

St Brigid's School, Denbigh.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS 2015- 2016

Introduction

The school was founded in 1939 by the Congregation of St Brigid, at the request of the Bishop of Menevia, and located in Park Street, Denbigh. In 1943 it moved to the present location, taking boarders after 1945. With the reduction in the number of vocations for Nuns, a Trust was set up in 1990 to continue the work of the Congregation, and the school became an independent boarding school. In 1996 the Governors were successful in gaining Grant status as the only State Boarding School in Wales. As a result of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the School became a Voluntary-Aided School on 1st September 1999.

The Trust Body, St Brigid's School Limited is a charitable company, registered at Companies House (No 02572420) and The Charity Commissioners (No 1003157) This Company holds the land and buildings in trust on behalf of the School. The Boarding element of the School closed in 2013.

The principal activity of the School is set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust Body, being "the advancement of education of children between the ages of 3 and 19 by making provision for a Voluntary-aided Roman Catholic School or School for the education of Roman Catholic Children, either with or without other Christian or non-Christian children." In consequence of this the School is an All-through Denominational School, having a co-educational Primary Department, and since September 2009, it became co-educational through to sixth form. In educational terms St. Brigid's School is known as a Middle School – the term for 3-19 Schools, initially being the first and only one in Wales, however the number of Middle Schools has now grown to 6 and continues to increase as this model of school gains popularity. The school is classed as an English medium Denbighshire County council school and receives its delegated budget from DCC. St. Brigid's was a founder member of the Dyffryn Clwyd sixth form consortium and it currently comprises of St Brigid's School, Denbigh High School, Ysgol Brynhyfyd, Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Coleg Dinbich and Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi).

During the academic year 2015 – 2016 the School had an attendance register of 408 of statutory age pupils. This number was the recorded PLASC number submitted to DCC for the year and broke down as 137 pupils in the primary department, including 12 Nursery, and 283 senior pupils. Sixth form pupils who designated the School as their base numbered 76.

I would advise that the 'Schools Standards and Organisation Act 2013' has removed the requirement for School Governing Bodies to hold an Annual Meeting with parents. However, new arrangements mean that you have the right to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with the Governing Body. For this to take place, the following 4 conditions need to be met:

- Parents will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting.
- The meeting must be called to discuss matters which *affect the school*. It is not designed to discuss individual matters. The petition should include brief details of the matter to be discussed and the reasons for calling the meeting.
- Parents can use this right to request up to 3 meetings with a school Governing Body during the school year.
- There must be at least 25 school days left in the year when the petition is received in order that the meeting can be held. A 'school day' means a day when the school is open to pupils and does not include weekends, public or school holidays or INSET days.

Further advice for parents can be found on the Welsh Government's website at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/parents-meetings-statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

1. Governing Body 2015/2016

Structure of the Governing Body –

Ten Foundation Governors appointed by Trustees of St Brigid's School Limited

Two Elected Parents Governors

The Headteacher

Two Elected Teachers Governors

One Elected Staff member Governor

One Community Governor, appointed by the LEA

One LEA Governor, appointed by the LEA

One pupil Governor, the elected Head Girl

All the above to serve for four years from their individual date of election/appointment, with the exception of the Headteacher.

Membership of the Governing Body

Name	Type	Term ends
Anthony Hannigan	Foundation (Chair, Trustee)	Sept 2017
Dawn Docx	Foundation	Oct 2017
Jane Wood	Foundation	Sept 2017
Geraint Lloyd-Williams	Foundation	Sept 2020
Maria Hammersley	Foundation (Trustee)	July 2019
Markus Hesselning	Foundation (Vice chair)	Sept 2017
Paul Quirk	Foundation	Sept 2019
Mick Kumwenda	Foundation	Sept 2018
Jon Rosser	Foundation	Sept 2020
Rona Jones	Headteacher (appointed Sept 2013)	
Darren Millar	LEA Governor	March 2020
Cathy Jones	Community Governor	Sept 2020
Kevin Roberts	Parent Governor	Sept 2017
Tony Thomas	Parent Governor	Sept 2017
Sally Roberts	Teacher Governor	Sept 2019
Hannah McMurray	Teacher Governor	Sept 2020
Heather Owen	Staff Governor	May 2016
Meg Staveley	Pupil Governor (Head Girl)	Sept 2017
Sam Wheeler	Clerk to the Governors	

