



‘Celebrating Creativity, Imagination and Belief’

Annual Report to Parents 2025



Dear Parents and carers,

This report sets out the progress the school has made over the last year. Despite significant challenges the school is moving forward, delivering excellent teaching and learning opportunities for the community.

We welcomed Estyn, His Majesty’s Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, into school in January. The Inspectors looked at all aspects of the school including teaching, learning, wellbeing, financial management and leadership. I was very pleased that Estyn recognised that “Priory Church in Wales Primary is a happy and harmonious place.”

They added that “the school provides a calm, inclusive, extremely well-planned and highly nurturing environment, where everyone’s learning and well-being matters.” At Priory we have always been proud of our nurturing environment, so it is especially pleasing that Estyn recognised this.

Our inspection report was very encouraging, but we know there is more to do and we are embedding a new School Development Plan which focusses on Estyn’s recommendations to:

1. Set clear improvement priorities and strengthen leadership at all levels;
2. Improve pupils’ writing; and
3. Improve attendance.

Your support for the school makes a difference so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the school, the fundraising events and the work the staff do to help your children to grow. It is appreciated.

Priory is a busy school with the Swap Shop, Enfys Fach and the Family Liaison Officer all sharing our site. We enjoy being a hub for children and families and we are always looking for new ways to expand help and support for the families in our community,

Our Walking Bus continues to be a success and is helping reduce congestion around school and bring children together for a healthy start to the day.

The coming year will see new challenges, but I know that when we all work together there isn’t anything that we can’t achieve.

Yours sincerely,

CLlr Matthew Dorrance
Chair of Governors

About the Annual Report

The Annual Report to Parents is a document that Governors provide to parents each year outlining events and developments at the school over the last 12 months. There are a number of statutory elements that we have included; we add to this to illustrate a fuller picture of school life over the academic year September 24 – July 25



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School Governing Body

Cllr. Matthew Dorrance (Chair) - LA Governor

Mrs Kim Woods (Vice-Chair) - Foundation Governor

Father Mark Clavier – Ex-Officio Governor

Cllr. Chris Walsh – Community Governor

Mr Barry Jones – Parent Governor

Mr Nigel Krawczyk - Foundation Governor

Mr Stephen Power – Foundation Governor

Ms Rebecca Griffith – Foundation Governor

Miss Claire Pugh – Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Preece – Teacher Governor

Mrs Christina Resch - Ancillary Staff Governor

Clerk to the Governing Body – Mrs Diane Workman

The Chair of the Governing Body can be contacted at the school office: (01874) 623549

New regulations regarding Governors’ meetings with parents state that the annual meeting for parents no longer has to take place. However, parents have the right to request a meeting with the Governing Body on issues which concern them, up to three times a year.

There are no actions as a result of resolutions passed at the last meeting.



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Governor's areas of responsibility

Areas of Responsibilities and support for Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) in the New Curriculum for Wales

Governor	Responsibilities / AoLEs
Cllr. Matthew Dorrance	Safeguarding / Child Protection Health and Well-being
Barry Jones	Health & Safety Science and Technology
Father Mark Clavier	Church Links Humanities
Cllr. Chris Walsh	Health & Safety Mathematical and Numeracy
Rebecca Griffith	Attendance and Well-being Humanities Mathematics and Numeracy Language, Literacy and Communication
Mrs Anne Sweeting	Senior Leadership Team. Language, Literacy & Communication Science and Technology
Mrs Kim Woods	Attendance and Well-being Expressive Arts
Mrs Lisa Preece	Additional Learning Needs Science and Technology Child looked after
Mrs Christina Resch	Health and Well-being Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality
Mr Stephen Power	Senior Leadership Team Expressive Arts
Miss Claire Pugh	Pupil progress Designated Safeguarding Officer



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School Organisation

Priory Church in Wales School hours are: -

9:00 am – 12:15 pm (Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils) Morning Session

9:00 am – 12:30 pm (Years 3,4,5 & 6 pupils) Morning Session

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Afternoon Session

During the academic year 2024-2025 the school resumed its traditional drop off and pick up times with visitors being welcomed back into the school including external professionals, volunteers and parents. During the academic year 2024-2025 there were a maximum of 146 pupils on roll, the children were organised into seven mainstream classes:

Progression Step 1

Reception: Mrs Angela Howell (teacher) Mrs Ann-Marie Wilson (LSA) Miss Hannah Weaver (LSA))

Progression Step 2

Year 1: Ms Abigail Gibbs (teacher) Mrs Christina Resch (ELSA/LSA)

