

THE TWYNN SCHOOL

**ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S REPORT TO
PARENTS**

2014/15



LEARNING TO SHINE

Annual Report of the Governing Body to Parents of The Twyn School for 2014-2015

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Governors of The Twyn School in accordance with School Governors Annual Report Regulations (Wales) 2001.

We do not intend to hold a specific meeting to discuss this report unless a significant number of parents (over 5%) ask for such a meeting. If you feel you would like to attend such a meeting could you please make a written request to the school by 23/10/15.

We hope you will enjoy reading about our school's year. You are welcome to get in touch with the Chair of the Governing Body or the Headteacher should you wish to have additional information about anything, or if you would like to make a comment about this report.

A Message from the Chair

Matthew Ferris, our Chair of Governors, ended last year's message with the words, "Who knows what 2014-15 will bring? I am sure it will be another exciting and successful year at the Twyn."

I am delighted to say that 2014-15 has been a year full of adventure and success at the Twyn and I would like to take a few moments to reflect upon this.

Firstly, we as a governing body would like to acknowledge the service of Matthew Ferris, a parent governor and Chair of Governors, who has served our school for over 12 years. Matthew's term of office came to an end in November 2014 and with the departure of his youngest child to High School, Matthew's time as a parent governor at the Twyn, has come to a natural end. Having served with Matthew on the governing body for the past 9 years I have seen first hand the many qualities he brought to the Twyn and governing body. The school has been privileged to have him as the Chair of Governors, and we will be ever appreciative for the part he played in the history of our school. Our door will always be open to him, and hope in the future he may return to our governing body under a new hat (ie community governor). We truly wish him all the best on his new ventures, especially the rugby coaching. THANK YOU!

With the departure of Matthew, the governing body appointed me as the new Chair of Governors in February 2015. I am in my third term as a parent governor and, prior

to my appointment as Chair, I served as Vice Chair for two years. The Twyn School family has given my children an opportunity to secure firm roots as they embark on their journey of learning and although my youngest left this year to attend high school, I look forward to completing my term as governor.

What, then, have been some of our highlights? There has been a variety of trips and visits which we have continued to enjoy throughout the year, but perhaps I might mention just a few ways in which the Twyn has looked to expand our children's horizons. This school year, we have been able to extend our residential trip to 5 days, with our year 6 children and staff enjoying the fresh air of Gilwern Outdoor Centre. For the first time, we added a camping trip to the Gower for our year 5 children. With year 6 working on the topic "Mods 'n' Rockers", a day-trip was arranged to see the famous Beatles landmarks in Liverpool. This provided our year 6 children with an opportunity afford to no other school in Wales, in that they performed their Welsh rendition of the Beatles song "Help" on the stage of the world-famous 'Cavern' and the audience loved it. Mr Thomas and Miss Thompson also had their opportunity to shine when they were invited to go on stage to sing. The Twyn School's name now has its place on the walls of that famous venue.

Other exciting ventures included the Urdd National Eisteddfod taking place in Caerphilly, in which Twyn pupils entered the categories of Art, Individual and Group Recitations. Although we did not make it to the main stage, we progressed well in the competition, winning regional rounds. Well done! 'Twyn's Got Talent' was another highlight of the year, with so many of our children auditioning for the final event that the teachers had difficulty in choosing the finalists. The children were amazing and it is a pleasure to see them being given opportunities to 'learn how to shine' in so many different ways.

With the retirement of Mrs Bracey at the end of the summer 2014, we welcomed Mrs John as she joined the senior leadership team. This year also saw the growth of our clerical support team, as we welcomed Miss Heath as a permanent full-time member of staff in January. We now enjoy the benefit of having a member of our office staff in each of the school buildings, having had a new office created in the Early Years unit in February. Sadly, we had to say good-bye to Mr Lock at the end of the summer term; he had been part of the Twyn family for several years. He was a valued member of staff and will be greatly missed, as was evidenced in his interactions with the children on his final day, when he said his good-byes to each of them individually. We wish him well in his new position in Brazil and thank him for all that he brought and gave our school.

