

Treorchy Comprehensive School Annual Report to Parents 2016-2017

(Full Report)

1) Clerk

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Mrs Esther Thomas (Temporary Director of Education), Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

2) Chair Person

The Chairperson of The Governing Body is Mr Emlyn Jenkins c/o Treorchy Comprehensive School, Pengelli, Treorchy, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF42 6UL.

3) Membership

Parent Representatives (6)		LEA Representatives (5)		Teacher Representatives (2)	
Mrs A Lagier	23.09.2021	Councillor Webster	23.09.2019	B Portas	22.09.2021
Ms H.Davies	23.09.2021	Mr E Jenkins	23.09.2019	D Morgan	08.01.2020
Mrs B.Lewis	23.09.2021	Mr P Russell	08.07.2019		
Mrs S Watkins	23.11.2021	Mr K Morgan	10.07.2021	Support Staff Representative (1)	
Mr S Langston	24.09.2020	Mr I Jenkins	08.12.2019	Mrs J Moore	28.09.2021
Mrs L Jones	24.09.2020				
		Community Governors (5)		Headteacher (1)	
		Mr G Cook	13.05.2018	Mr R Angell Jones	
		Mrs A Chapman	04.11.2020		
		Mrs H John	14.11.2021	Student Representatives	
		Mr A Lynch	04.11.2020	Ben Watkins/Cecily Rees 2017/18	
		Mrs L Fletcher	04.11.2020		

4) Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting

5) Election of Parents Governors

The next election is due to take place in September 2020, if however any Parent Governor(s) resign before this date arrangements will be made for an election to be undertaken at the appropriate time.

6) School Performance Data

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
% 5A*-C (LEVEL 2)	94.59%	94.19%	95.86%	93.40%	58.20%
% 5A*-G (LEVEL 1)	97.30%	96.51%	100.00%	99.59%	97.60%
L2 inc. ENG+MATHS	57.53%	47.29%	56.02%	50.20%	44.20%
eFSM L2 inc.E&M	28.60%	24.50%	32.80%	26.00%	17.60%
%5A*-A			12.40%	16.70%	8.40%

GCSE Results 2017
Year 11 2017 Estimates & Targets compared to actual results

	FFT D Estimate KS2 -> KS4	FFT D Estimate KS3 -> KS4	Actual Results
English A* - C	67%	70%	51.8%
Maths A* - C	70%	73%	58.6%
CSI	51%	54%	40.2%
Level 2 Threshold including English & Maths	54%	57%	44.2%

Headline Statistics 2008 - 2017

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
% 5 A*-C (Level 2 threshold)	71%	73%	83%	86%	93%	95%	94%	96%	93%	58.2%
% 5 A*-G (Level 1 threshold)	92%	95%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	100%	100%	97.6%
CSI	40%	44%	56%	53%	41%	58%	47%	52%	49%	40.2%
Level 2 threshold including English & Maths	n/a	44%	58%	54%	43%	58%	47%	56%	50%	44.2%

10 Year 11 pupils achieved at least 9 A* & A grades in their exams.
 21 Year 11 pupils achieved at least 5 A* & A grades in their exams.

Core Subjects 2008 – 2017

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
English	57%	58%	64%	62%	48%	62%	56%	62%	58%	52%
Mathematics	45%	48%	67%	61%	54%	68%	55%	68%	62%	59%
Science	56%	62%	73%	71%	69%	93%	92%	91%	92%	49.4%

Accelerated Learning

Year 9 GCSE Welsh – 35 pupils achieved A*-B (100%), 77% A*/A
 2 years early

7) Financial Statement – Period April 2016 – March 2017

Enclosed as Appendix A is a copy of the School's end of year financial statement for 2016-17. Information on the 2017-18 budget is available upon request.

8) School Prospectus

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 generally issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from Primary to Secondary school. Parents are informed if any amendments are made to the existing prospectus. There were no changes to the prospectus this year.

9) School Development Plan

Governors are responsible for drawing up (in conjunction with 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 School Development Plan for the 2016-2017 academic year was approved by Governors and is currently being implemented by the staff. 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 will be available on request.

The structure of the school day/ week has been reorganised this year to accommodate the innovative new curriculum. The redesigned curriculum brings the creation of a totally new KS3 curriculum for all subject areas to be taught in Years 7 and 8, a 3 year Key Stage 4 curriculum and the expansion of Prep into all year groups.

Pupils have 6 hours a fortnight of Prep with the time being used for independent study and to develop the skills that pupils require to become independent and interdependent learners. This curriculum development is a strategic approach to address one of the main priorities identified in our School Improvement Plan for the past 4 years.

In 2017/18, along with GCE Computer Science, GCE Economics and double BTEC Public Services in KS5, KS3 Computer Science is being taught to pupils for the first time at the school. All courses have been introduced to support local demand.

