The Twyn School

Annual Governors' Report to Parents and Carers

2025-2026

Learning to SHINE

Celebrating our pupils • Our school • Our community • Our progress

A message from the Governing Body

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Governing Body of **The Twyn School** for the 2025–2026 academic year.

This report provides parents and carers with an overview of the work of the school and Governing Body during the year. It highlights some of the many achievements of our pupils and staff, as well as the developments and priorities that continue to shape our school.

We are very proud of the commitment, enthusiasm and resilience shown by our pupils throughout the year. We would also like to thank our dedicated staff, governors, parents and carers for their continued support of the school and, most importantly, for everything they do to help our children **Learn to Shine**.

We hope you enjoy reading about the year and the many opportunities and experiences provided for our pupils.

If you would like any further information about this report, or would like to make a comment, please contact the Chair of Governors or the Headteacher.

Contents

1. Information about the School and Governing Body
2. Charitable Giving and Fundraising
3. Curriculum and Learning
4. School Life and Wider Activities
5. Attendance and Absence
6. Finance

1. Information about the School and Governing Body

The Governing Body

The Governing Body works closely with the Headteacher and school staff to provide strategic leadership and oversight of the school. Governors play an important role in supporting school improvement, monitoring standards and ensuring that the school continues to provide the best possible education and experiences for its pupils.

Governors

Chair of Governors: Cllr Stephen Kent
Vice Chair: Mrs Kate Davey
Headteacher: Mr Lee Thomas
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Liz Williams
Clerk to the Governing Body: Mrs Glenda Genner

Parent Governors

- TBC
- TBC
- Mrs Sara Evans
- Mrs Jessica Anderson

Teacher Governor

- Mrs Liz Latham

Staff Governor

- Mrs Gaynor Gierak

Community Governors

- Mr John Poyner
- Mrs Kate Davey
- Mrs Sheila Davies

Local Authority Governors

- Cllr Stephen Kent
- Mr Huw Jackson
- Mr Matthew Lewis

Staffing

The school is fortunate to have a committed and dedicated team of teachers and support staff who work hard to provide high-quality learning experiences and pastoral support for all pupils.

Senior Leadership and Key Staff

Headteacher: Mr Lee Thomas
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Liz Williams
KS2 ALNCo: Mrs Liz Latham
Foundation Phase ALNCo: Mrs Estelle Reid
School Office Manager: Mrs Nic Wiltshire
Administration: Mrs Julie Hill

Teaching and Support Staff

Nursery
Teacher: Mrs Gaynor Gierak
Teaching Assistants: Laura Hickman, Mollie Stone, Megan Williams (OU PGCE Student), Shannon Webb

Reception
Teachers: Mrs Tricia John / Mrs Liz Williams; Mrs Jess John

Year 1
Teachers: Mrs Estelle Reid / Mrs Suzanne Rundle; Mrs Laura Baldwin (Supply)
Teaching Assistants: Tia Walker

Year 2
Teachers: Mrs Charlotte George; Mrs Alison Jewitt / Mrs Kerry Gordine
Teaching Assistants: Emma Fitzgerald, Jade Morris

Year 3
Teachers: Mrs Erika Tippett; Mrs Lauren Parsons

Year 4
Teachers: Mrs Jo Davies; Mrs Rebecca Bantjes

Year 5
Teachers: Mrs Lucy Corbin; Mr Keith Johnstone

Year 6
Teachers: Mrs Kelly Thompson; Mrs Liz Latham

Teaching Assistants: Ann-Marie Owen, Helen Roffe, Fay Anthony (Supply), Chelsea Norton-Parker, Ellie White, Adrian Turner

PPA Teachers: Abi Maguire and Jo Owen
Nurture: Amanda Davies
KS2 Intervention: Helen Roffe and Ann-Marie Owen

Pupils on Roll

At the end of the academic year, the school had 417 pupils across Rising 3s, Nursery and Reception through to Year 6.

Total number of pupils on roll:

Rising 3's –	16
Nursery -	45
Reception -	38
Year 1 -	34
Year 2 -	55
Year 3 -	54
Year 4 -	59
Year 5 -	58
Year 6 -	58

---

2. Charitable Giving and Fundraising

We are extremely proud of the generosity shown by our pupils, families and staff throughout the year.

Our children have taken part in a range of fundraising activities to support important charities and causes.

Charitable Donations

Charity / Event	Amount Raised
Children in Need	£398.86
Marie Curie	£31.00
Velindre	£480.35
Seren Dwt	£175.80
Red Nose Day	£257.00
Noah's Ark	£432.00
Total donations to charity:	£1775.01

These activities help our children to develop a strong understanding of kindness, community and the importance of helping others.

3. Curriculum and Learning

Additional Learning Needs

At The Twyn School, we are committed to ensuring that every child is supported to achieve their potential.

Some children may have additional learning needs, including specific learning difficulties, physical disabilities or particular strengths and talents. Our staff work closely with pupils and families to identify individual needs and provide appropriate support.

We use a wide range of teaching approaches and strategies, including visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning opportunities, to ensure that pupils can access the curriculum and make progress.