2. Financial Performance 2015/2016

2.1 The School's financial performance for the Financial Year 2015/016.

INCOME

Denbighshire CC - delegated	2,166,505.00
Other Income	216,601.71
Total Income	2,383,106.71

EXPENDITURE

Staff Costs (including supply costs)	2,038,640.34
Other	448,584.27
Total Expenditure	2,487,224.61

Surplus (deficit) for the year to March 2016	(104,117.90)
Balances brought forward	28,450.81
(Deficit)	(75,667.09)

Our budget deficit has been licensed and the recovery plan has been agreed by Denbighshire County Council and spans a 4 year period.

The Delegated budget from Denbighshire County Council was reduced in April 2014, as St. Brigid's was no longer funded as both a Primary and Secondary School but as a Middle School.

The Allocation from Denbighshire County Council was based on the numbers attending the School in accordance with their Middle School Formulae.

Middle Schools are those with a 3-19 pupil range. St. Brigid's is the only Middle School in Denbighshire.

2.2 Fundraising

The School Association continues to fundraise on behalf of the school. At a time of financial cuts, this support is vital.

2.3 Gifts to the School

School received substantial donations from the School Association and from individual Parents during the year, many giving using the advantage of Gift Aid. The School Association funds have been used to buy a new telescope, textbooks, ICT equipment and other sundries. The Gift Aid funds are being used to repair parts of the school building and to hopefully to fund additional parking for the school across the road.

2.4 Governors' Expenses

There were no claims from Governors for traveling and subsistence expenses for the year 2015-2016.

3. Action taken by the Governing Body 2015/2016

Several changes have taken place over the 2015-16 year. The entrance exam was formally discontinued following a directive from Welsh Government.

The most recent Estyn inspection report placed the school into Estyn monitoring following judgments of Adequate for Standards and Adequate for Capacity to improve. The school is currently working towards the seven Estyn recommendations. The school was placed in Standards group 3 for primary standards and standards group 1 for secondary standards. The school is categorized as a Yellow school.

3.1 Comments from the last Annual Meeting.

None noted

3.2 Development of Links with the Community

Several Fund-raising events took place during the year, the proceeds of which were given to local charities. Our CCF unit continues to support the local community at Remembrance day parades across the county. Links with other local schools in the county are ongoing and successful. Local businesses have played an active part in assisting in our PSE and Careers programs in school.

3.3 Changes to the Prospectus

The school prospectus is updated annually in line with statutory requirements. Changes to the Prospectus include updated Staff Lists and current Examination performances. Any information needed to comply with Welsh Government requirements will be included as well as the Admissions Policy for the coming year.

3.4 Review of School Policies and Procedures

This review is ongoing, through the Governing Body, and parents are able to view these on the School Website.

3.5 Implementation and review of specific school strategies

In 2015-16 the School Development Plan included the following strategic priorities: -

1. To improve levels of Mathematics across all phases – Foundation Phase to Key Stage 5
2. To improve literacy levels across all phases – Foundation Phase to Key Stage 5
3. To improve numbers of pupils attaining levels/outcomes in all phases – specific focus on MAT
4. To ensure that Leadership, management and governance are driving better outcomes for pupils
5. To fully embed cross phase and school to school collaboration
6. To ensure that new curriculum requirements / national initiatives are in place and adding value.

3.6 Term Dates and Session Times 2016/2017

Autumn Term 2016	5 th September 2016	to	16 th December 2016
	Half term	24 th October 2016	to 28 th October 2016
Spring Term 2017	4 th January 2017	to	7 th April 2017
	Half term	20 th February 2017	to 24 th February 2017
Summer Term 2017	25 th April 2017	to	21 st July 2017
	Half term	29 th May 2017	to 2 nd June 2017

Times of Sessions

Nursery	8.50 am to 11.30am
Primary department	8.50.am to 3.20 pm
Secondary Department	8.50am to 3.35 pm

3.7 Curriculum

The school runs the primary and secondary curriculum in accordance with Welsh Government directives. There is cross phases collaboration for core subjects between Key stages 2 and 3 and specialist secondary teachers deliver lessons in the primary phase for music and dance.