The aesthetics of the school also underwent some changes in the Spring, with the long-anticipated canopy being erected and the refurbishment of a number of classrooms in the Upper Foundation Phase building. It has been rewarding to see the

vision for this building being fulfilled and these improvements have enhanced the children's opportunities for outdoor classroom activity. Our school library has also received a total refurbishment and is an on-going, very exciting project. The iLounge is now part of our library and it is planned that this facility will be used not only by our children but will also involve members of the local community. The school also saw the implementation of new procedures regarding the children entering and leaving the school gates. With the welfare of our children in mind, may we ask you, please, as parents and guardians, to help ensure that there is no parking on the double yellow lines around the school. We ask that you join us in these efforts to ensure the safety of all of our children.

I am pleased to report the School's achievement of the 'Investor in People' award in November; Jill Davies, the reporting officer, expressed it being "a pleasure to review Twyn School against the Investors in People Standard". This year has also seen the introduction of the lunchtime band system, which I hope your children will have found to be of added benefit to their lunchtime experience.

We have continued to enjoy an assortment of after-school activities and continue to with our love of sports at the Twyn School. I would like to thank all our staff as they continually to give of their time in enabling our children experience all aspects of learning and growing.

Our School Council and Parents Council have been working hard again this year. Through our Parents Council, we have been able to move forward with 23 volunteers, who will come in and listen to our children read. This support is invaluable and we are indeed grateful to all who give of their time to assist our children.

It has been a successful year and I am grateful to all those who have helped to make it so, especially to all of our children who have worked so well. The end of this school year has seen the first full year with Mr Thomas as the head and the first full year with our new school motto 'Learning to Shine'. As I reflected on this motto, I was reminded of a quote, which I would like to share with you. "*... As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same*". We are on a journey at the Twyn School to help our children discover who they are; to help give them the tools to embrace and celebrate their talents. The children are not only developing themselves but they are impacting upon each other, helping one another to 'Shine'. I am grateful for such a motto, which has prompted such self-reflection. Our children are giant spirits in little bodies and they have taught me how to shine a little better this year. Thank you Twyn. Here's to the coming year's voyage in 'Learning to Shine'.

Jenny Taylor, 2015

TERM DATES 2015-2016

Term	Term starts	Half term starts	Half term ends	Term ends
AUTUMN	Tuesday 1 st September 2015	Monday 26 th October 2015	Friday 30 th October 2015	Friday 18 th December 2015
SPRING	Monday 4 th January 2016	Monday 15 th February 2016	Friday 29 th February 2016	Thursday 24 th March 2016
SUMMER	Monday 11 th April 2016	Monday 30 th May 2016	Friday 3 rd June 2016	Wednesday 20 th July 2016

INSET DAYS (NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN)

Tuesday 1st September 2015

Friday 18th September 2015

Tuesday 24th November 2015

(2 more to be arranged)

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 2nd May 2016

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Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 2013*

Appendix B – Financial Statement



1. Information about the School

Governing Body

Chair of Governors	Mrs Jenny Taylor c/o The Twyn School East View Caerphilly CF83 1UT
Vice Chair	TBA
Headteacher Deputy Headteacher	Mr Lee Thomas Mrs Liz Williams
Clerk to the Governing Body	Nathan Kethro

Parent Governors

Mrs Jenny Taylor
Ms Emma Blewden
Mrs Catherine McMahon
Mr Robert Roffe

Teacher Governor

Miss Charlotte George

Staff Governors

Mrs Gaynor Gierak

Community Governors

Mrs Jane Jones
Mr John Poyner
Dr Alun Withey

Local Authority Governors

Cllr. Stephen Kent
Mr Simon Morgan
Mrs Amanda Davies

Staffing

(From September 2014 to August 2015)

