



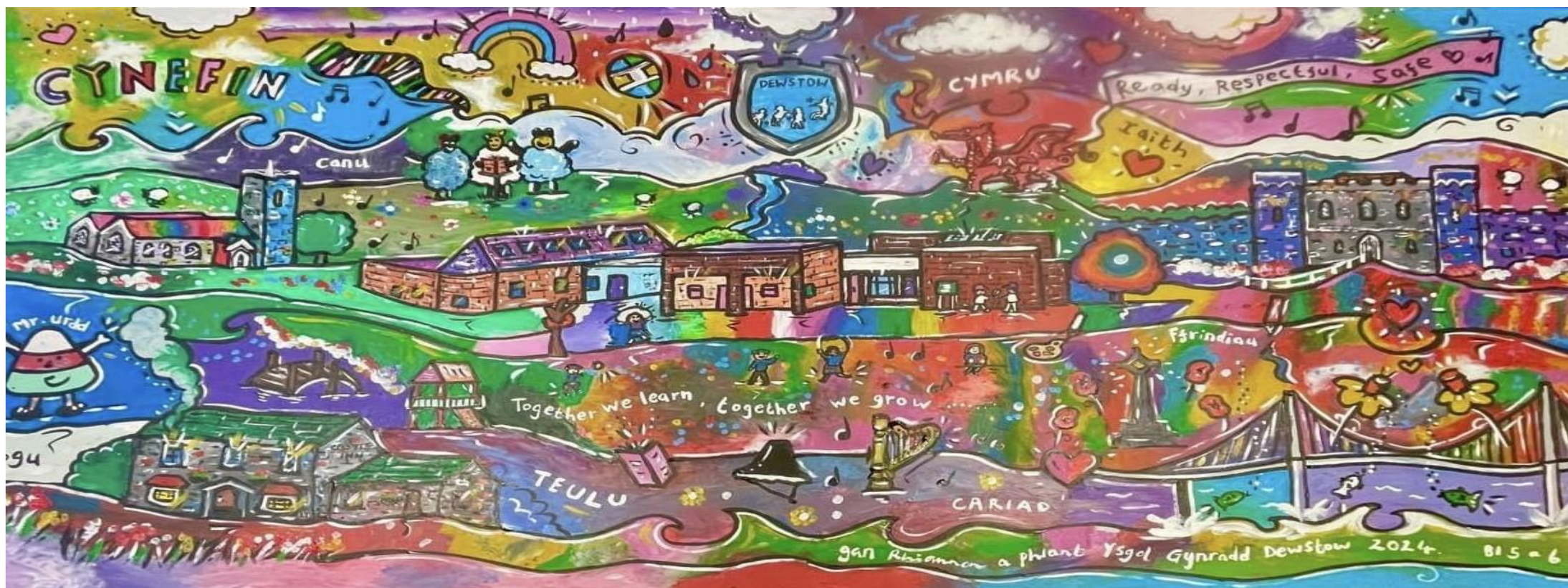
Dewstow Primary School

Annual Governors Report to Parents

2025-2026

Mr Glen Ingleson
Chair of Governors

‘Together we learn, together we grow’



Ready, Respectful, Safe

This report is produced by the Governing Body of Dewstow Primary School, for you, the parents/carers of pupils in our school.

It contains information which we are required to provide by law, as well as additional information which we hope will aid your understanding of our school. It covers our achievements during 2025-2026 and sets out our targets for future improvement.

Governors regularly meet twice per term with additional committee meetings throughout the year. In the event of a vacancy on the Governing Body for a parent governor, letters will be sent to all parents/carers informing them of this and they will be given the opportunity to nominate a parent to replace. If more than one nomination is received an election will be held.

The Governing Body has not received a petition from parents/carers requesting a formal meeting to discuss this report and therefore no meeting will be held (Section 94, School Standards and Organisation Wales Action 2013).

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS:

Dewstow Primary School Prospectus was updated, for example, with changes to staffing and staff roles, classes and results. A copy of the prospectus can be found on the school website.

