



# **Governing Body of Swiss Valley Community Primary School**

## **Annual Report to Parents and Carers 2023/24**

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

### **1. Clerk to the Governing Body**

For 2023-24 the Clerk to the Governing Body was Ms. Gaynor Davies.  
C/O Swiss Valley Community Primary School  
Tel. 01554 774063

### **2. Chairperson of the Governing Body**

During 2023/24 the Chairman of the Governing Body was Cllr. Giles Morgan. The Vice Chair was Mrs. Judith Thomas.

### **3. Members of the Governing Body status**

The following people were members of the Governing Body for the period of 2023/24

<b>Name</b>	<b>Category of Governor</b>	<b>Retirement Date</b>
Mr. M. Christopher Cllr A.G. Morgan Mrs. N. Davis-Job	<b>LA</b>	31/08/26 04/09/28 31/05/25
Mr. W. Evans Mrs. Z. Weaver Mr. D. Trollope Mr G. Pugh Mrs. J. Thomas	<b>Parent</b>	Left 10/03/23 10/03/27 29/04/25 03/11/24 01/11/24
Mr. R. Ifan Mr. M. Jacob Mrs. J. Phillips-James Cllr S. Bowen Mr A. Hallett	<b>Community Governors</b>	16/11/25 Left 30/11/23 30/11/26 14/06/26 19/06/26
Mrs A. Davies	<b>Staff</b>	22/10/25
Mr. A. Christopher	<b>Teacher</b>	17/09/24
Mrs J Davies	<b>Head teacher</b>	

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

<b>LA Representatives</b>	3
<b>Parent Governors</b>	4
<b>Staff Representative</b>	1
<b>Headteacher</b>	1

<b>Community Governors</b>	4
<b>Teacher Governor(s)</b>	1
<b>Minor Authority (if applicable )</b>	NA
<b>Total</b>	14

#### 4. Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed.

#### 5. Election of Parent Governors

There was of election during the period of the academic year 2023/24.

#### 7. Financial Statement – Period Covered 2023 - 2024

Below is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2023/24. The finance sub-committee along with the school's Finance Officers Ms. G. Davies and Mrs. S. Jordan have worked extremely hard to maintain a surplus during the financial year 2023/24.



[sirgar.llyw.cymru](http://sirgar.llyw.cymru)  
[carmarthenshire.gov.wales](http://carmarthenshire.gov.wales)

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Gofynner am / Please ask for:

Susannah Nolan

Fy nghyf / My ref:

E-bost / E-mail:

[SNolan@sirgar.gov.uk](mailto:SNolan@sirgar.gov.uk)

[SNolan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:SNolan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

2176

Swiss Valley

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

974,376

Net Expenditure 2023/24

Dyraniad Ariannu yn ôl Fformwla 2023/24

-967,867

Formula Funding Allocation 2023/24

Arian Wrth Gefn a Ddysgwyd Ymlaen o 2022/23

-82,428

Surplus Brought Forward from 2022/23

Arian Wrth Gefn yn Cario Drosodd i 2024/25

-75,919

Surplus Carried Forward to 2024/25

Pe bai gennych unrhyw ynholiad ynglŷn â'r  
uchod, yna cysylltwch â'r Adran RHYLL drwy e-  
bostio [RHYLL@sirgar.gov.uk](mailto:RHYLL@sirgar.gov.uk).

If you have any queries regarding the above,  
please contact the LMS Section by e-mailing  
[LMS@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:LMS@carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

## **8. School Prospectus and School Website**

The School Prospectus is updated annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Assembly Government or other related bodies. A copy of the prospectus is issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or to the parents of those children transferring to us from other schools. A copy of the school's prospectus is available on the school's website.

Key school dates and information can be found on our School Website which is updated regularly. We also utilise social media in the form of Twitter to celebrate school successes and the Schoop App to share information and correspondence with parents.

## **9. School Development Plan**

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

The targets set include short, medium and long-term aims. Targets are regularly reviewed by the Governing Body. Further information on the current targets and progress being made is available at the school.

