

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY 2020 - 2021

Report of the Governing Body concerning the discharge of its functions during the school year 2020 - 2021.

Bishop Vaughan School is a Catholic Voluntary Aided School in the Diocese of Menevia. The school caters for the religious, educational and pastoral needs of Catholic children between the ages of 11-18 from Swansea and the surrounding area.

INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report of the Governing Body for 2020-2021 and gives you a useful insight into some of the key features of the school and its performance. Please take time to read it and absorb the details.

Governors are appointed to ensure that objectives are met and that planning for the future is both visionary and realistic. We are here to support and encourage our Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and all school personnel so that children have access to a rich education and the opportunities they deserve.

As governors we become involved with a variety of issues including finance, pupil welfare, policies, building/grounds maintenance and staff appointments. However, without a doubt, we consider that our most important role is to ensure the highest of standards in relation to the welfare and education of the pupils.

We are justifiably very proud of the children in our school. In addition, this is an opportunity for me to thank all the parents who encourage and support their children so admirably. In a good school, such as ours, parents take a great interest in their child's learning and development.

I believe that at Bishop Vaughan Catholic School, governors, staff, parents and children work as a team, building on success, in a happy, creative, high-attaining environment where everyone feels valued. Parents and governors have key roles in helping the school to maintain high standards for all our children, both now and for future generations.

Welsh Government statutory guidance enables parents to request up to three meetings in a school year with the governing body. There is no longer a requirement for governing bodies to hold an annual parents' meeting but they may continue to call parents' meetings if they believe that an issue needs to be discussed. The purpose of a meeting requested by parents should be to discuss issues directly relating to the school, not individual pupil progress and achievement or grievances against a member of staff or the governing body. Of course governors would hope that concerns are first raised with the school.

If 10% of the parents of registered pupils at the school or the parents of 30 pupils registered at the school, whichever is the lower number, request a meeting with governors, the school governing body is required to hold a meeting.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss any matter, please do so by first contacting our Headteacher. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible throughout the forthcoming year.

Cllr Sam Pritchard
Chair of the Governing Body, November 2021

THE GOVERNING BODY

The following people can be contacted through Bishop Vaughan School:

Chair: Cllr S Pritchard
Vice Chair: Mr J Williams
Clerk to the Governors: Mr M Jones/Miss H Morgan

The Governors of the School for the academic year 2020 - 2021 were:

Name	Position	Term of office
Mrs E Pole	Headteacher	Ex officio
Cllr S Pritchard	Chair and Local Authority Governor	24/06/2025
Mr J Williams	Vice Chair and Parent Governor	11/02/2024
Mr D Cushion	Foundation Governor	13/09/2025
Fr R Davies	Foundation Governor	08/11/2024
Cpt K Dias	Foundation Governor	08/11/2024
Mrs A Jones	Foundation Governor	07/03/2024
Mr D Lewis	Foundation Governor	08/11/2024
Mrs T Parry	Foundation Governor	16/03/2024
Mr P McCarthy	Foundation Governor	07/03/2024
Fr C Thadathil	Foundation Governor	09/01/2025
Mr J Twist	Foundation Governor	07/03/2024
Canon P Watson	Foundation Governor	08/11/2024
Fr Mansel Usher	Foundation Governor	13/09/2021
Mr J Blackburn	LA Governor	25/04/2022
Ms H Fage	Parent Governor	07/03/2024
Mrs C Steward	Parent Governor	07/03/2024
Mrs E-J Gwyther	Staff Governor	05/10/2021
Mr D Crudge	Teacher Governor	05/10/2025
Mrs H Hansen	Teacher Governor	05/10/2025

S52 EDUCATION BUDGET STATEMENT

Year: 2020-21

LEA Name: City and County of Swansea

LEA Code: 670

UA Code: 532

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
School name	Official reference number	School opening/closing O/C	Date opening/closing	Number of pupils	Budget share		Notional S.E.N. budget £k	Non-ISB Funds devolved to schools £k
					Per school £k	Per pupil £		