Headteacher – Mr Lee Thomas

Deputy Headteacher – Mrs Liz Williams

KS2 ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator) – Mrs Liz Latham

Foundation Phase ALNCo – Mrs Estelle Reid

School Office Manager – Mrs Leanne Tomsa

Administration Staff – Mrs Nicola Wiltshire, Mrs Joanne Way, Miss Maeve Heath, Mrs Pauline Reid

Year	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Nursery	Trisha John	Alison Baynton Jess Martin Hannah Elliott Cath Tatnell Sue Poole Ann-Marie Owen Joanne Owen
Reception	Rebekah Jenkins	
Reception	Michael Lock	
Year 1	Lucy Corbin	Debbie Smith Sam Greenway Ruth Stuart-Hamilton Gill Surridge
Year 1	Lianne Davies	
Year 2	Charlotte George	
Year 2	Estelle Reid / Ian Leaves	
Year 3	Sally Madsen	Gaynor Gierak Abi Maguire Natalie Evans Amanda Davies Bianca Peacock Rebecca Bantjes Sharon Moore
Year 3	Alison Jewitt / Andrea Williams	
Year 4	Anne D'Souza	
Year 4	Jason Lugg	
Year 5	Keith Johnstone	
Year 5	Caroline Williams	
Year 6	Kelly Thompson	
Year 6	Liz Latham	
Year 6	Erika Tippet	

Pupils on Roll – July 2015

Nursery	-	60
Reception	-	63
Year 1	-	63
Year 2	-	62
Year 3	-	63
Year 4	-	62
Year 5	-	63
Year 6	-	57

Total on roll (July 2015) - 493

2. Donations to Charity

21/11/14	Children in Need	£403.56
4/12/14	Velindre Knitted Snowmen	£200.00
9/1/15	Jumper Day (Save the Children)	£96.50
17/3/15	Comic Relief	£366.92
16/4/15	Velindre Cancer Research	£100.00
1/6/15	Velindre Knitted Chicks	£200.00
8/7/15	Ollie's Walk	£89.40
8/7/15	Oxfam Nepal Fund	£287.10
15/7/15	Velindre Cancer Research	£292.04
	TOTAL	£2035.52

3. Curriculum Developments

Teacher Assessments

The reports of the Foundation Phase Outcomes and the comparative report on the Key Stage 2 Teachers' Assessments can be seen in Appendix A and B

Additional Learning Needs

Many children have additional learning needs during their time at the school. Some children have specific learning needs, physical disabilities or specific talents (more able and talented) which need to be enhanced.

Our aim is to cater for every pupils' needs by careful planning and using various visual, audio and kinaesthetic strategies which enable all pupils to reach their full potential.

Cornerstones

In Spring 2014, we purchased a new, exciting curriculum resource called Cornerstones. This resource has engaging and innovative themes from Nursery to Year 6 which is linked to the Literacy and Numeracy Framework. This ensures that full coverage of the Curriculum is in place from Nursery to Year 6.

Visits and Visitors

We fully encourage visits from the local community and beyond to fulfil the curriculum theme and to ensure children have first-hand experiences of the specific issues. These have included the Fire Brigade, Professional footballers and ice hockey players, NSPCC, Ollie's walk charity, PC Kerslake, etc. Each year group experiences a variety of educational visits such as Cardiff castle, Van Road and St Martins Church, Pantomime, Cinema, Library, Techniquet, Year 6 residential, Castell Coch, London, Butterfly Zoo, etc.

Year 6 Summer Show

It was a great pleasure at the end of the Summer term to see all Year 6 pupils performing Aladdin. It was a fantastic show produced and directed by Miss Thompson and Mrs Latham. This experience was a very positive way of developing the confidence, literacy and co-operating skills of all the Year 6 pupils and is an important part of the Year 6 curriculum in the second part of the Summer term.

Equality and Diversity

We believe that each individual, of whatever ability, race, religion or background deserves equality of opportunity to succeed in this school. We are proud to be a school that welcomes pupils, staff and parents from different social backgrounds, race, sexuality, disability, religion, language, sexual orientation and age.

