



Governors' Report to Parents 2025-2026



Introduction

Dear parents/carers,

I am pleased to introduce our Annual Report to you for the academic year 2025-2026.

Afon Taf is a thriving comprehensive school. We have the highest expectations of our learners and aim to maximise the potential of each individual pupil.

Our staff work hard to provide students with the skills and opportunities to follow their dreams, and we encourage them to aim high. We are a caring and inclusive community in which all students are valued and in which everybody's opinion counts.

Estyn recently reported that:

"The care and support for pupils is a particularly strong feature of the school. Allied to the excellent behaviour and positive attitudes to their learning of many of these pupils, this creates a very respectful climate where pupils and staff flourish. Afon Taf High School is a very happy school."

Afon Taf continues to increase in popularity as evidenced in the continual increase in pupil numbers.

I wish to thank the whole school community, parents, staff, governors and of course the students for all their hard work and look forward to another successful year for the school.

Mr Gareth Lewis

Chair of Governors

Governing Body

The members of the Governing Body are all well respected members of our community who give a great deal of their time in providing guidance and support to the work of the school.

The members of our Governing Body include representatives of the Local Authority (LA), parents, teaching and non-teaching staff, and co-opted members who regularly have business or commercial involvements within the town.

The full Governing Body meets each term in discharging its statutory duty. In addition, the various committees meet regularly to assist the Headteacher in addressing the essential issues and aspects of school life.

At each full Governing Body meeting the Headteacher provides for discussion a written report on the school activities during the term. Information is also received from the Chief Education Officer and debate is undertaken on a range of matters. The work of the school, its achievements and targets for the future are central to all debates. School policies and procedures are reviewed and updated periodically as necessary.

The governing body operates a system of sub-committees, reporting each term to the full governing body. Each sub-committee manages, supports and oversees different areas of school life. To be effective, regular visits to the school take place, with opportunities to share training events and to link closely with different members of staff and their areas of responsibility.

Afon Taf Governing Body

CHAIRPERSON Councillor Gareth Lewis
VICE CHAIRPERSON Mr Jonathan Martin

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
<u>Selection Panel for Head and Deputy Appointments</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Headteacher Mrs Catherine Griffiths Mr Jonathan Martin Mr Andrew O’Keefe Mrs Melanie Davies Reserve: Mrs Judith Edwards
<u>Teaching / Non-teaching Appointments Committee</u> Quorum: Fixed term delegated to head	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Headteacher Mrs Susan Pound Mrs Beverley Thomas
<u>Performance Management / Pay Review Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Mrs Susan Pound Mr Jonathan Martin Reserve: Mrs Judith Edwards
<u>Performance Management / Pay Review Appeals Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Mrs Kirsty Parry Mr Andrew O’Keefe Mrs Alyson Price
<u>Staff Disciplinary & Dismissal Committee (Including Redundancy, Capacity and Grievance)</u> Agreed that Chair be given power to lift the suspension of staff Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Mr Andrew O’Keefe Mrs Melanie Davies Mrs Susan Pound
<u>Staff Disciplinary & Dismissal Appeals Committee (Including Staffing, Redundancy, Capability and Grievance)</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Mr Jonathan Martin Mr Andrew O’Keefe Mrs Alyson Price Miss Joanne Baber
<u>Staffing Committee</u>	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Headteacher Mr Andrew O’Keefe Mrs Alyson Price
<u>Finance Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Mr Jonathan Martin Headteacher Councillor Gareth Lewis Mrs Susan Pound Mrs Alyson Price Parent Vacancy
<u>Pupil Discipline & Exclusion Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Mr Jonathan Martin Mr Andrew O Keefe Mrs Susan Pound Mrs Melanie Davies
<u>Complaints Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Mr Jonathan Martin Mrs Susan Pound

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
	Mrs Sarah Pritchard
<u>Policies Review Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Headteacher Mr Stephen Baber (with voting rights) Mrs Catherine Griffiths Mr Jonathan Martin
<u>Standards Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Full Governing Body
<u>Premises, Health & Safety and Transport Committee</u> Quorum:	Chair of Committee: Andy Headteacher Miss Joanne Baber Mrs Catherine Griffiths Councillor Gareth Lewis Associate Pupil Governors (Head Boy/Girl) Mr Nicholas Jones
<u>Wellbeing Committee</u>	Chair of Committee: Councillor Gareth Lewis Mrs Beverley Thomas Mrs Kirsty Parry Miss Joanne Bbaer

ALN GOVERNOR	Mrs Beverley Thomas
ATTENDANCE GOVERNOR	Mr Andrew O'Keefe
EQUALITIES GOVERNOR	Mrs Alyson Price
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Councillor Gareth Lewis
LINK GOVERNOR	Councillor Gareth Lewis
SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR	Mr Andrew O'Keefe
WELLBEING / CLA GOVERNOR	Mrs Beverley Thomas
WHISTLEBLOWING GOVERNOR	Mr Jonathan Martin
COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL GOVERNOR	Councillor Gareth Lewis