Secondary schools

Birchgrove	4075			458	3,168	6,924	707	0
Bishop Gore School	4044			1,254	6,277	5,005	772	0
Bishop Vaughan School	4600			1,165	5,454	4,683	363	0
Bishopston Comprehensive	4069			1,103	5,424	4,915	613	0
Cefn Hengoed	4031			860	4,661	5,422	679	0
Dylan Thomas Community School	4076			544	3,690	6,778	982	0
Gowerton Comprehensive School	4063			1,195	5,835	4,882	722	0
Morriston Comprehensive	4033			1,003	5,443	5,428	727	0
Olchfa School	4032			1,766	8,117	4,597	373	0
Pentrehafod School	4043			1,038	5,522	5,321	873	0
Penyrheol Comprehensive School	4062			892	4,735	5,309	473	0
Pontarddulais Comprehensive School	4072			838	4,332	5,171	510	0
Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr	4074			1,080	5,045	4,672	286	0
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe	4078			879	4,345	4,946	292	0

(11) Totals/average secondary schools

14,074	72,049	5,119	8,372	0
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SCHOOL:		Bishop Vaughan	
STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR			

TERM DATES FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR 2021 - 2022

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2021	Thursday 2 nd September	Monday 25 th October	Friday 29 th October	Friday 17 th December
Spring 2022	Tuesday 4 th January	Monday 21 st February	Friday 25 th February	Friday 8 th April
Summer 2022	Monday 25 th April	Monday 30 th May	Friday 3 rd June	Friday 22 nd July

SCHOOL DAY 2020 - 2021:

The school day for the school year 2021-2021 was organised into three one-hour periods and two 55-minute periods.

Times of Sessions: **Key Stage 3**

8.50	Tutorial
9.10	Lesson 1
10.10	Break Time
10.30	Lesson 2
11.30	Lesson 3
12.30	Lunch
13.10	Lesson 4
14.05	Lesson 5
15.00	End of Day

Times of Sessions: **Key Stage 4 & 5**

8.50	Tutorial
9.10	Lesson 1
10.10	Lesson 2
11.10	Break Time
11.30	Lesson 3
12.30	Lesson 4
13.25	Lunch
14.05	Lesson 5
15.00	End of Day

ACTION TAKEN TO REVIEW SCHOOL POLICIES

There is a continuous process of review of school policies and these can be viewed on our school website.

During the academic year 2020-2021 Governors adopted updates to the following policies:

- Admissions Policy 2021-2022
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- Careers Policy
- Disability Equality Scheme
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- ESGDC Policy
- FOI and Publication Scheme
- Food and Fitness Policy
- Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan
- Grievance Procedure for all School-based Staff
- Harassment Policy
- Sex and Relationships Education Policy
- Substance Misuse Policy
- Volunteer and Visitor Policy

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Bishop Vaughan School has actively worked with the local community, residents, parishes and local schools including our feeder schools.

This year members of the charity team have shown resilience, adaptability and compassion which has remained steadfast during the restrictions. The pupils have adapted to the changes with enthusiasm and have worked tirelessly to ensure the events and activities, although altered from usual practice, have been able to continue.

Children In Need

The annual Children In Need fundraiser was organised prior to the Christmas holiday, with COVID friendly restrictions in place. Both pupils and staff showed their support for the campaign with a non-uniform day. Across the whole school community spotty patterns and bright splashes of yellow could be seen far and wide. An impressive £628 was raised.

Additionally, the Charity Team organised a special tutorial quiz for all year groups, with prizes and certificates for the winners. The quiz was well received and brought a little light relief and friendly competitiveness and camaraderie to the school community in the middle of a disrupted term.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

In light of current restrictions, the annual SVP Hamper Appeal was scaled back this year. Rather than collecting small change, essential food items were collected instead. The school linked with local SVP groups, as well as the local Foodbank Appeal. Pupils prepared a recorded assembly, items checklists and posters; donation boxes were placed in each "bubble area" for collections to be made.