Accessibility Plan

As a school, we understand the importance of effective teaching and learning which ensures that we deliver the best experiences possible to every pupil in the school. We ensure that every pupil with a disability has the same experiences as everybody else in the school. We evaluate our performance regularly to ensure that every child's needs are being met. The school has a strategic policy and an accessibility plan.

Policies

The school reviews and assesses the success of the strategies used at the school regularly. A list of the school's policies is available at the school. If you would like to see or discuss any policy you are welcome to make an appointment to see Mr Thomas to discuss this.

Health and Safety

The external doors are secured by the use of a fob to gain entry. Every visitor goes to the school office to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge.

The school yard is suitable for pupils and adults with disabilities. The school has a comprehensive Health and Safety policy to ensure a safe environment to everybody within the school. The toilets are in good condition and are being monitored often.

School Prospectus

The school is situated in the heart of Caerphilly with the children being educated in the medium of English in addition to teaching Welsh as a second language. Children are encouraged to use Welsh with confidence and pride. Our full school prospectus outlining timetables and organisation is distributed to new parents but it is also available via our website or in school on request to other parents.

Our Last ESTYN Inspection

Our last ESTYN Inspection was in February 2010. The report was published in March 2010. The summary of the team's findings were:

- Twyn Primary School offers a sound education and outstanding pastoral care for its pupils, and is a well-led establishment.

- The school succeeds well in providing for pupils over the whole range of ability.
- Pupils are offered various opportunities to develop healthy eating habits and are encouraged to undertake activities that promote fitness and contribute positively to their well-being.

We were awarded Grade 1 or 2 for all seven key questions.

Our areas identified for improvement were:

- Attend to the short comings in teaching within a minority of lessons
- Establish a whole-school strategy for increasing pupils' awareness of sustainability matters
- Revise and update specific policies and schemes of work, so that the 2008 Curriculum and the Key Skills Framework are appropriately incorporated
- Ensure that the development priorities in the School Development Plan are described with clarity and focus

Appropriate action plans were drawn up to act upon these recommendations. We have been addressing these issues since the Inspection and have either fully addressed or largely addressed each area.

Way Forward for 2015/16

- To raise standarrds of achievement in the Foundation Phase in writing
- To raise standards of achievement in boys in KS2 in English
- To promote the positive wellbeing of all pupils through the Caerphilly Behaviour Project
- To promote the welsh ethos and to develop the Teacher assessment of Welsh 2nd Language.
- To develop the leadership roles of the Senior Leadership Team.

4. Various Activities

Links with Parents

We forge close links with our parents and offer three parent consolation meetings throughout the academic year. We also had an open morning in the Autumn term to encourage parents and carers to visit every classroom and experience the daily life of a school. We invite parents to celebrate special events and occasions with the children and ensure all parents and carers are invited to each musical performance. A very effective parent council is also active at the school and a group of parents / carers meet with the Headteacher on a termly basis to discuss issues relating to the school.

Links with the Community

Our school has a prominent position within the community of Caerphilly and we are proud to host a successful intergenerational project. We have a strong group who visit the school fortnightly and engage with pupils to complete exciting craft projects. We have developed links with a local residential care home and visit monthly to take part in activities with the residents. We fully support all community events and play a strong role in celebrating special occasions throughout the year.

Links with St Martins Comprehensive School

We aim to make the transition between The Twyn School and St. Martin's School as seamless as possible. We have a very good relationship with the school and ensure all transition projects and visits are successful.

Sporting Activities and Competitions

The school takes part in various activities and competitions including the cluster school events.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The school provides Extra Curricular clubs for the children. These range from Football and Rugby to IT and Choir. The clubs are aimed at specific year groups and the children are then able to apply for the club at the beginning of each term.

Breakfast Club

The school operates a Welsh Assembly funded Breakfast Club. This runs from 8.00am until the start of school. Free breakfast is provided to all of the children.