Dew.Primary@monmouthshireschools.wales

Chair of Governors:

Mr Glen Ingleson
C/O Dewstow Primary School
Woodland View
Caldicot
Monmouthshire
NP26 4EE

Clerk to the Governors:

Mrs Joanne Jayne
County Hall
The Rhadyr
Usk
Monmouthshire
NP15 1GA

The Governing Body of Dewstow Primary School 2025-2026		
Mr G Ingleson	LA Appointed	20/09/2027
Mrs T Caitlin	LA Appointed	26/04/2027
Cllr T Easson	LA Appointed	25/04/2026
Dr M Bisi	Community Governor	18/10/2027
Cllr R Roberts	Minor Authority Governor	10/10/2028
Mrs A Bass	Parent Governor	05/12/2026
Mrs G McIntyre	Community Governor	13/03/2028
Mrs H Williams	Parent Governor	06/02/2029
Ms K Vickery	Parent Governor	21/06/2028
Mrs E Bain	Headteacher	
Miss L Pearson	Teacher Representative	13/03/2028
Mr M Nicholas	Deputy Headteacher	05/02/2029
Mrs S King (Observer)	Assistant Headteacher	
Ms J Jayne	Clerk to Governors	

Arrangements for Next Election of Parent Governors

When an existing parent governor comes to the end of their term of office, or if they resign mid-term, the school will hold a ballot to elect a new parent governor. At that time, the school will write to all parents advising of the ballot and seeking nominations for prospective candidates from the parent body.

Name: Dewstow Primary School
Classification: Monmouthshire County Council Primary School
Pupil age range: 3 to 11 Years
Language of the school: English

Address: Dewstow Primary School
Woodland View
Caldicot
Monmouthshire
NP26 4EE

Telephone number: 01291 636360
Email: Dew.Primary@monmouthshireschools.wales
Website: <https://www.dewstowprimary.org.uk>

School Year 2025-2026:

Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term End
Autumn	01/09/2025	27/10/2025	31/10/2025	19/12/2024
Spring	05/01/2026	16/02/2026	20/02/2026	27/03/2026
Summer	13/04/2026	25/05/2026	29/05/2026	20/07/2026

INSET Training Days 2025-2026:

Day 1: 01/09/2025
Day 2: 10/10/2025
Day 3: 13/02/2026
Day 4: 16/03/2026
Day 5: 17/07/2026
Day 6: 20/07/2026



Dewstow Primary School



Vision

Together we learn, together we grow

Mission

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Aims

1. Learn in a safe, nurturing environment which values the ideas of all, through a broad and balanced curriculum.
2. All children and staff are encouraged to aim high, and everyone's achievements celebrated.
3. To promote respect for others' beliefs and cultures, celebrate differences and to create a sense of belonging.
4. To encourage healthy hearts, minds and growing together as part of our community, Wales and the wider world.

Teaching and Learning Committee

The Pupil Centred Committee provides oversight and support for all aspects of the school affecting our learners. Our focus is to understand how children are kept safe, helped to achieve their potential, and encouraged to develop good behaviours for learning. It also focusses on how the Welsh Curriculum is being brought to life and embedded across the school. The committee's focus is all children, including those with Additional Learning Needs, those who are More Able & Talented, children for whom English is an additional language, Looked After Children and, those who are less advantaged. The aim for every child in the school is to ensure they make the most progress possible towards fulfilling their potential from their own starting point.

To do this, we work with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure there is good governance and evidence to support key goals. We do this through regular committee meetings, policy reviews and visits to see the school in action.

During 2025-2026, we have been fortunate enough to see and hear more from the pupils themselves. Pupils have embraced the opportunity to share, with clear enthusiasm, their knowledge of IT (Digiteers), the environment (the Eco-Council) and how to stay healthy (Healthy Heroes). What is evident throughout is how engaged and confident our pupils are becoming, and the passion for learning they have developed in our school.

As well as the above, we have maintained our view of how our school is supporting pupils through our meetings and other key activities e.g. 'book reviews', 'listening to learners' and 'learning walks'.

We continue to see and experience school's positive impact on our children and progress in embedding the Welsh curriculum. We take time to discuss key themes to provide reassurance that robust plans are in place e.g. transition of pupils across the school years and on to new schools and as with previous years, wellbeing of all learners continued to be a focus too.

The school has continued to put the child at the centre of all learning with recognition of the positive environment our pupils experience being recognised by external agencies and other schools in our cluster and wider. As always, we will continue to work with the school to ensure the journey continues positively for the benefit of all.

Three sub-committees meet each term and feedback to the full GB.