In addition, children's selection boxes were donated, a small token from our pupils to other children and families this Christmas. As always, the generosity of the Bishop Vaughan community was overwhelming. All donations received went to support local families this Christmas.

Messages of Kindness

With a focus on spreading love, hope and kindness, as well as saying thank you to those in our communities, cards and messages of kindness have been sent to our parishes, local hospitals, nursing homes, community groups and key workers.

Pupils prepared a note to accompany the card so show their appreciation for the dedication and example they give to others. The messages symbolise the very many ways our pupils, staff and indeed wider school community could share kindness and positivity with each other at this precious time of year.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Quiz

Festivities came to Bishop Vaughan sooner than expected during the Christmas term with the Christmas Jumper Day moving forward a week, practically overnight, as the school adapted to the changes made by the Welsh Government and Local Authority in December. A donation was made to Save the Children, to support the appeal but standard collections were halted as a gesture of good will and cheer for all.

Fitness February

Staff Element:

As part of the wellbeing activities to support staff across our school community, the PE department organised a "Fitness Feb" challenge. Staff who signed up were grouped into

teams of four, with the task of walking each day in February. Each day the total distance per team was calculated. With final steps recorded, prizes were awarded for the most steps at the end of the month. The challenge provided a boost for staff morale during a challenging time of the year and a sense of coming together as a community.

During February the school heard the tragic news that a past pupil and inspirational young man had passed away. He was an avid campaigner for the British Heart Foundation and staff wanted to honour his memory, so decided to combine the "Fitness Feb" challenge with a fundraiser.

A JustGiving page was set up and over the course of the month, over £500 was raised for British Heart Foundation.

Pupil element:

The annual Lenten Programme of Activities took place during Lent.

Facing disruption and remote learning, pupils in the charity team considered the options available and decided upon a series of activities which would allow for pupil participation as well as reflection and focus during Lent.

The activities selected provided an opportunity for us to focus on Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2021: "Reviewing faith, hope and love" as well as a chance to come together as a community and have a little fun. An assembly was prepared, with a narrated power point and shared with pupils on the whole school assembly team.

Activities included:

- Lent Walk for Water – linking to and supporting CAFOD. Led by school Eco Team. The challenge set was to walk 10,000 steps each day of Lent. Those involved progressed well, with lots of positivity, counting of steps and images from the walking shared on the school social media pages. A JustGiving page was set up and over £230 raised.
- Lent Journal: Jar of Gratitude. This called on pupils to reflect during this Lenten Season and focus on gratitude. Pupils recorded their reflections once or twice a week. At the end of Lent, pupils were then able to revisit their tokens and points of gratitude.
- Lent Quest – linking to and supporting 'Missio'. This comprised a range of activities to "rediscover" Lent in the ordinary and daily tasks while providing opportunities for pupils to get creative, get out into the fresh air and complete them with their families.
- Lent through a Lens – This also linked to and supported 'Missio' via a photography competition. The focus was on pupils capturing moments of the Lenten season in the ordinary activities and environment around them.

Mental Health Awareness Week

With the restrictions in place, the annual fundraiser and events were unable to run as normal. Instead, a programme of activities for the week was prepared and distributed. The focus of the activities placed importance upon taking time out of the business of the day, to reflect, spend time with others and to share with one another.

Activities included spending time in nature with friends or family, reading a chapter of our favourite book and taking five minutes to focus on ourselves and activities we enjoy. To accompany each day and activity, a biblical quote was included. The quotes were carefully chosen to provide a calm and encouraging focus throughout the day, serving as a reminder of the presence of God in our lives and the strength our faith can provide, even in the most testing of times

Cluster Moderation 2020 - 21 Key Stage 2 - 3

Unfortunately, additional resources were not forthcoming at this point for moderation however it is anticipated that this practice will resume in the Autumn term 2021.