4. Performance and Target Information Summer 2016

4.1 Summer 2016

In both external public examinations and the internal end of key stage self assessments, the School's summer 2016 results were impressive, as shown below.

The self assessment results, in line with all Welsh Schools are moderated by external agencies.

Key Stage 5 – A Levels

Level 3 (2 A levels grade A* - E) was 100% - No U grades

Cohort of 32 (6 boys and 26 girls)

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Level 3 threshold	100	96.4	100	93.1

Key Stage 4 - GCSE

For the main GCSE measure Level 2+ (5 A* - C including English and Maths) we were the highest performing school in North Wales.

Cohort Size = 54 pupils (7 boys, 47 girls) 1 pupil = 1.8%

Key indicator	2016	2015	2014	2013
Level 2+	85.2	69.8	80.70	70.91

Key Stage 3 – End of Year 9 – self assessment.

Level 5 which is national expectation.

Cohort Size = 56 pupils (27 boys, 29 girls) 1 pupil = 1.8%

Level 5+	2016	2015	2014	2013
CSI	94.6	94.6	93.0	83.64
Maths	96.4	96.4	93.0	89.09
Science	96.4	98.2	93.0	89.09
English	96.4	94.6	98.2	94.55
Oracy	98.2	92.9	98.2	94.55
Reading	92.9	94.6	93.0	94.55
Writing	96.4	92.9	98.2	92.73

Level 6+	2016	2015	2014	2013
English	64.3	64.3	71.9	72.73
Maths	73.2	67.9	78.9	67.27
Science	83.6	76.8	52.6	50.91

Level 7+	2016	2015	2014	2013
English	30.4	37.5	15.8	20.0
Maths	23.2	23.2	31.6	29.1
Science	20.0	44.6	12.3	5.5

Key Stage 2 – End of Year 6 – self assessment.

Level 4 which is national expectation.

Cohort Size = 29 pupils (16 boys, 13 girls) 1 pupil = 3.4%.

Level 4+	2016	2015	2014	2013
CSI	100	86.2	100	91.7
English	100	89.7	100	95.8
Science	100	89.7	100	95.8
Maths	100	86.2	100	91.7

Level 5+	2016	2015	2014	2013
English	51.72	37.9	59.3	37.5
Maths	44.83	34.5	37.04	37.5
Science	41.38	34.5	44.44	45.8

Foundation Phase – End of Year 2 – self assessment.

Cohort of 12 (7 girls, 5 boys) 1 pupil = 8.3%

Outcome 5	2016	2015	2014	2013
Language	100	91.7	84.6	83.3
Mathematical development	100	91.7	84.6	100
PSD	100	91.7	100	100

Outcome 6	2016	2015	2014	2013
Language	66.7	58.3	23.1	41.7
Mathematical development	58.3	33.3	23.1	41.7
PSD	66.7	66.7	46.2	41.7

4.2 Destination of School Leavers during the Period 2015/2016

Year 11 (54) 34 returned to Sixth Form, 19 to Further Education/ Training.
Year 13 (30) 27 to Higher Education, 3 took Gap years and 1 Apprenticeship.

4.3 Attendances for 2015/16

	Secondary	Primary
Attendances	95.0%	95.3%
Authorized Absences	4.7 %	4.3%
Authorized Educational Activity	2.0%	0.9%
Unauthorized Absences	0.3%	0.4%

No pupils were permanently excluded during the previous 12 months.

5. Staffing 2015 / 2016

New staff were appointed for this academic term -

Georgina Newnham – Assistant Head of primary

Michele Nelson – English teacher

Daniel Morgan – Physics teacher

6. Future Developments

We are advised that as part of the 'Modernising Education' Strategy in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's '21st Century Schools' Programme, St Brigid's school will be considered for Tranche B funding along with other school Denbighshire whose facilities are deemed to be below the expected standards.

7. Thanks

The Governors would like to thank all Parents for their support and co-operation in the education of their children, and in achieving the results highlighted in this Report.

Signed



Anthony Hannigan
Chairman of the Governing Body.

October 2016