Resources and Finance Committee

We are currently in a strong financial position remaining with a surplus carrying from the for 2025/2026 financial year into the 2026/2027 financial year, and a relatively strong budget position going forward as we come to the end of this school year. We have carefully set aside funding for further outdoor improvements while increasing staffing at the school to ensure the children receive the best education and opportunities possible from the funding available for them. These steps on strategically allocating the school budget have been fundamental in supporting our Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team more widely in continuing to successfully grow and improve the School this year, with many LAs and schools now looking to Dewstow for advice and support. It has been a delight to observe and play a part in the school's success this school year, through our learning walks, how the School setting has developed further this year through the investments, and to envisage the future growth through planned further investment.

Wellbeing Committee

We meet to discuss the wellbeing policies and activities that are taking place in Dewstow, alongside gaining an understanding of future plans. We meet once per term. In the summer term we had the pleasure of meeting the pupil leadership groups who presented their achievements of this academic year and talked through their future plans. The pupil's involved in Healthy Heroes and Eco Warriors were confident and incredibly passionate about their areas of responsibility. It was a delight to listen to them. There is a huge amount of work that takes place to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of both pupils and staff at Dewstow has a clear focus for the future and ongoing training and investment in new initiatives.

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee ensures the standards across the school are high. We meet once a term to communicate and discuss any updates from the sub-committee meetings and any matters that may have arisen from the full Governing Body meetings. The school provides any relevant updates on the School Development Plan and any staff vacancies. The Committee is responsible for the recruitment of school leadership and all school recruitment alongside the relevant members of the leadership team. School has continued to flourish and is used on a regular basis as a centre of excellence. The staff at Dewstow are often requested to assist other schools in their development. It is a pleasure to be part of the exciting journey that Dewstow is on.

School Development Plan:

Priority 1: To strengthen the teaching and learning of literacy to ensure all pupils make strong progress from their starting points (Good progress).

Priority 2: To further develop pupil independence by embedding authentic learning experiences, enabling pupils to confidently articulate their learning using subject specific language (Good progress).

Priority 3: To promote a culture of inclusive curriculum ensuing disadvantaged pupils are recognised across all areas of school life to raise achievement and aspirations (Good progress).

A copy of the latest Estyn revisit report can be found on the school website.

<https://www.dewstowprimaryschool.org.uk>

Progress towards Priority 1: School has made good progress. A comprehensive programme of professional learning has been implemented, including whole-school training, coaching, and support from external partners, leading to improved consistency in teaching approaches and increased staff confidence. There is clear evidence of impact in many areas: pupils are increasingly able to articulate their learning using the language of learning intentions and success criteria; the introduction of structured writing approaches and Literacy Pathways has improved the quality and organisation of pupils' writing, particularly in Years 5 and 6; and the use of assessment information is becoming more embedded to inform planning and support pupil progress. Strong progress is particularly evident in Nursery to Year 2, where pupils are making clear gains in writing, independence and foundational literacy skills. Overall, the improvements demonstrate a positive and sustained trajectory, and therefore progress is judged to be good, with clear capacity to be evaluated as excellent once greater consistency and impact are secured across the whole school.

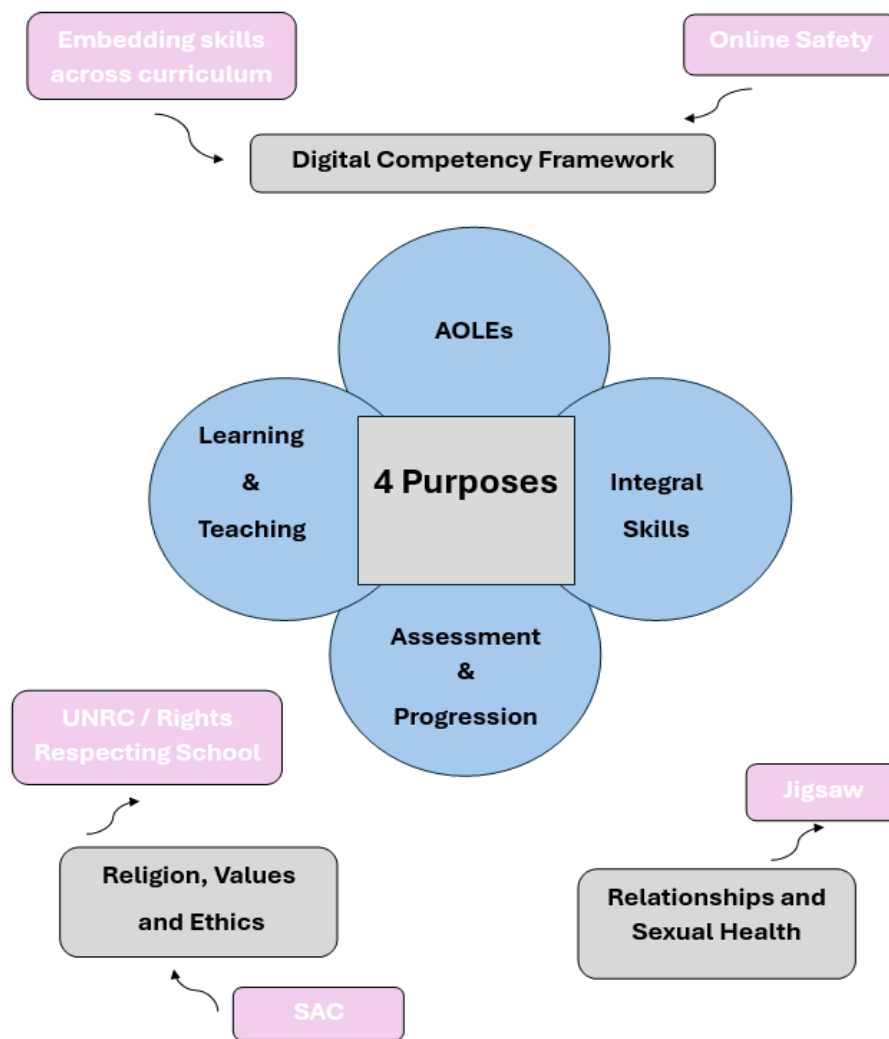
Progress towards Priority 2: School has made good progress. A wide range of professional learning and curriculum developments have strengthened staff practice, including training in outdoor learning, STEM, and problem-solving, which has increased staff confidence and improved the quality of learning experiences across the school. There is strong evidence that pupils are becoming more confident, enthusiastic and increasingly able to articulate their learning using subject-specific vocabulary. Visits, peer review and monitoring activities highlight pupils' positive attitudes, engagement and pride in their work, particularly in outdoor learning and STEM activities such as coding, 3D printing and Lego Spike. Improvements in the use of purposeful learning environments and curriculum planning have supported greater opportunities for collaboration, resilience and the application of skills in meaningful contexts. Overall, the priority demonstrates a clear and positive impact on pupils' independence and engagement, and therefore progress is judged to be good, with a strong trajectory towards excellence as consistency continues to develop across the school.

Progress towards Priority 3:

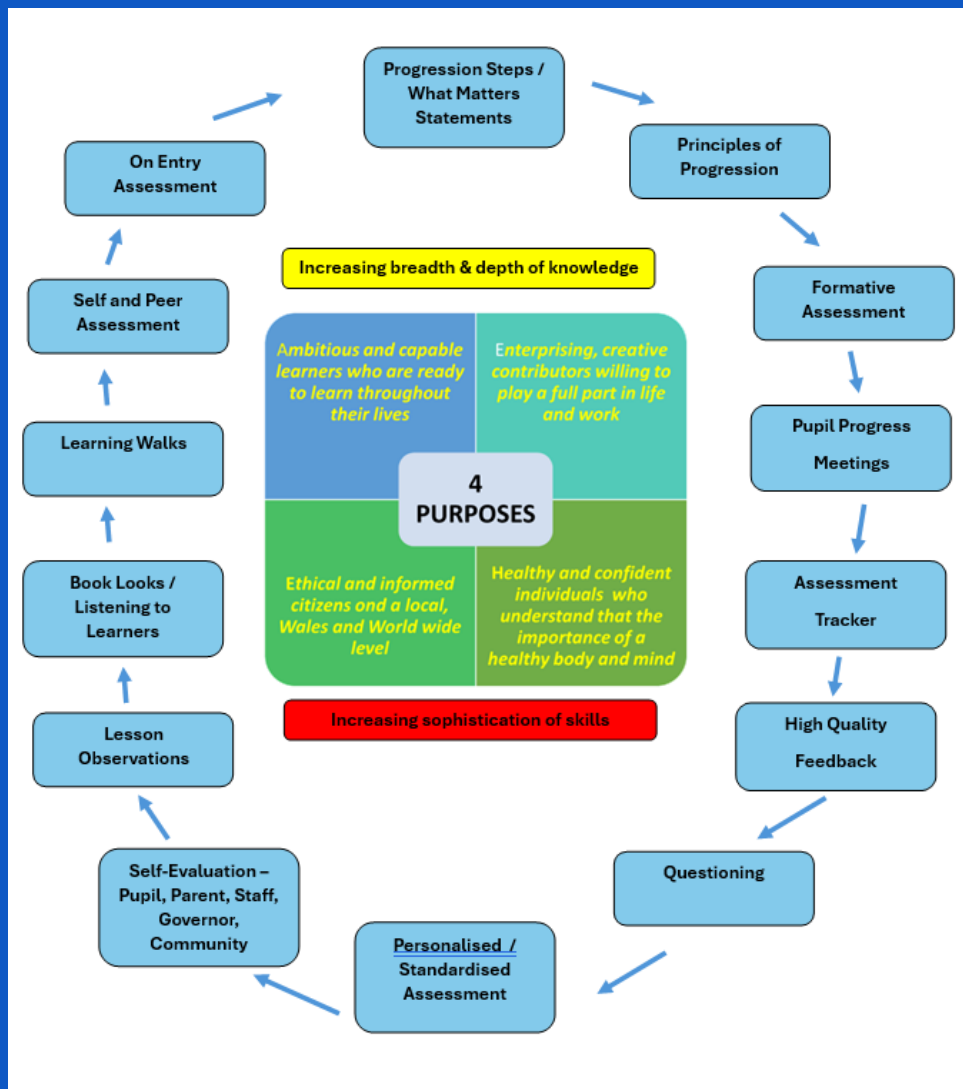
Governors recognise that good progress has been made against Priority 3. Strong systems are now in place to identify and support vulnerable learners, including the introduction of RADY, improved tracking systems and targeted interventions, which have strengthened staff understanding of equity and inclusion. There is clear evidence of positive impact in a number of areas: attendance has improved for many targeted pupils due to strengthened family engagement and monitoring processes; staff knowledge and confidence in supporting wellbeing has increased through extensive training, including trauma-informed approaches and the use of wellbeing data; and a wide range of external support and interventions (e.g. ELSA, Flourish, and specialist referrals) are supporting pupils' emotional health and engagement in learning. Improvements to outdoor provision and play environments have also enhanced pupils' wellbeing, with pupil voice and peer review highlighting that children feel safe, valued and enjoy learning both indoors and outdoors. However, governors recognise that some areas require further development, particularly in continuing to reduce persistent absenteeism for a small group of pupils, embedding consistent high-quality provision for disadvantaged learners across all classes, and demonstrating measurable impact on closing attainment gaps over time. Overall, the school has made strong and purposeful strides in developing inclusion, wellbeing and equity, and therefore progress is judged to be good, with clear potential to move to excellent as impact continues to deepen and become more consistent across all groups.