Governors agreed to set a reserve list for all committees. Where a committee is not quorate the reserve list will be called where appropriate:

1. Mr Jonathan Martin
2. Mrs Susan Pound
3. Miss Joanne Baber – Not including PDC
4. Mrs Michelle Morgan
5. Mrs Claire Williams
6. Mr Andrew O’Keefe
7. Mrs Melanie Davies
8. Mrs Kirsty Parry
9. Mrs Rebecka Stone
10. Mrs Beverley Thomas
11. Mrs Catherine Griffiths

Governors linked with faculties:

- Mrs Kirsty Parry- ALN
- Mr Andrew O’Keefe - Attendance
- Mr Jonathan Martin - English / Literacy
- Mrs Susan Pound - Music / Performance
- VACANCY - ICT / DT
- Mr Jonathan Martin - Science
- Mrs Beverley Thomas - Maths
- Councillor Gareth Lewis - Humanities
- VACANCY - Welsh Baccalaureate
- Miss Joanne Baber - Language

Performance Against Aspirational targets and Predictions

The table shows the comparison between final predictions made in May 24, the aspirational targets set at the start of year 10 and the results obtained. The 'May Prediction' is colour coordinated to compare the prediction with actual results, where green shows the prediction is within 1.5% or 5 APS of the actual outcome and red is above 1.5% or 5 APS. For core APS, this comparison is within 1.5 APS. The 'Actual Results' column shows green if the actual result is within the aspirational target range or is above the aspirational target, or red if it is below the aspirational target.

Performance Measure	Target Set	May Prediction	Actual Results
Level 1	97% - 99%	99.3%	99.3%
- Males	97% - 99%	98.6%	98.6%
- Females	98-100%	100%	100%
- eFSM	96-100%	100%	100%
Level 2 Inc	55% - 58%	63.6%	61.4%
- Males	55% - 58%	62.2%	60.8%
- Females	54% - 57%	65.2%	62.1%
- eFSM	42% - 47%	32.3%	31.8%
5A*-A	12% - 17%	15.7%	9.3%
- Males	12% - 17%	13.5%	10.8%
- Females	10% - 15%	18.2%	7.6%
- eFSM	4% - 8%	4.5%	0%
Average Capped 9 Score	355 - 375 APS	392.6 APS	378.7 APS
- Males	355 - 375 APS	389.1 APS	374.9 APS
- Females	355 - 375 APS	396.5 APS	383.1 APS
- eFSM	320 - 340 APS	366.0 APS	348.0 APS
Best of Literacy	40 - 42 APS	42.6 APS	42.1 APS
- Males	40 - 42 APS	41.5 APS	40.9 APS
- Females	41 - 43 APS	43.8 APS	43.4 APS
- eFSM	36 - 38 APS	38.4 APS	37.3APS
Best of Numeracy	38 - 40 APS	39.4 APS	38.4 APS
- Males	39 - 41 APS	40.8 APS	40.1 APS
- Females	39 - 41 APS	37.8 APS	36.5 APS
- eFSM	33 - 35 APS	33.7 APS	32.7 APS
Best of Science	38 - 40 APS	41.6 APS	39.7 APS
- Males	39 - 41 APS	41.3 APS	39.5 APS
- Females	39 - 41 APS	41.8 APS	36.5 APS
- eFSM	33 - 35 APS	37.3 APS	34.4 APS
Skill Challenge Certificate - National	87 - 92%	96.4%	95.0%
- Males	87 - 92%	94.6%	94.6%

- Females	87 - 92%	98.5%	95.5%
- eFSM	79 - 84%	95.5%	95.5%

Attendance

The following attendance data has been prepared by the Local Authority.

Actual Attendance						Previous Targets						Proposed Target 2024/25
18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
91.95%	93.1%	93.0%	86.2%	87.4%	86.7%	94.0%	95.0%	95.0%	Not set	94.5%	94.50%	94%

Attendance Summary: School Year 2024-25

	22-23	23-24	24-25
Afon Taf	87.4%	86.7%	90.5%
Merthyr CBC Secondary Schools	84.90%	84.7%	87.4%

Attendance by Month (Academic Year 2024-2025)

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Afon Taf %	93.0	92.2	91.6	87.6	92.4	91.1	92.8	91.7	91.7	90.9	90.5
Merthyr Secondary Schools %	91.0	89.2	88.7	84.7	89.4	87.9	90.0	88.9	88.8	88.0	88.0

Attendance eFSM/non eFSM (Academic Year 2024-2025)

	eFSM	Non eFSM
Afon Taf	84.1%	91.3%
Merthyr Secondary Schools	79.7%	89.6%

Attendance by Year Group 24-25

		National Curriculum Year Group				
	All Year Groups	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Afon Taf	90.5%	92.9%	91.0%	89.1%	91.5%	87.2%
Merthyr Sec	87.4%	89.7%	88.2%	86.2%	87.0%	85.9%