Year 2: Ms Janet Davies (teacher) Mrs Charlotte Belcher (LSA)

Year 3: Mrs Shelley Hughes (Teacher), Mrs Elizabeth Williams

Progression Step 3

Year 4: Mrs Lisa Preece (teacher), Mrs Mandi Orton (HLTA/ELSA/LSA)

Year 5: Miss Amanda Blain (teacher) covered by Miss Annie Phillips (NQT), Mrs Mandi Orton (HLTA/ELSA/LSA)

Year 6: Mrs Annie Thomas and Miss Claire Pugh (teachers), Mrs Elizabeth Davies-Jones (HLTA/LSA)

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA): Mrs Mandi Orton, Mrs Liz Davies-Jones.

PPA and management/class cover: Ms Abigail Gibbs



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School Vision and Mission Statement

We continue to follow our school vision that we adapted with our School Council and director of Swansea and Brecon Diocese Mr John Meredith which is as follows:

At Priory Church in Wales Primary School, we are dedicated to developing a learning environment that enables God's realise their true potential.

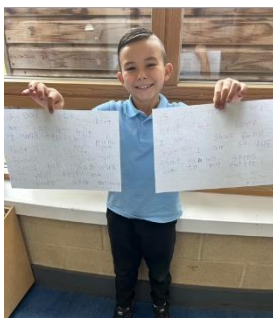
'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10

With the care and support of our teachers and friends, we learn to become respectful, responsible, generous and resilient learners. Mantle of the Expert and our Christian beliefs enable us to work together imaginatively and value each other's' strengths and interests.

Language of Education, Curriculum approaches and learning opportunities in 2024-2025

The medium of education throughout the school is English as a first language with Welsh being taught as a second language. The school curriculum follows Curriculum for Wales. We have embedded the four purposes and the 12 pedagogical principles across the whole school. We refer to our classes as progression steps which is reflected in Curriculum for Wales. Progression Step 1 is our Reception class, Progression Step 2 is Year 1-3 and Progression Step 3 is Years 4-6. Within the new curriculum what we would traditional call subjects have been grouped into Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs). Throughout the academic year we have posted on our closed FACEBOOK group experiences the children have undertaken highlighting AoLEs, authentic learning and community experiences and Mantle of the Expert practice, skills mornings and celebrations/specific events in our school calendar and how we explore/learn in our school.

The School's main pedagogical approaches are: Mantle of the Expert, a dramatic inquiry-based method of Teaching and Learning and Singapore Maths as a Mastery for Learning Approach in mathematics. We have an ongoing commitment in further research and implementation of a Reggio Emilia approach and ethos across the school through developing skills sessions in Progression Step 1 and 2 class and a skills morning in Progression Step 3 where children learn life skills such as cooking, woodwork skills and practice their cross curricular skills (literacy English and Welsh, numeracy and digital competence skills) across independent tasks. This year we have a consistent approach in literacy with the introduction of Monster Phonics.





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We continue to showcase our learning adventures and activities on our closed FACEBOOK group. Alongside this we communicate your child's progression and learning journey with you via parents evening and an end of year report.

We have had a very busy academic year with lots of exciting learning experiences, below is a snapshot of experiences the children have undertaken.

Autumn 2024



We continue to develop our creativity and as a school we have worked very closely with Powys County Council to ensure our children have music experiences, so at the start of this year our Year 4 pupils completed their first music experience where they learnt to play the harp. Throughout the academic our pupils have had experiences where they have learnt to play toots, glockenspiels, tongue drums and undertaken percussion sessions. We even attended Music Mondays, which enabled us to talk to musical professionals across the world.



This term was the exciting launch of our Swap Shop, as to us all supporting one another in as many ways as we can means so much to us. In addition, our School Council members have been working hard to share the importance of staying safe online, in school and out of school.



Continuing support members of our one another wider than just Brecon we raised money for Children in need (£140.00) and we all made kindness promises on White Ribbon day.

Our pedagogy which is displayed through inquiry learning enables our children to become a team to solve a commission from solving problems that occurred in the great fire of London, to making shelters to keep the Dragon's egg warm and safe to using our cross curricular skills to debate topics we feel strongly about.



Our Year 3 pupils supporting Brecon twinning committee by attending an event and working with adults and children. Plus, our Year 5 and 6 pupils developed their coaching skills through emotion coaching with Mary Strong.

Spring Term 2025



This term enabled us to work with our external professionals in Wales, as we undertook an Estyn inspection, where with everyone's support and hard work we had a very successful experience with only three recommendations that will be worked upon in the academic year of 2025-2026.



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Spring Term 2025 continued

We continue to work with Sinfonia Cymru to develop our story writing skills, musicality and artistic flair. This helps us further develop our inquiry learning skills where we are able to show our cross curricular literacy, numeracy and digital skills through problem solving challenges, science investigation, skills afternoons and so much more.

We continue to like to celebrate key dates in the diary such as world book day, Red nose day and St David's Day. Collaboration is vital to all of these celebrations and it enables us to comprehend a sense of Cynefin and also share experiences with one another. As a school we have extended this further through many events with our pupil voice groups and in this term our digital leaders met, Criw Cymraeg members conversed and played games together. Plus, we are so proud of all of our pupils, but some of our junior pupils represents our school and cluster at a cross country event.

Exploring the outdoors is something we are truly passionate about; all classes have undertaken forest school sessions and in this term our Year 5 pupils attended Llangrannog.

Summer 2025

The summer term began with the celebration of the month of the military child where we all wore purple to celebrate this and understand why they symbolise this day with a dandelion. We all came together and wore pupil to support our families in our community.

We continued to celebrate our successes as a school with a glowing church report where the inspector stated that being in a school enabled her to be her 'nine-year-old self.... this is school is like a slice of cake from heaven.'

Drawing upon our expertise in our school community is something we have explored and wish to continue to develop, this term we were able to work with a chef from a local mill and a silver smith, these experiences inspired our pupils and enabled them to develop new skills. Year 2 worked with our colleague Rob to develop knowledge of curb side craft – how to stay safe in our community.

Our music talents developed further with 'ready, steady music' and 'Big Sing' performance that our Year 1 and pupils took part in. They created elements of the set, sang and wrote songs. It is brilliant that all year groups in our school work with external professionals.

Being together as a school family is so important to us this year we explored our welsh heritage with our whole school trip to St Fagan's. Our Year 6 pupils had their last school holiday with us to Pencelli where they pushed themselves out of their comfort zones which boosted their self-confidence with risky adventure activities.



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Assessment Data

We collect data through the development of our school’s data books, which was developed in the Spring Term by two school practitioners. Formal data that we collect as a school is from all pupils in Year 2-6 who undertook the national testing, which displayed a snapshot of data in the following areas: reading and comprehension, Mathematical reasoning and Mathematical procedural. However, no end of Progression Step data was collected other than half termly teacher testing assessment through pupil progress meetings and assessment in learning strategies demonstrated in the children’s books.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Our Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator (ALNCO) is Mrs Shelley Hughes. The ALNCO evaluates provision for pupils with additional learning needs to ensure that resources are used effectively to support pupil’s progress. The ALNCO works closely with all teachers and teaching assistants, professional colleagues within the Local Authority and support services to ensure children with ALN achieve their full potential and beyond.

Attendance Data

Attendance information is gathered from the daily register. Authorised absences include being away due to illness, a medical appointment or special circumstances, such as a bereavement in the family.

Unauthorised absences occur when, despite the School’s efforts, an absence cannot be explained or the reason for being absent is not one that we are able to authorise.

	Percentage Attendance	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Total Absence
2024-2025	89.80%	7.49%	2.72%	100%

School Improvement

Every academic year the school compiles a School Development Plan that provides the focus for school development that academic year. Below is a summary of the areas that staff and Governors worked on during the academic year 2024-2025, these were based on recommendations from our Core Visit Reports and the Self Evaluation process undertaken in school.

Target 1: To support all learners in our school community to reach their full potential through a variety of interventions to challenge, scaffold, support and provide further authentic contexts to learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.



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School Improvement continued

Target 2: To continue create documents to support curriculum design outlining progression of skills through the school in relation to Curriculum for Wales.

Target 3: To develop Curriculum for Wales via effective, sustainable cluster working

Target 4: To continue to further develop consistent and differentiated methods of feedback and assessment with the extension of pupils being confident in articulating their next steps in their learning - with exploration of looking pupils looking at where they started to where they are going to. To secure a strong understanding of a variety of assessing techniques to ensure as broad and balanced a picture of that child and their learning journey is developed as well as possible in line with the curriculum for Wales and the four purposes.

Healthy Living



We encourage pupils to develop into 'Healthy and Confident Individuals'; as it is one of the four purposes in the Curriculum for Wales. We continue to focus on healthy eating with the pupils sharing the messages with parents regarding healthy snacks at snack time as well as ensuring healthy recipes are cooked with the pupils in their class kitchens. Daily fitness take place every morning with pupils choosing the disciplines they wish to explore that week. Respectful debates, on a whole range of subjects through 'Picture News' is an important to the wellbeing of our children, this takes place daily through Philosophy for Children (P4C) sessions. All classes have access to drinking water and water cups/bottles throughout the school day. Plus, children in Reception to Year 2 have milk daily. This year we have had a big launch on our walking bus which promote not only walking to school but the importance of being in school on time.

Toilet Facilities and Cleaning of Toilets

Every two classes share one set of toilets (Reception & Year 1), (Year 2 & Year 3), (Year 4 & Year 5), (Year 6 have access to the set of toilets located by the school hall). Toilets are checked every morning and cleaned once a day at the end of the school day. To check the cleanliness checks are made throughout the day by a member of staff.

School Policies

Priory Church in Wales School has extensive policies that cover all area of its' work. Written in consultation with staff and the Governing Body a number of policies are updated each year. During 2023-2024 the following policies were either adopted or updated, a number of which were published on our school website: Child Protection and Safeguarding; Schools Child Looked After (CLA) Policy; Domestic Abuse and the Workplace; Curriculum for Wales Summary, Additional Learning Needs (ALN); Anti-Bullying; Lettings; Lockdown Procedure; Physical intervention; Admissions; Disciplinary -Support staff, Disciplinary -Teachers; Grievance; Inclement weather; Performance Management; e-Safety; Privacy Notice; Complaints; Positive Behaviour; Whistleblowing; Religion Value and Ethics (RVE).



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Global, National and Community Links



We continue to place a huge emphasis on our community links to celebrate talents and skills in our local and school community. Our FACEBOOK group displays our learning experiences and how we have supported charities such as Jeans for Genes, Child in Need and Red Nose Day.

We continue to keep our doors open for our community and invite professionals, volunteers and visitors into our school. We have learnt a lot from them to further explore our heritage and a sense of Cynefin. We have continued to support as many charities as possible through the Teddy bear campaign. A big change for us in support Brecon community this year is the opening of our Swap Shop. In addition, we have supported our families this year with cookery course with the support of local Brecon business and family members of our school community.

We have visits from the school nurse to remember how to keep healthy through many activities such as tooth brushing, handwashing and learning about healthy and unhealthy habits.

School Sport and extra – Curricular Activities



We have continued to resume swimming lessons this academic year and all pupils from Year 2-6 had half a terms worth of swimming sessions to build up their confidence in water safety and swimming skills.

We have taken part in many community sporting activities; our children in Year 3-6 took part in many cross-country events and some of our pupils went on to represent us in the national rounds in Builth Wells. Da iawn bawb! Our Years 3-6 pupils have taken part in cricket and tennis games at cluster level. Throughout all events that our children have competed in, they have always represented the school well by being polite and showing amazing sportsmanship. We are very proud of them.

Our Year 2 pupils have been working with a Powys colleague Rob, to develop road safety and how to keep safe within the community, this has enabled them to take part in community walks and show their peers and teachers their knowledge of the highway code.

We have been further establishing extra-curricular links and clubs within the local community such as inviting colleagues into the school to share with the children what clubs are available in the community such as clubs held at Y Gaer such as the reading challenge.

We continue to develop after school clubs to support all pupils across our school over the academic year.



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Budget
Summary
April 2024-
March 2025

Delegated School Budget	
Delegated Budget	£653,904
ALN delegated funding	£29,654
ALN band led funding	£3,800
Formula Teaching Assistant Funding	-
Transition Adjustment	-
In-year pupil transfer funding	-
Total Delegated Funds	£687,358

Expenditure	
Expenditure Salaries (teachers, support assistants, midday supervisors etc.)	£744,702
Premises (repairs, cleaning, electricity, water, rates, gas etc.)	£91,308
Supplies (paper, pencils, paint, photocopier)	£37,126
Total Expenditure	£873,136

Other Income	£150,893
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Net Expenditure	£722,243
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2025-
2026
Term
Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1 September 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025

Half Term - Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Monday 3 November 2025 to Friday 19 December 2025

Cluster INSET days – Autumn Term 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January 2026 to Friday 13 February 2026

Half Term - Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Monday 23 February 2026 to Friday 27 March 2026

Additional non-pupil day – Spring Term 2026

Friday 6th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 April 2026 to Friday 22 May 2026

Half-term - Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Monday 1 June 2026 to Friday 17 July 2026

Cluster INSET day

Friday 17th July 2026