Curriculum for Wales at Dewstow Primary School

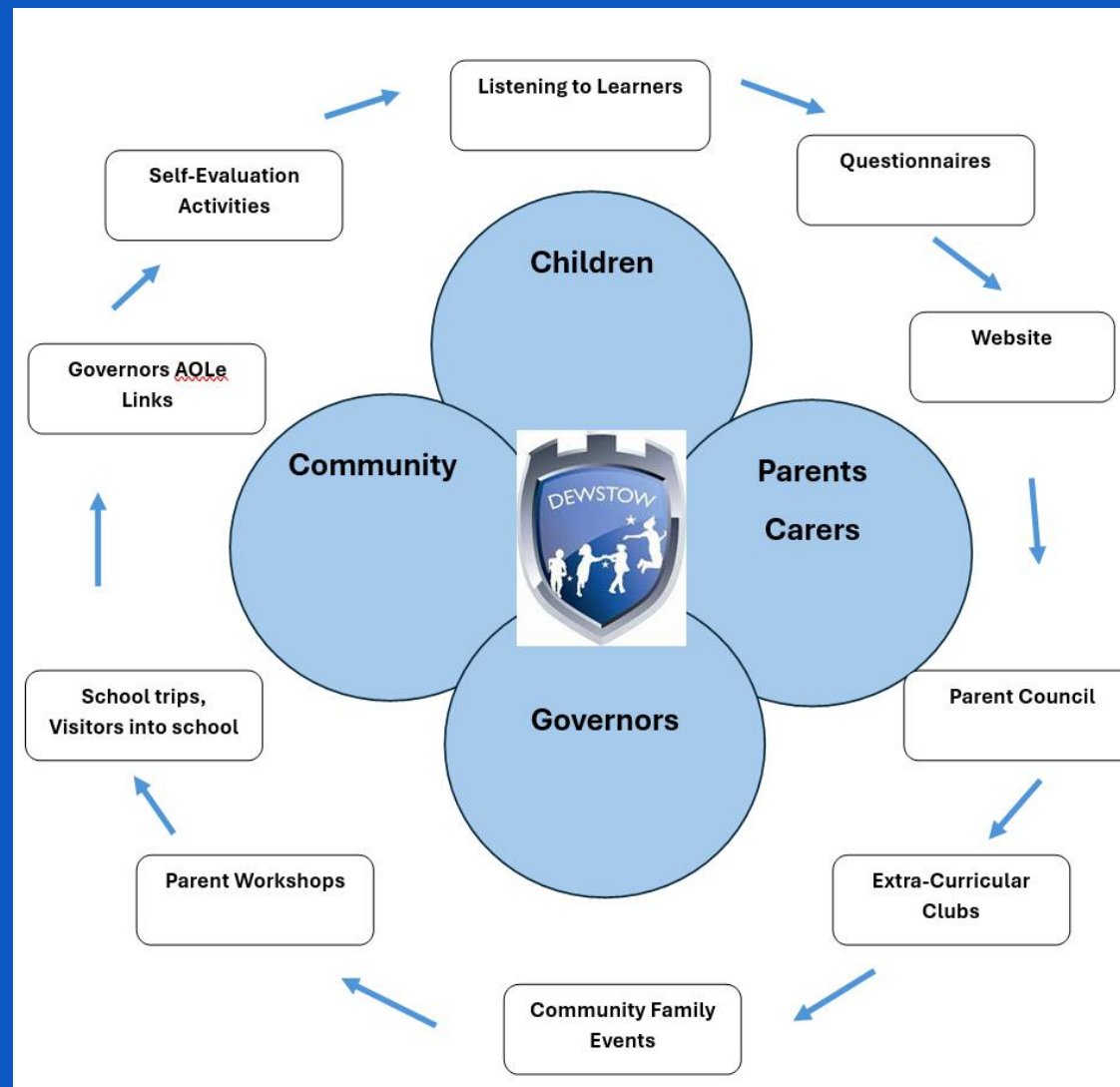
Cross Cutting Themes



Assessment and Progression



Engaging Children, Parent/Carers and Governors



Organisation of education and teaching methods:

At Dewstow Primary School we aim to provide a broad, balanced and equitable education in a warm, safe and nurturing environment. The teaching and learning experiences are aligned to the requirements of Curriculum for Wales. We offer a morning and afternoon Nursery provision, each session is for 2 ½ hours. Pupils are taught in single age year groups across the Plazas.

The Curriculum is planned and taught with a focus on the skills of literacy and numeracy. Skills are taught separately and applied across the curriculum. Pupil's acquisition of these skills is closely monitored, assessed and reviewed.

Additional Learning Needs:

Pupils who have additional learning needs are regularly tracked and monitored and one-page profiles are in place for all these children with further identified provision if needed. All pupils, staff and parent/carers have regular meetings to ensure the children are working to their full potential.

Welsh Language:

The use of Welsh Language skills are taught in every class. Much of the teaching is taught through incidental language throughout the school day. All staff encourage pupils to use Welsh for everyday routine questions, requests as well as to hold simple conversations with other pupils and adults. Opportunities are provided to develop pupils' oracy, reading and writing skills. We create a Welsh ethos through introducing learners to history, art, music, and geography in Wales.

Attendance:

Our Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) Ms Rachael Worrada, is available to help families with regards to attendance and welfare matters concerning school. The Headteacher, Mrs Bain and the School Administrator, Mrs Godbold, regularly monitor attendance and punctuality and discuss pupils whose attendance is of concern. Parent/carers are asked to phone daily to let us know why your child is absent or late. Attendance to date has significantly improved. Pupils celebrate their attendance weekly through Celebration Assemblies.

Attendance 2024-2025 was ?%

Authorised absences ?%

Unauthorised absences ?%

Statistics for the last 5 years

Percentage	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Attendance	94	91	89.6	91.07	93.6
Authorised absences	5.2	8.3	9.6	7.83	7.0
Unauthorised absences	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.10	0.8

We can only achieve the expected standards in you support us by ensuring your child is in school when they should be.