## **10. Use of the Welsh Language – Communication**

This school is an English medium school. Lessons and other school activities are communicated largely through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language. In the Foundation Phase Bilingualism incorporates the teaching of Welsh. Through “Welsh Language Development” we aim to provide children with a basic vocabulary, enabling them to converse in Welsh. Initially the lessons are entirely of an oral nature and will also involve learning simple songs and rhymes to reinforce the vocabulary. As the children mature and their understanding of the language grows, they are introduced to Welsh in its written form, where they will be encouraged to read and write Welsh as well as improving their oral proficiency.

At Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6) formal teaching of Welsh as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language takes place, however bilingualism and incidental Welsh is common practice during all lessons. At the end of Key Stage 2 pupils are assessed by their teacher and their Level of competency is reported to parents in line with Welsh Government assessment procedures.

## 11. Term Dates and School Holidays and School Timings:-

Term	Term begins	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn 2022	Monday 5th September	Monday 31st October - Friday 4th November	Friday 23rd December
Spring 2023	Monday 9th January	Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February	Friday 31st March
Summer 2023	Monday 17th April	Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June	Friday 21st July
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

### Foundation Phase :-

Morning -	9 am to 12.15 pm
Lunch break -	12.10pm to 1.10pm
Afternoon –	1.10 pm to 3.10 pm

### Key Stage 2 :-

Morning -	9 am to 12.20 pm
Lunch break -	12.20 pm to 1.20 pm
Afternoon –	1.20 pm to 3.20 pm

## 12. Review of School Policies

The school has several policy documents covering both curriculum and non-subject areas. These documents are regularly reviewed/ revised by staff/governors to incorporate changing trends and legislation.

Further information is available by contacting the Head Teacher during school time.

## 13. Additional Learning Needs

The system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Wales has changed. Under the new system, a learner only has additional learning needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for additional learning provision. This means provision that is 'additional to' or 'different from' that provided for others of the same age. This will be distinct from the teaching strategies and differentiated teaching that is generally available for all learners. Schools will continue to provide carefully planned interventions to support a range of needs which will be available as part of our universal provision for the benefit of all learners.

Additional Learning Provision will be considered on an individual basis and encompass needs which are beyond a differentiated curriculum and targeted universal support. If a learner has additional learning needs that require additional learning provision an Individual Development Plan will be created for them called an IDP. These IDP's will eventually replace what we now know as statements.

At Swiss Valley C.P. School, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure that all our pupils achieve their very best. Pupil wellbeing is paramount. The school promotes a person-centred approach to planning. Personalising education is about recognising that every pupil with additional learning needs is an individual. By focusing on what matters to each individual child we can respond to their needs. Each pupil with additional learning needs can be taught and supported in the best possible way to ensure that they reach their potential.

We work in collaboration with many outside agencies including the Educational Psychologist, the Advisory Teacher for Dyslexia, Speech and Language Therapists, Health Professionals and the Behaviour Support Service. Our well trained and experienced support staff deliver several intervention programmes aimed to target a range of difficulties and abilities. Such programmes include Speech and Language Therapy, ChATT, Talkabout, Catch Up Literacy and Positive Play.

#### **14. Pupil Development Grant**

The Pupil Development 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 2023/24 Swiss Valley C.P. School was provided with a PDG allocation of £24,846.73.

At Swiss Valley Community Primary School we have a comprehensive plan, agreed and monitored by Carmarthenshire Local Authority, to promote progress and remove barriers to learning for students eligible for this funding. We have used the funding available to:

- enhance teaching and learning by providing programmes of support- aimed at developing problem solving, reasoning and thinking skills.
- enhance teaching and learning by providing programmes of support aimed at developing pupil resilience and independence.

#### **15. Access for Disabled Pupils**

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in drawing up the School Development Plan, and the day-to-day operation of the whole site.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils can 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.

## **16. Building Matters**

Due to site security safeguarding concerns and the position of the entrance of the school, new fencing and a new entrance to the school was proposed and agreed by the Local Authority up to a sum of £100,000 in September 2023. Work commenced in the summer holidays 2024 and the new entrance and fencing was in place in readiness for the new academic term of 24/25

## **17. Target Setting**

All teachers continue to set challenging targets for the children in their care. Pupil progress was monitored using formative assessment strategies and in house assessments to identify next steps in learning.