SCHOOL ROLL

The numbers of pupils on the school roll as at 11th January 2021 were:

Year 7:	167
Year 8:	165
Year 9:	162
Year 10:	192
Year 11:	207
Year 12:	122
Year 13:	96

The total number was 1111; 538 boys and 573 girls

PUPIL DESTINATIONS 2021

At the time of writing this report, the pupil destination information is still being compiled by Careers Wales.

Curricular Developments

Blended Learning

Until March 2020 the term 'blended learning' was rarely used in schools– referring to a blend of teaching approaches including:

- Online Teams Tasks
- Recorded Lessons
- Live Lessons and live check ins

This mix is critical to the maintenance of continuity of learning in the face of uncertainty. Building effective provision is one of the biggest challenges that schools have faced in recent decades. In adapting to this challenge, we led from within, learning from each other and swapping skills and knowledge.

Since returning to school in the summer term, the school has been blessed with no COVID-19 cases which have necessitated the isolation of year groups or bus routes. This has allowed us to continue face-to-face teaching, without continued reliance on digital platforms, and it has also allowed us to re-establish the rhythm and routines of daily school life for our students.

Pupils returning to classrooms

It has been most affirming for class teachers to return to face to face teaching and nearly all have approached it with a renewed sense of purpose. Many of our teachers possess a mastery of their craft and a high degree of automaticity in their pedagogy. Many are expert in reading the nuances of a classroom and adjusting the pace of a lesson accordingly, which is inherently more difficult to do across a digital platform. It has therefore been affirming as a school community to return our learners to classrooms and to engage in the art of teaching, away from the primacy of digital platforms.

Largely the pupils have returned superbly well to school and most have valued the rhythm of daily school life and 'getting back to normal' with regard to their learning. We are delighted to have our school community back together again.

Moving forwards, we will be focusing on developing academic resilience and we are pleased that this work has been supported by the research of one of our teachers which also supports us in our endeavours of becoming a research informed school. The research paper is attached in the Appendix 1 for reference.

CURRICULUM PLAN 2020 – 2021

The school operates on forty-five periods of 60 minutes and five periods of 55 minutes per fortnight. For all new pupils in Year 7, the school operates a 'foundation year' which acts as an appropriate transition from primary school and enables the individual assessment of abilities.

In Years 7 to 9, all pupils study the curriculum prescribed by law at Key Stage 3. Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils study French.

In each of Years 7 to 10, one of the classes is a smaller literacy focus class for those learners who need additional support with the core skills of reading, writing and spelling. This grouping allows pupils to access the curriculum with greater ease and assist them along their learning journey. In this literacy focus class, pupils are taught by a smaller number of teaching staff and supported by a dedicated team of teaching assistants in order to facilitate the progress

of key literacy skills whilst still following the National Curriculum.

There are also two express classes in each year group targeted at stretching and challenging more able pupils in order to accelerate their learning and achievement.

The remainder of the year group is taught in broadly mixed ability groups, but with the narrower range of ability allowing for a more intensive focus on the development of skills.

The decision to place a pupil in a particular group is informed by both data and professional judgement. Movement between classes is fluid, reviewed on a half termly basis and can change within the year, according to the needs of the individual pupil.

Year 8 and 9 pupils are also grouped in Mathematics. At Key Stage 3, the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science are studied for approximately 40% of the time.

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study the curriculum prescribed by law at Key Stage 4. Core subjects are now studied for approximately 50% of the time, as most pupils study more Science. All pupils in Years 10 and 11 study Religious Education and Welsh to GCSE level, the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus a further three possible option subjects.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The ALN department has adapted well to the demands of remote learning and continues to support some of our most disadvantaged learners remotely through blended learning. Teaching assistants have been making numerous daily calls to pupils on the schools ALN register offering support with work being set. Pupils with statements have received weekly interactive sessions with Teaching Assistant offering '2-2-1' guidance through activities and tasks. Literacy support has continued via Teams in small groups for pupils who have requested it. The blended learning offer for the three Key Stage 3 Foundation Classes has been strong.