School Communities

We pride ourselves at the school in ensuring all pupils have a strong voice and are able to share and express their opinions in weekly school council meetings. We also have Eco Committees and Sports Leaders councils.

5. Attendance and Absence

Overall attendance is consistently high for the vast majority of pupils. In 2014-15, the attendance rate was 94.2%. The attendance rate has decreased by 1.2% since 2013-14. This is above the Wales and Local Authority average. The percentage of children who are persistently absent is below the Local Authority and Wales averages. We work closely with the Attendance Officer, Nurture support staff and parents to improve the attendance of pupils who are persistently absent. Very few children are late for school, and lessons start promptly.

There have been no exclusions since September 2012. Vulnerable children are supported very closely within the classroom and through our Nurture provision.

Appendix A (i)

Foundation Phase Report – 2014-2015

Foundation Phase Outcome 5 is the expected outcome for children at the end of Year 2.

Language, Literacy and Communication

National Result 2014 FPO 5+	Twyn School Result 2014 FPO 5+
88.0%	96.8%

Mathematical Development

National Result 2014 FPO 5+	Twyn School Result 2014 FPO 5+
89.7%	95.2%

Personal and Social Development

National Result 2014 FPO 5+	Twyn School Result 2014 FPO 5+
94.8%	98.4%

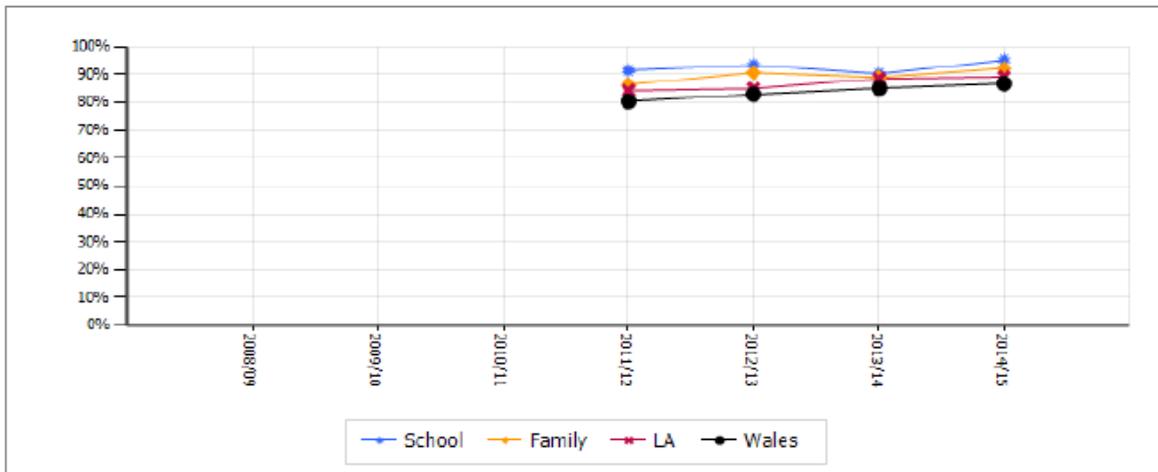
Pupils who achieved FPO 5+ in all 3 subjects

National Result 2014 FPO 5+	Local Authority Result 2014 FPO 5+	Twyn School Result 2014 FPO 5+
86.8%	89.2%	95.2%