25 pupils have joined the school in the Sixth Form this year due to the changes in the Rhondda Sixth Form provision. Additional transition arrangements have been put in place to ensure that pupils from Ferndale, Porth, Tonypany and other schools receive the support required in making their post-16 choices. Work is already underway with these schools to support pupils in Year 11 in making choices regarding their Sixth Form options for 2018/19.

The curriculum is continually reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils.

In addition to these structural curriculum developments, significant investment has been made this year to provide staff and pupils with the technology that they need to secure the highest standards of teaching and learning in the 21st Century. To ensure that the new technology is being effectively utilised, expertise developed through our partnership with Microsoft is being deployed to provide training for staff and pupils.

10) Use of the Welsh Language – Communication

This school is an English medium school, with significant Welsh. The majority of lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of English. However, the use of the Welsh language is promoted through some 1st Language teaching, bilingual lessons for pupils in the “Cwrs Carlam” and by the use of incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day.

Estyn described the provision for the Welsh language and dimension as innovative and sector-leading. The extensive provision provides outstanding opportunities for nearly all pupils, whatever their ability, to achieve a formal qualification in Welsh first or second language. The school’s ‘Cwrs Carlam’ provision enables more able and talented pupils to make rapid progress in the development of their Welsh language skills. The school provides extensive opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh language skills creatively through the comprehensive programme of extra-curricular activities, school Eisteddfod and residential courses.

A whole school approach to Bilingualism and the Welsh dimension is evident at Treorchy Comprehensive School. Cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales are embedded across the formal and informal curriculum providing pupils with effective learning experiences that support them in achieving excellent outcomes.

The Welsh language has permeated the school and is heard in all assemblies and lessons.

11. Post Inspection Action Plan

Governors are responsible for drawing up the Action Plan to address any key issues raised by Inspectors during the (external) inspection of the School. Parents are provided with a copy of the summary report produced by the inspectors.

Governors monitor progress of the plan at their termly meetings. More detailed information on the progress made will be given at the meeting if required.

12. School Terms and Holiday Dates for 2017/2018 Academic Year

	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2017	Monday 4th September *	Monday 30th October	Friday 3rd November	Friday 22nd December
	75 Days			
Spring 2018	Monday 8th January	Monday 19th February	Friday 23rd February	Friday 29th March
	54 Days			
Summer 2018	Monday 16th April	Monday 28th May	Friday 1st June	Friday 20th July
	66 Days			
<i>TOTAL 195 23rd 24th July are designated INSET days</i>				

The Welsh Assembly Government may decide to allocate additional INSET days, schools will be informed of these at the appropriate time.

The School day for pupils is organised as follows;

Monday-Thursday

8:40am-8:55am – Registration
 8:55am-9:50am – Lesson 1
 9:50am-10:45am – Lesson 2
 10:45am-11:00am – Break
 11:00am-11:55am – Lesson 3
 11:55am-12:50pm – Lesson 4
 12:50pm-1:35pm – Lunch
 1:35pm-2:30pm – Lesson 5
 2:30pm-3:25pm – Lesson 6/Prep

Friday

8:40am-8:55am – Registration
 8:55am-9:50am – Lesson 1
 9:50am-10:45am – Lesson 2
 10:45am-11:00am - Break
 11:00am-11:55am– Lesson 3
 11:55am-12:35pm –Lunch
 12:35pm-1:30pm – Lesson 4/Prep

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 programme’.

The development of community-focused schools is not just a short-term project or initiative, but a real opportunity for schools and communities to work together in new ways for the future benefit of children, young people and adults.

Community engagement is a key aspect of the school and we continue to strengthen links with local businesses, organisations and police in a supportive partnership approach through meetings, events, industry days and specific themed PSE days. External clubs, organisations

and local primary schools continue to use the school facilities for after school activities.

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/revised by staff/governors to incorporate changing trends and legislation. Further information is available by contacting the Headteacher during school time.

15. Additional Learning Needs

The School's Policy for the Assessment of and Provision for, pupils with additional learning needs is summarised as follows:

The School's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with Additional Learning 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 Additional Needs Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) 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 ALNCo 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 current academic year, on the date of the PLASC census:

253 pupils were on School Action/Early Years Action.

78 pupils were on School Action Plus/Early Action Plus (including those with Notes in Lieu).

1 pupil was undergoing Statutory Assessment.

17 pupils had statements of Special Educational Needs.

During the 2016-2017 financial year £67722 was allocated to meet the requirements of pupils with Additional Learning Needs. In addition, the Local Authority provided additional support for pupils at the School Action Plus stage.

There were no changes to the policy during the 2016-2017 academic year.

16. 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/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. Buildings

Building works continue under the 21st Century Schools initiative. The first stage improvements to road and pedestrian access, car parking and yard/playing area are complete with further developments planned.