Our aim is for **every child to feel valued, included and supported**, while being encouraged to develop their individual strengths and talents.

Educational Visits

Educational visits provide pupils with valuable opportunities to develop their learning outside the classroom and bring their experiences to life.

During the year, pupils enjoyed a wide range of visits and experiences, including:

Reception: Cantref Farm and Barry Island

Year 1: Colliers Farm, Techniquest and library visits

Year 2: Cardiff Bay, library visits and Christmas Wrapped

Year 3: Noah's Ark Zoo, Caerphilly Castle and cinema

Year 4: West Midlands Safari Park and cinema

Year 5: Longleat and cinema

Year 6: Gilwern residential, Heatherton, Crucial Crew, Team Rhys Gym, Big Pit, Easter Cracked, Liverpool and cinema

These visits provide opportunities for pupils to develop independence, confidence and teamwork, while making memorable experiences with their classmates.

Visitors and Special Events

We continued to welcome a wide range of visitors and organisations into school during the year.

These included:

- Guitar and violin tuition
- Educational Psychologist
- Governors
- MyBnk – financial education
- Fire Safety
- Liaison Police Officer
- Cardiff City Foundation
- Health and Safety Officer
- Book Fair
- Show Racism the Red Card
- Anti-Bullying activities
- Heddlu Bach
- Cross Country
- Harvest Festival
- School discos
- Radio shows
- Children in Need
- Sports tournaments and festivals
- PTA Christmas Raffle
- Assemblies and school performances
- Break the Rules fundraising days
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Carols Around the Quad
- Safer Internet Day
- Eisteddfod
- World Book Day
- Miners' Ambassadors
- Caerphilly Uniform Exchange
- Premier League Pride
- PCSO visits
- Easter Service
- Swimming Festival
- Bowls and Tennis Festivals
- Rainbow Day
- Twyn's Got Talent
- Enterprise Week

We are grateful to all of the organisations, visitors, volunteers and parents who help to make these opportunities possible.

Equality and Diversity

We are committed to ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to succeed.

At The Twyn School, we celebrate diversity and aim to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed, respected and valued.

We recognise and celebrate the different backgrounds, cultures, abilities, identities, languages and experiences represented within our school community.

Our aim is for every pupil to feel that they **belong, are respected and can achieve their very best**.

Accessibility

We recognise the importance of ensuring that all pupils can access school, learning opportunities and wider school experiences.

The school has an Accessibility Plan and strategic arrangements in place to support pupils with disabilities and additional needs. We regularly review our provision to ensure that individual needs are identified and appropriate support is provided.

We aim to ensure that pupils with disabilities are able to participate fully in school life alongside their peers.

School Policies

The school regularly reviews its policies and evaluates the effectiveness of the strategies and procedures in place.

A list of school policies is available from the school. Parents and carers who would like to view or discuss a particular policy are welcome to contact the school office to make an appointment.

Health and Safety

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and visitors remains a key priority.

External doors are secured using a fob-entry system and all visitors are required to report to the school office, sign in and wear a visitor's badge while on the school site.

The school grounds and facilities are regularly monitored, and we have comprehensive health and safety procedures in place.

The school yard is accessible to pupils and adults with disabilities, and toilets and other facilities are regularly checked and maintained.

School Information and Welsh

The Twyn School is situated in the heart of Caerphilly and provides education through the medium of English, alongside the teaching and promotion of Welsh as a second language.

We encourage our pupils to use Welsh with confidence and pride and to understand the importance of the Welsh language as part of our culture and identity.

Information for parents and carers is available through the school website, with day-to-day communication taking place through ClassDojo.

Our Successful Estyn Review – December 2025

One of the most significant developments for the school was our **successful Estyn review in December 2025**.

Following our full Estyn inspection in **May 2024**, three areas for improvement were identified:

- To improve self-evaluation processes and ensure that they influence improvement priorities more effectively.
- To improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching so that all pupils are challenged and supported consistently.
- To ensure that the curriculum supports all pupils to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding systematically and consistently.

Following the 2024 inspection, the school developed a **Post-Inspection Action Plan (PIAP)** and worked hard to address each of these recommendations.

Throughout the following two years, the Headteacher, staff and Governing Body monitored progress closely and introduced a range of improvements across the school. Staff worked collaboratively to strengthen teaching and learning, improve the curriculum and develop more effective approaches to self-evaluation and school improvement.

A positive outcome

We are delighted that, following the **Estyn review in December 2025, the school was successful**.

The review recognised the progress that had been made in addressing the recommendations from the 2024 inspection. The school had demonstrated that it had taken appropriate and effective action to improve the areas identified by Estyn.

This is a significant achievement for the whole school community and reflects the hard work, commitment and determination of our staff, pupils, governors and families.

We would like to thank everyone who has played a part in this journey. The successful review provides an important opportunity to recognise the progress the school has made while continuing to focus on further improvement.

---

4. School Life and Wider Activities

Working with Parents and Carers

We believe that strong relationships with parents and carers are an important part of a successful school.