Pupils with Additional Educational Needs are entitled to the full range of curriculum experiences and will, as far as possible, follow the same class syllabus as that of their peers. Teachers differentiate within the school by using a variety of teaching styles and presentation, different resources, worksheets, pace and complexity of information presented and level of teacher support. Pupils with learning difficulties are educated alongside their peers and additional learning needs department staff support pupils within subject areas across the key stages.

For pupils with specific learning difficulties, either in-class support or withdrawal from certain subject areas is arranged. In some cases, pupils are disapplied from areas of the National Curriculum. This information is provided by the pupil's statement. Pupils with specific learning difficulties are supported by specialist staff.

Outside agencies used by Bishop Vaughan include the Local Authority's Educational Psychology Service; specialist teachers for pupils with visual or hearing impairments; behaviour support team; CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services); Social Services; Community Paediatrician; Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy; EMAU (Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit). These agencies can be consulted to provide expert support and guidance.

Our ALNCo and Transition staff work closely with our primary partners in order to ensure a smooth transition for our pupils with additional learning needs.

SPORTING AIMS

Whilst Physical Education and Sport has had to adapt to the current pandemic, Bishop Vaughan pupils in KS3 have been accepting and responsive in their approach to the changes needed. All pupils have worked safely within the governing body guidelines to keep all safe whilst participating in invasion games, outdoor education and fitness

KS4 pupils have not been able to participate in practical lessons. We have used this time to deliver well-being lessons in response to the 'Student Health and Well-being Survey' conducted last year. Lessons focused on benefits of sleep, social media, nutrition and fitness and benefits to health.

Pupils are being encouraged to stay active whilst at home. Pupils are given a variation of physical tasks to complete where they can choose from activities such as dance, Pilates and high intensity interval workouts. Pupils can choose an activity for each PE lesson that they will enjoy doing and suits their ability/fitness level. In addition to the physical sessions we are setting Health and Well-being lessons where we take a different focus each fortnight. To date subjects looked at are 'the effects of sleep', 'the importance of exercise' and 'body image'.

Whilst in school, there has been a lot of interest in the multi-gym from pupils across the school looking to improve their fitness. Several strength and conditioning sessions with pupils in Years 10-13 have been held looking at the fundamental movements and the correct use of the new equipment. This space continues to be developed with new equipment so that eventually pupils will be able to use this space to exercise instead of attending a gym outside of school for which they will have to pay.

THE USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Welsh department leads in celebrating our Welsh identity and culture. While the school delivers its curriculum and conducts its business through the medium of English, the Welsh language is integrated into all areas of school.

All pupils in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 study Welsh. All Year 10 and Year 11 pupils follow the GCSE full course in Welsh.

The school is constantly developing the use of the Welsh language in a range of settings, both formal and informal. This includes implementing our policy of dual language signage in the school. There is also a designated member of staff and members of the Sixth Form Leadership Team in charge of promoting the Welsh dimension of school life.

A weekly lunch time club is very popular with pupils in Years 7 and 8 and all pupils are afforded the opportunity to visit Llangrannog.

School Development Plan

Due to the challenges presented by the global pandemic, school development planning has remained dynamic and agile. Since closure and indeed upon reopening we have seen our objectives change sometimes on a daily basis and even hourly in certain circumstances.

Every single member of staff remains committed to serving our learners with the very best education that we can provide. At the start of September, the five 'true targets' were shared with staff:

1. Keeping our learners, staff and school community safe
2. Maintaining high levels of wellbeing support
3. Developing our teaching and learning plans so that they are flexible enough for all possible delivery models
4. Supporting staff in new ways of working
5. Adapting to possible paths regarding exams in 2021