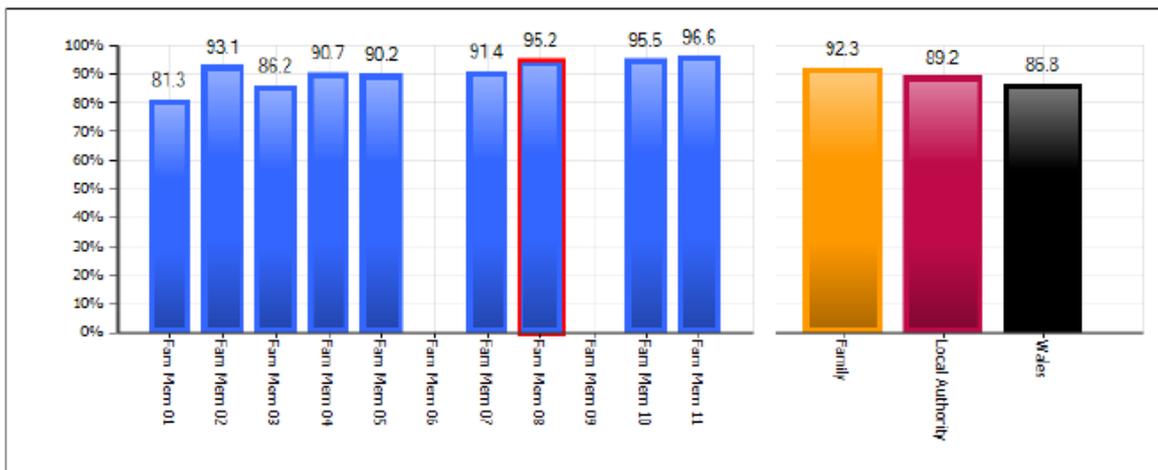
Section 1 - Foundation Phase Indicator

Home

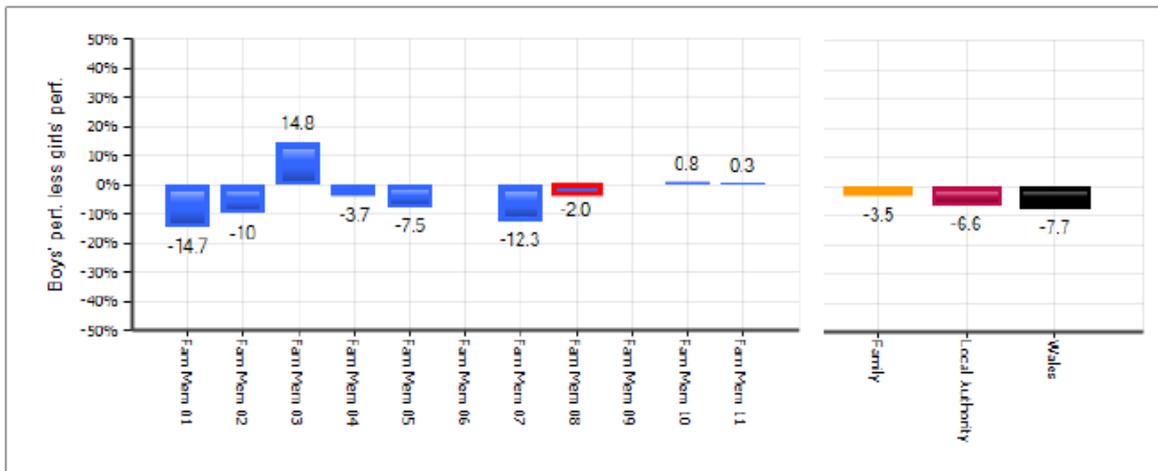
1.1a % pupils achieving



1.1b Family comparison



1.1c Family comparison - gender differences



Appendix A (ii)

Key Stage 2 Report – 2014-2015

Key Stage 2 Level 4 is the expected outcome for children at the end of Year 6.