Throughout the year, we have continued to work closely with families and provide opportunities for parents and carers to engage with their children's learning and school life.

We hold **three parent consultation meetings** during the academic year and regularly invite parents and carers to attend special events, performances and celebrations.

We are grateful for the continued support of our parents and carers and value the contribution they make to the life of The Twyn School.

Links with St Martin's Comprehensive School

We continue to have a strong relationship with **St Martin's Comprehensive School** and work closely together to ensure that pupils experience a smooth and successful transition from primary to secondary education.

Transition visits, activities and projects are planned carefully to help pupils become familiar with their new school, meet staff and develop confidence before moving into Year 7.

Sporting Activities and Competitions

Sport continues to play an important part in school life.

Our pupils have participated in a wide range of sporting activities, competitions, festivals and cluster events throughout the year.

These opportunities allow pupils to develop their physical skills while also promoting teamwork, resilience, determination and good sportsmanship.

We are particularly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our pupils when representing The Twyn School.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We continue to provide a range of extra-curricular activities for pupils.

Clubs have included activities such as:

- Football
- Rugby
- Board games
- Choir
- Other creative, sporting and enrichment activities

Clubs are offered to particular year groups and pupils can apply at the beginning of each term.

These activities provide pupils with opportunities to develop new interests, learn new skills and spend time with friends outside of their normal classroom environment.

Breakfast Club

The school operates a Welsh Government-funded Breakfast Club.

The club opens at **8.10am** and runs until the start of the school day. A free breakfast is provided for pupils attending the club.

Pupil Voice and School Communities

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils have a strong voice within the school.

Pupils have opportunities to share their views, ideas and opinions through a range of groups and committees, including:

- School Council
- Eco Committee
- Heddlu Bach
- Criw Cymraeg

These groups help pupils to develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills and ensure that their views contribute to school life.

---

5. Attendance and Absence

Good attendance is essential to ensuring that children receive the maximum benefit from their education.

Overall attendance remains strong for the vast majority of our pupils.

During **2024–2025, overall attendance was 93.4%**.

We continue to work closely with our Attendance Officer, Nurture staff and parents and carers to support pupils whose attendance is a concern, particularly those who are persistently absent.

We are also pleased that very few children are regularly late for school, helping lessons to start promptly and ensuring that pupils are ready to learn from the beginning of the school day.

Improving attendance remains an important priority, and we thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and on time.

Looking Ahead

As we look towards the next academic year, the Governing Body will continue to work closely with the Headteacher and staff to support the school's ongoing development.

The successful Estyn review in December 2025 is an important milestone for The Twyn School. It demonstrates the progress made since the 2024 inspection and provides a strong foundation from which we can continue to develop and improve.

Our focus will remain firmly on ensuring that every pupil is happy, safe, included and able to achieve their potential.

We would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents, carers and governors for their continued hard work, support and commitment to The Twyn School.

Together, we will continue to help our children **Learn to Shine**.

OUTTURN REPORT 2025/26

OLAS	OUTTURN BUDGET 2025/26
EMPLOYEES	£
Teachers	£1,413,210.00
Support Staff	£535,813.49
Other Staff related costs	£20,018.00
Sub Total	**£1,969,041.49**
PREMISES RELATED	
Building Maintenance	£21,979.00
Grounds Maintenance	£66.00
Gas	£17,981.00
Electricity	£26,977.00
Rates	£27,077.00
Water	£7,189.00
Cleaning Costs	£53,087.00
Insurance	£14,364.00
Refuse	£10,377.00
S.Units/H. Driers/C. Hygiene	£8,151.00
Alarms	£5,167.00
Sub Total	**£192,415.00**
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	
Computer Costs	£12,739.00
Postage	£325.00
Capitation/Stationary	£36,354.00
Medical	£818.00
Licences	£931.00

Telephone Charges	£4,148.00
Photocopying	£21,077.00
Swimming	£3,442.00
Music Support	£3,100.00
Sub Total	**£82,934.00**
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	
All Services	**£28,108.00**
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**£2,272,498.49**
INCOME	
Energy and Admin Catering	£22,795.00
Compensation/Insurance	£14,430.00
Early Years	£32,261.00
Miscellaneous (Not vatable)	£13,411.00
Devolved/LA Funding	£55,840.00
Music Tuition Income	£1,770.00
Open University	£13,943.00
EIG PDG	£268,955.00
Rental	£7,700.00
Car Park Hire	£250.00
Welsh & EAS Gov Grants	£53,245.00
TOTAL INCOME	**£484,600.00**
NET EXPENDITURE	**£1,787,898.49**
TOTAL SURPLUS/CONTINGENCY	**-£31,774.49**
TOTAL	**£1,756,124.00**

TOTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL

FUNDING	
Formula Allocation (net of retro. adj)	£1,679,575.00

Retrospective Adjustment from prev yr.	-£38,508.00
Total Formula Allocation	*£1,641,067.00*
Total Carried Forward from prev. yr.	*£115,057.00*
TOTAL FUNDING	**£1,756,124.00**
BUDGET SHORTFALL	