Persistent Absentee Data 24-25

		Attendance less than 80%		Attendance less than 90%	
	Number on roll	Number pupils	% of Roll	Number pupils	% of Roll
Afon Taf	801	74	9.2%	269	33.6%
Merthyr Sec	3063	502	16.4%	1342	43.8%

Exclusions 24-25

All Fixed Term Exclusions

	Number on roll	Pupils excluded	Number of exclusions	Number of days lost to exclusion	Number of exclusions per 1000 pupils
Afon Taf	797	56	95	89	119.2
Merthyr Sec	3015	210	346	545	114.8

Exclusions of 5 days or less

	Number on roll	Pupils excluded	Number of exclusions	Number of days lost to exclusion	Number of exclusions per 1000 pupils
Afon Taf	797	56	94	81.5	117.9
Merthyr Sec	3015	210	338	467	112.0

Exclusions of more than 5 days

	Number on roll	Pupils excluded	Number of exclusions	Number of days lost to exclusion	Number of exclusions per 1000 pupils
Afon Taf	797	1	1	7	1.25
Merthyr Sec	3015	7	8	78	2.65

Permanent Exclusions

There were 4 permanent exclusions in the academic year 2024-25 (5 permanent exclusions in 2023-24).

School Budget

Afon Taf had a surplus budget of £206K at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year

Financial Risk Categorisation

In accordance with the Schools Financial Monitoring, Scrutiny and Intervention Policy the school has been categorised at financial risk level AMBER - medium to high risk for 2025-26.

School improvement

Identified key school priorities 2025-2026

Priority 1: Develop pupils' skills

Intended Outcome:

2024-5 - Many leaders plan and evaluate for the progressive development of pupils' skills

Priority 2: Attendance and Attitudes to Learning

Intended Outcome:

2025-26 - Most pupils are ambitious, capable learners and have a positive attitude to attendance

Priority3: Improved Outcomes for Learners in English and Mathematics

Intended Outcome:

2025-6 - Most pupils make expected progress in English and Maths

Priority 4: Develop Teaching and Learning

Intended Outcome:

2025-6 - Most pupils are able to learn effectively with a high level of independence

Priority 5: Improved leadership impacting on standards

Intended Outcome:

2025-6 – Most Middle Leaders are able to use effective self-evaluation to impact on standards

Links with the community

Afon Taf is proud to be at the heart of our local community. We actively encourage and promote co-operative and constructive partnerships with parents, local industry, other educational establishments and the community at large.

Organisation of the school 2025-26

Timetable

We operate a two week timetable, with five one hour lessons per day. We start at 8:30 am and finish at 3:05 pm, though staff are expected to be in school before the start of the school day and remain for at least ten minutes at the end of the day. The school is open from 7:05 to staff and 8:00 am to pupils.

School Day

8:30am-	8:55 am	Registration/Assembly
8:55am-	9:55am	Lesson 1
9:55am-	10:55am	Lesson 2
10:55am-	11:20am	Break Time
11:20am-	12:20am	Lesson 3
12:20am-	1:20pm	Lesson 4
1:20pm-	2:05pm	Lunch Time
2:05pm-	3:05pm	Lesson 5

Term Dates 2025-26

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM STARTS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN 2025	Monday 1 September	Monday 27 October	Friday 31 October	Friday 19 December
SPRING 2026	Monday 5 January	Monday 16 February	Friday 20 February	Friday 27 March
SUMMER 2026	Monday 13 April	Monday 25 May	Friday 29 May	Monday 20 July

Term Dates 2026-27

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM STARTS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN 2026	Tuesday 1 September	Monday 26 October	Friday 30 October	Friday 18 December
SPRING 2027	Monday 4 January	Monday 8 February	Friday 12 February	Friday 19 March
SUMMER 2027	Monday 5 April	Monday 31 May	Friday 4 June	Tuesday 20 July

Wellbeing

This continues to be a key focus for Afon Taf, and we have worked very diligently with pupils and their families to ensure that pupils are as happy as possible when learning in school. We have a dedicated team who support pupil wellbeing in the school. We run a variety of support programmes in the school and have undertaken training as a trauma informed school to ensure we better understand our pupils' needs and issues. Our stakeholder surveys tell us, that the majority of pupils and parents are happy with the school and the support we provide.

Sporting Programme and Fixtures

Pupils from all year groups have participated in a wide variety of sports, many progressing to gain representative honours. Pupils participate in range of sports on a carousel basis. Underpinning this participation is an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities provided by teachers and support staff. We have superb sporting facilities to support these activities.

ALN

The school publishes an Additional Needs Policy, which encompasses the framework of identification, assessment and provision for students with ALN. Mrs Hayley Searle is the school's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo).