%

Academic Achievements 2021

Key Performance Indicators

KS4: Key Performance Indicators



GCSE KPIs	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	3 yr av	5 yr av
5A*A	32.9%	34.7%	32.0%	35.1%	29.5%	33.9%	30.3%
Level 2+ (Include min 3 GCSEs from 2017)	75.1%	70.3%	67.2%	70.5%	69.3%	69.3%	69.3%
Level 2 (Include min 3 GCSEs from 2017)	82.8%	85.4%	79.2%	83.6%	81.9%	82.7%	82.3%
Level 1 (Include min 3 GCSEs from 2017)	97.1%	98.0%	97.9%	96.2%	97.1%	97.4%	96.9%
Capped 9* (New C9 from 2019)	396	402	387				

Note: Figures from 2019 onwards are mainstream only
Still awaiting confirmation on those educated at alternative provisions

KS5: HEADLINE FIGURES



A2 Level Indicators	Prior Results								
	Overall results over the last 7 years							Average over time	
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	3 yr av 17_19	5 yr av 15_19
A*A	45.5%	41.0%	33.1%	26.2%	26.6%	31.2%	32.6%	28.6%	29.9%
A*B	71.7%	70.6%	61.3%	49.0%	52.1%	59.7%	61.1%	54.1%	56.6%
A*C	86.7%	89.7%	79.6%	73.6%	74.5%	81.6%	83.8%	75.9%	78.6%
A*E	99.0%	100.0%	98.2%	97.5%	98.0%	99.0%	99.4%	97.9%	98.4%
WBQ KS5 (% pass)	95.5%	100.0%	94.4%	95.7%	97.4%	98.6%	99.5%	95.8%	97.1%

KS5: HEADLINE FIGURES



AS Level Indicators	Prior Results								
	Overall results over the last 7 years							Average over time	
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	3 yr av 17_19	5 yr av 15_19
A	34.2%	29.9%	23.7%	26.2%	19.5%	18.0%	26.2%	23.1%	22.7%
A-B	58.4%	58.0%	46.6%	49.8%	41.9%	37.5%	51.0%	46.1%	45.4%
A-C	75.0%	79.8%	66.9%	68.0%	61.8%	58.8%	71.7%	65.6%	65.4%
A-E	95.1%	99.8%	92.6%	94.4%	91.6%	87.9%	93.7%	92.9%	92.0%

CARDIFF COUNCIL/GYNGOR CAERDYDD
SCHOOLS OUTTURN OF EXPENDITURE/CANLYNIAD GWARIANT YSGOLION 2020-2021

Governing Body/Corff Llywodraethu of: Whitchurch High School

	Governor Approved Budget/Cyllideb a Gymeradwywyd gan y Llywodraethwyr		Actual Expenditure/ Gwariant Cyflawnedig	
	£	£	£	£
Staffing costs/Costau Staff				
Teaching Costs	6,773,809		#####	
Teachers for statemented pupils	485,991		484,727	
Short Term Supply	0		876	
Long Term Supply	243,919		402,777	
Special Needs Support Staff	913,112		810,911	
Nursery Assts/ Teachers Aides / Adult Helpers	200,958		213,720	
Foreign Language Assistants	8,218		7,669	
Technicians	303,910		307,463	
Mid Day Supervisors	81,171		102,075	
Library Staff / Attend Officer	51,321		51,350	
Administrative Staff	707,701		743,389	
Training Costs	207,361		229,568	
Other Staff Costs	321,208		514,124	
Performance Management	0		0	
Total Staffing Costs		10,298,679		10,631,835
Premises Related Costs				
Caretaking Staff	279,765		252,054	
Cleaning Costs	409,540		386,321	
Energy Costs	199,150		153,074	
Rates	49,113		49,113	
Repairs and Maintenance	164,188		582,605	
Water	43,650		28,538	
Total Premises Related Costs		1,145,406		1,451,704
Transport Costs				
Pupil Transport Costs	4,000		1,580	
Vehicle, Staff Transport Costs	10,000		1,135	
Total Transport Costs		14,000		2,715