## **18. Attendance Information**

We ask for your continued support, in helping us to achieve our target. We kindly ask that you avoid taking children out on holiday, during term time. Welsh Government Guidance on pupils returning to school stated:

*Being out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development and their health and well-being, particularly for disadvantaged children; and can have an impact both in the short and longer term. We know that lower academic achievement also translates into long-term economic costs. We also know that school closures have affected some families' ability to work. By getting our learners back into school as quickly and as safely as possible will bring positive benefits on several fronts not least their mental and emotional well-being.*

The Head-teacher is required to involve the Family Engagement officer with the parents of children whose attendance falls significantly below the target or 80%. Arriving late at school or leaving early also affects the level of progress that a child can make. We record late arrivals and early leavers – the parents of these children may also be seen by Family Engagement Officers.

## **19. Admission/Transition Arrangements**

The County 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 school's admission arrangements are, therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication Starting School book. The 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. Admission applications are now encouraged to be made online via :- [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Pupils will usually remain in the school until they complete year six and then transfer to secondary school. This school is a close partner with Bryngwyn Comprehensive School; however, pupils may apply to attend any secondary school they choose subject to compliance with the Authority's admissions policy. The school also works closely with St. John Lloyd Comprehensive School.

## **20. Sporting Aims and Achievements**

The school encourages all pupils to participate in a wide range of sporting activities throughout the year. Pupils usually take part in numerous sporting activities and festivals throughout the year including football, rugby, tennis, cross country, indoor-athletics, netball, and cricket.

Mrs. Adelaide Vansteenkiste has continued to coach tennis on a Tuesday morning.

Our Year 6 girls won the Urdd Tag Rugby tournament in Ammanford in February. They progressed to the National Finals in Aberystwyth on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Pupils in Years 3 – 6 had the opportunity to work with a coach from Cricket Wales. Lessons took place over the course of four weeks and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Pupils in Years 3-6 had the opportunity to engage with a hockey taster session organised by Actif Sir Gar.

Our Year 5/6 girls attended the Urdd Netball Tournament at Llanelli Leisure Centre.

Our Year 5/6 Boys attended the Urdd Football Tournament.

Vincent Lloyd (Y6) has represented Swansea Swimming Club on two occasions this term at National Swimming Galas.

The school held a French Day to immerse pupils and staff in French culture. Pupils had the opportunity to dress in the French colours red, white and blue, learn about the country, try foods, learn songs and engage with the language. A fun day was had by all. Mr Owens made a video to capture the day which is available to view on our social media pages.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March we held a whole school Eisteddfod. It was a truly magical morning where each year group took responsibility for performing an item. We had Welsh poems, songs, arts and crafts. Our Welsh culture week competition winners were announced, and the morning was concluded with everyone singing the Welsh National Anthem together. Mr Owens made a video to capture the celebration which is available to view on our social media pages.

On the evening of Thursday 18th April, Swiss Valley C.P. School held an Urdd Celebration Concert at The Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli. During the evening, the school celebrated all of its pupils who have worked hard to learn and perform poems, songs and dances in order to compete at the various Urdd rounds during the course of the year. It was a delightful evening.

Our Year 6 girls reached the Semi Finals of the National Urdd Football and Tag Rugby Tournaments at Aberystwyth in May. We were so proud of their performance and how they represented our school with pride and enthusiasm.

We were delighted to invite our parents to join us for our Sports Day which was held on Thursday 24th May. A wonderful time was had by all and luckily, the weather was on our side!

National Urdd Eisteddod – Maldwyn May 2024

Congratulations to Magi Eynon BI 2 who represented Swiss Valley School and Carmarthenshire at the National Urdd Eisteddfod in the Llefary Unigol (individual recitation competition).

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Ruby Davies! Ruby completed in the Llefary Unigol (Individual recitation competition) for pupils in BL 5 & 6. Ruby won her competition, achieving 1st place with the poem ' Siopa' . We are so unbelievably proud; Ruby's podium interview went viral on social media.

Our Parti Unsain Choir gave a superb performance of the song Bai ar gam. We are so proud of each of our pupils who put their hearts and souls into their performance on the Pavilion Stage.

Our School Choir gave a performance at the National Urdd Eisteddfod. We were so proud of how our children conducted themselves backstage and were so mature and focused on stage. They performed and sang beautifully. A superb opportunity and experience for everyone!

Pupils in Years 3 had the opportunity to attend a Sports Festival held at Stebonheath Stadium.

Our Year 5/6 Cricket Team won the Dynamo Cricket Tournament.