The foundations and steel frame works for the new science block are near completion. The date for final completion is scheduled for Spring 2018.

During the summer holiday 2017 the 6th form block was transformed with a new Common

Room, Library and Flexible Learning Areas. Refurbishment of the Administration Block continues with new windows installed and works on the external cladding ongoing.

18. Target Setting

The implementation and review of the school's strategies and targets is documented in detail in the School Development Plan.

The following table illustrates the progress made against targets set last year:

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2017 FFT D Estimate	2017 Target Range	2017 Actual Results
KS3			
Core Subject Indicator	82%	77-82%	81.9%
English level 5+	86%	81-86%	87.3%
Mathematics level 5+	87%	85-90%	87.3%
Science level 5+	92%	90-95%	92.3%
KS4			
Core Subject Indicator	51-54%	48-53%	40.2%
Level 2 threshold	86-86%	81-86%	58.2%
Level 2 threshold including E&M	54-57%	51-56%	44.2%
Level 1 Threshold	97-98%	97-98%	97.6%
Capped Point Score	n/a	312-324	333
KS5			
Level 3 threshold	n/a	90-95%	98%
A level grades A* to C	n/a	73-78%	73.3%
Attendance			
Whole school attendance	n/a	94-94.5%	93.7%

19. Attendance Information

Listed below are the pupil attendance figures for the last three completed school terms.

Attendance Information

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

Term	% Authorised	% Unauthorised	% Attendance
Autumn 2016	4.8%	1%	94.2%
Spring 2017	5.5%	1.4%	93.1%
Summer 2017	4%	2.1%	93.9%

For the 2016/17 year the overall attendance was a highly commendable 93.7%.

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 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.

21. School Leavers

There were 150 post 18 leavers.

- 95 gained places in various universities
- 12 gained apprenticeships
- 2 gained place in Drama Schools
- 35 went into employment
- 3 went into the Army
- 3 took a gap year

22. Sporting Achievements and Extra Curricular Activities

The Governors have again been impressed with the many sporting achievements and the variety of extra-curricular activities in which pupils have taken part. All of these have been reported in the regular school newsletters, a few of which are summarised below:

In September seven sixth form pupils were part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Diamond Anniversary celebrations. The Earl of Wessex visited Cardiff to see first-hand the difference the charity makes to young people and communities.

In October Treorchy Comprehensive held a very successful Microsoft Showcase Day, again showing we are leaders in the use of the Microsoft programmes. Microsoft devices are now in use across the curriculum, helping pupils to strengthen their learning.

As part of the nationwide centenary events taking part in remembrance for the First World War, our Combined Cadet Force were invited to Belgium over October half term by the British Army. The cadets visited various battlefields as well as taking part in the last post ceremony at Menin Gate. On Remembrance Sunday our cadets attended the Remembrance services, and once again poppy wreaths were laid on behalf of our school.

Our under 18 girl's rugby team won the Cardiff Blues Regional tournament, and the Senior Football team also had a successful start to the season. Several pupils from the school team are now on the books of both Cardiff and Swansea City academies.

In February the school's Performing Arts department performed "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Park and Dare Theatre. The production was warmly received by packed houses over the three nights. Pupils and staff worked together untiringly, rehearsing long evenings and weekends and delivered a performance that many considered worthy of the West End! Congratulations to all involved in the production.

Treorchy Comprehensive School was one of only six secondary schools in Wales (and the only in RCT) to be identified as an example for other schools to follow in the Chief Inspector's Annual Report in March. Treorchy is used as a Case Study in the report.

A ceremony was held to celebrate Astronaut Michael Foale's visit to our school to promote the launch of our new Science block which will be ready for September 2018. Dr Foale, a former NASA commander of the space shuttle and the International Space Station visited the site of our exciting new construction and presented a memento of his visit to our pupils.

Dance Back to Broadway was again a huge success this year. The Dance numbers spanned many different genres and included multiple performances. The musical performances varied from

individual and duet pieces to the ensemble songs performed by the school's three choirs. The future of Performing Arts at the school is bright.

In June pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 were treated to a feast of high quality performances during their annual Eisteddfod. There were many memorable vocal and instrumental performances. It was also a delight to see the Welsh AS students participating in the main ceremonies of the day.

The Rugby teams from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 competed in the Rhondda District touch rugby and 7 aside Rugby competitions during the summer term. The teamwork and communication on display throughout the competitions were second to none and the pupils deserve praise for their efforts.

The Governors would like to record their thanks and appreciation for the hard work and commitment of the Headteacher, staff and parents in enabling the pupils to participate in these activities.

Healthy Eating

The Eco Committee and Food and Fitness Group have gone from strength to strength this year. The School has achieved Phase 5 in the Healthy Schools strategy and is working towards our 4th Eco Schools Flag in 2018