English

National Result 2014 L4+	Twyn School Result 2014 L4+
89.6%	93.1%

Mathematics

National Result 2014 L4+	Twyn School Result 2014 L4+
90.2%	94.8%

Science

National Result 2014 L4+	Twyn School Result 2014 L4+
91.4%	96.6%

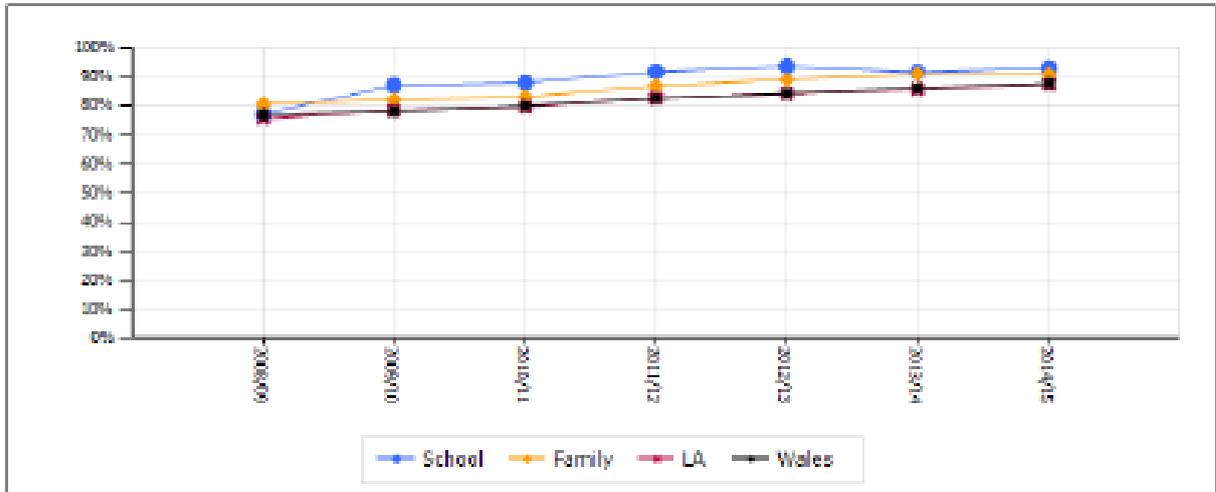
Pupils who achieved L4+ in all 3 subjects

National Result 2014 L4+	Local Authority Result 2014 L4+	Twyn School Result 2014 L4+
87.7%	87.4%	93.1%

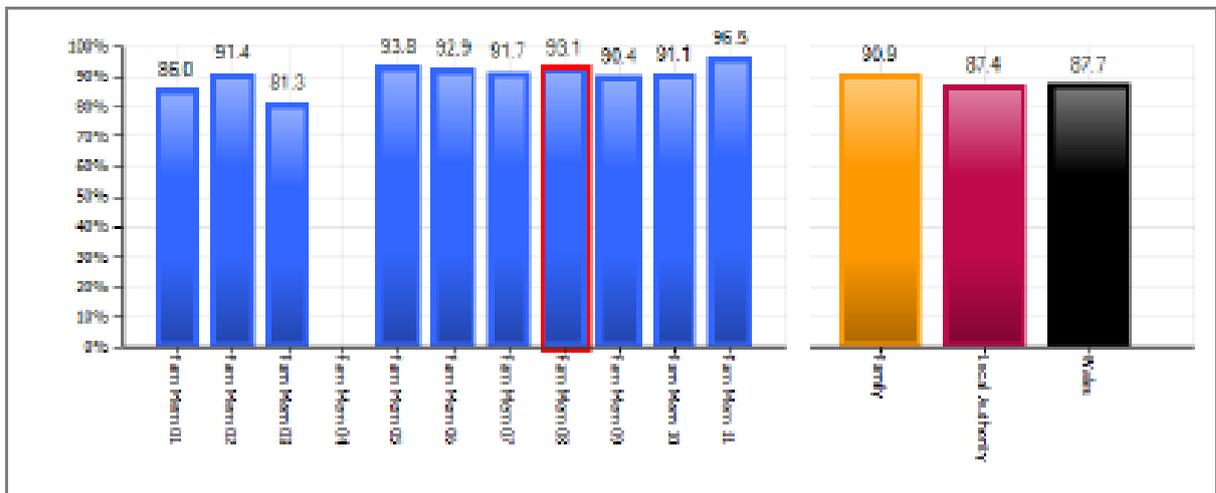
Section 1 - CSI

Home

1.1a % pupils achieving



1.1b Family comparison



1.1c Family comparison - gender differences