Supplies and Services

Teaching Materials	186,444		524,678	
Equipment, Furniture, Materials & music tuition	2,000		2,501	
Library Books & Materials	4,000		2,479	
Communications Equipment and Services	172,660		154,452	
Examinations Fees	222,000		182,800	
Games & School Activities	18,500		12,756	
Clerk to Governing Body	3,000		3,249	
Other office costs	19,080		11,271	
Subsistence and expenses	1,000		88	
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Supplies and Services		628,684		894,275

Central Services

School Meals	150,286		217,699	
Service Level Agreements	139,024		138,882	
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total for Central Services		289,310		356,581

Income/Incwm

Additional Central Funding	-601,447		#####	
Community Education	0		0	
Donations	-35,000		#####	
Lettings	-150,000		-12,122	
Other Income	-65,000		-41,786	
Grant Income	0		#####	
Sales	0		-5,793	
School Meals Recharge	0		0	
Training and Tuition Income	0		-498	
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income		-851,447		-2,451,808

Interest and Other

Interest on investments	0		0	
School Investments	0		0	
Withdrawal Investments	0		0	
School Deficit				
Temporary Loans	0		0	
Temporary Loans	0		0	

Interest	-3,000	-3,000	-272	-272
Total Interest and Other				
Total Net Expenditure		11,521,632		10,885,030
Less Uninvested Balance Brought Forward		111,968		
Less earmarked Rates		-49,113.00		-49,113.00
Contribution to / from balances				748,570
Revised Net Expenditure		11,584,487		11,584,487

Summary/Crynodeb

Total resources available in 2020-2021	£
School balances Brought forward from 2019-2020	-111,968.02
School Loans Brought forward from 2019-2020	0.00
Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
Total delegated resource	11,633,600
Total	11,521,631.98
Actual Expenditure	10,885,029.68
Less change in investments	0.00
Less Movements in Temporary Loan	0.00
Less variance in earmarked rates	0.00
Total balance carried forward to 2021-2022	636,602.30
Statement of Balances Held	£
Uninvested Balance as at 31st March 2021	636,602.30
Invested Balance as at 31st March 2021	0.00
Outstanding Loans as at 31st March 2021	0.00
Total Balances held as at 31st March 2021	636,602.30

Matthew W. Jones

for Corporate Director Resources
Prif Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Adnoddau

Finance (Budget period April 2020 – March 2021)

Summary of how the schools budget was used

This was an unprecedented financial year for Whitchurch High School. The school budget and spending pattern was unlike any other period in the school's history.

Due to covid the school was closed from March 20th, 2020 to the end of the summer term. We were extremely pleased to invite our pupils back over 3 weeks of the summer term (June 29 to July 17th) for well-being sessions. Following extensive preparations over that summer term and during the summer holiday, school resumed in September 2020 with strict Covid restrictions. School was closed again over an extended Autumn half-term break (2 weeks) and sadly we were forced to close again after Christmas 2020 to return March 15th, 2021. Whilst in school absence rates amongst pupils and staff alike were very high.

Costs were incurred arranging staff supply. We provided additional pupil support in both our pastoral team and crucially we employed 7 very experienced teachers (working part-time) in late September. These new teaching colleagues were tasked with providing additional learning provisions for pupils who needed extra support following the enforced absence. Additional cleaning measures were put in place and our Estates team needed extra staff and resources to prepare the school for operating during the covid restrictions, and at the same time fulfilling the school building projects.

Welsh Government funding was made available, however this didn't cover the full additional costs incurred preparing and maintaining a covid safe environment. We were extremely grateful that Welsh Government contributions were made towards the cost of replacement staff who were absent due to covid illness. WG support was also given to support additional cleaning needs.

Whilst many costs remained the same, such as, Salaries, Premises & General Maintenance costs, others costs continued but in some cases at a reduced level. As mentioned we have had financial support where some costs have increased, but not in every case. Crucially the operational provisions put in place for teaching (eg: multiple equipment to prevent sharing), the extra technologies used for remote learning, cleaning materials and outdoor facilities to provide shelter, came at a cost to the school.

Whilst we were delighted to post our first surplus budget in 8 years, it's important to note that this figure was swelled by unexpected Welsh Government grants totalling £385k. These various grants were received by us in the last two weeks of the financial year (16th & 17th March 2021) with no prior warning. We're naturally grateful for these funds and plans will be put in place over the next financial year regarding how we use it. That said, we have already spent and committed more funding for our school.