Our Year 3/4 Cricket Team attended a Cricket Tournament in the summer term.

Vincent Lloyd (Y6) represented Swansea Swimming Club on two occasions this term at the National Swimming Galas.

Our Year 3/4 Tennis Team won the Tennis Wales tournament in Cardiff in June 2024.

On World Earth Day we were delighted welcome Adam yn y Ardd from S4C, who worked with pupils around our school grounds.

Our Year 5 pupils worked with Mr James Williams from Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn, Swansea on a weekly basis on a Film Skills project. The film that the children created premiered at the Odeon Cinema Swansea on the morning of Thursday 11th July 2024.

## **21. Friends of Swiss Valley School (PTA)**

The school continued to receive invaluable support from Friends of Swiss Valley School which is run by a hardworking, enthusiastic and dynamic group, led by Chair Mrs. Lindsey Harrison and other members of the committee. At the end of 2023/24 the charity had raised £9,500 for the school.



## 22. Curriculum Statement

Swiss Valley C.P. School promotes the moral, intellectual, physical and cultural development of our pupils and we aim to provide a holistic education, which meets the needs of all our pupils.

Our Inclusive curriculum

Our curriculum will raise the aspirations for all learners. As a school we have considered how all learners will be supported to realise the four purposes and to progress. We have considered our ALN provision and how we will meet the needs of different groups of learners through our curriculum continuum and Sgiliau Swiss pedagogy.

The Four Purposes

The four purposes are the starting point and aspiration for our school curriculum design. Our school aims to support our 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.

Statements of What Matters

Our curriculum will provide opportunities and experiences to develop the key concepts, knowledge and skills as described in the statements of what matters and in line with the Statements of What Matters Code.

Areas of Learning and Experience

Our curriculum will provide learning experiences through the 6 AoLEs of:

- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Expressive Arts
- Science and Technology
- Humanities
- Maths and Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing Learning,

Progression and Assessment

Our curriculum will support learning through designing learning opportunities that draw upon the pedagogical principles. Our curriculum, supported by effective teaching and learning enables learners to make meaningful progress. Over time our learners will develop and improve their skills and knowledge. Our curriculum focuses on understanding what it means to make progress in each area or discipline and how learners should deepen and broaden their knowledge and understanding, skills and capacities, and attributes and dispositions and is informed by the Progression Code. This in turn supports our approach to assessment, the purpose of which is to inform planning for future learning.

Assessment will be embedded as an intrinsic part of learning and teaching. All learners will be assessed on entry to the school. The school is English medium, however, has a significant amount of Welsh within the ethos of the school; learning takes place in both Welsh and

English from the early years onwards in various activities across the curriculum. Cross curricular skills.

Our curriculum will develop the mandatory cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence. Our curriculum will enable learners to develop competence and capability in these skills and to extend and apply them across all areas. Learners will be given opportunities across the curriculum to:

- develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills
- be able to use numbers and solve problems in real-life situations
- be confident users of a range of technologies to help them function and communicate effectively and make sense of the world.

#### Religion Values and Ethics (RVE)

Religion, values and ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales.

#### Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)

Our school curriculum embraces the guidance within the statutory RSE Code, which is mandatory for all pupils. Our RSE provision will have a positive and empowering role in our learners' education and will play a vital role in supporting them to realise the four purposes as part of a whole-school approach. Helping learners to form and maintain a range of relationships, all based on mutual trust and respect, is the foundation of RSE. These relationships are critical to the development of emotional well-being, resilience and empathy. There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RSE in the Curriculum for Wales.

#### Review and refinement

Our school curriculum will be kept under review to respond to the outputs of professional inquiry, the changing needs of learners and social contexts and needs.

### **23. And Finally:**

May we take this opportunity to sincerely thank all parents and carers for their support and assistance during the year.

Governors would be pleased to discuss this report or any aspect of the school's activities with you if you require. In the event that a meeting is held, should you wish to raise any relevant business I should be grateful if you would advise me in advance by telephoning the Head teacher on 01554 774063 or e-mail [admin@swissvalley.ysgolccc.cymru](mailto:admin@swissvalley.ysgolccc.cymru) in order that a reply may be given.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Giles Morgan

(Chairman of the Governing Body of Swiss Valley Community Primary School)