We focus on attendance because:

- School work is easier to cope with
- Pupils feel more secure
- Friendships more easily maintained
- Longer term prospects are better being on time

We focus on lateness because... if your child is 10 minutes late a day they miss:

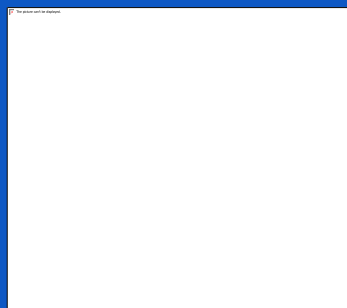
- 50 minutes learning a week
- 633 minutes a term
- Over 32 hours a year

Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities:

Each week, all classes receives lessons in physical education. Year 3 to Year 6 attend statutory swimming sessions at Caldicot School, delivered once per week over a block of sessions. Pupils have the opportunity to take part in the following clubs:

Gardening, Digiteers, Pupil Council, Healthy Heroes, Eco Committee, Criw Cymraeg, Craft Club, Netball, Board Games, Cooking, Computer Club and Lego Club.

Our teams enjoyed successes in local tournaments which included rugby, football and the Year 6 swimming gala.



Residential Trip:

We were able to offer our children in Year 5 and Year 6 a residential trip to Gilwern Outdoor Education. Pupils enjoyed a range of activities including rock climbing, hill walking, caving and canoeing.

School Visits:

All year groups took part in a wide variety of trips during 2025-2026 academic year, organised to provide the children with meaningful learning experiences. These included:

- Gilwern Outdoor Education Centre (residential trip);
- Asda;
- Library;
- Bethany Baptist Church;
- Caldicot Castle;
- Police links – Cybercrime, keeping safe, road safety;
- Musical instruments pennywhistle, Brass, strings, toots and doods.



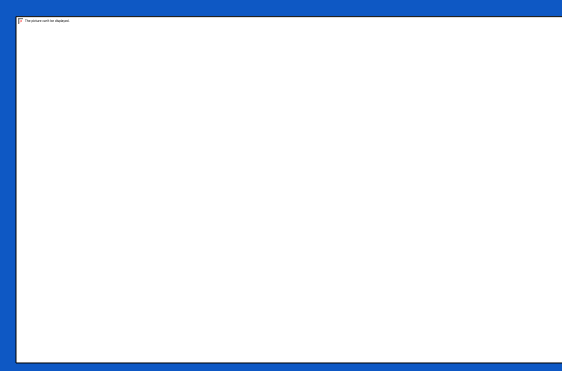
Parent, Teacher and Friends Association

Our dedicated PTFA have had a great year and made a fantastic contribution to the running of our school. They have raised over £? through events such as discos, gift sales and Christmas events amongst other things. The PTFA have provided the school with funds for gardening club alongside plants to enhance the school environment. They have also purchased presents from Santa, Easter eggs for every child, Leaver's gifts, prizes for different events and many other things alongside contributing to school trips and other events/opportunities for the children.

Most recently they have provided money for the First Aid to support the children's safety. They would like to thank the families of Dewstow for their support throughout the year and invite anyone who would like to join the PTFA to get in touch through the school reception.

Community Links

The Governing Body are keen to develop links with the local community and to give the pupils a sense of belonging as active citizens in their local, national and global community. Dewstow Primary School supported the local foodbank at Harvest and supported Children in Need and Comic Relief. The children visit the Council Town Offices and have afternoon tea with the Mayor of Caldicot.



Provision of Toilet Facilities:

Within the school, toilet facilities are available in each plaza, with private toilets for children who may need to step outside of their class (this is especially important for some of the older girls in the school who are experiencing changes).

Healthy eating and drinking:

Healthy eating and drinking are encouraged from Nursery through to Year 6. Pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and there is a water fountain in the school hall. This is maintained by an external company who also provide facilities for hand washing in the pupil toilets. From September 2022, all Infant school children and foundation stage children have been entitled to a free school meal. As from September 2023, all our children are entitled to free school meals. We follow the [Monmouthshire Council school menu](#) which helps to ensure consistency across all schools in the county.

Children are welcome to bring packed lunches to school. We encourage food, snacks and drinks in packed lunches to be healthy and nutritionally balanced. Please do not bring nuts or Nutella products into our school for the safety and protection of our children. Children have access to fresh water throughout the school.

Review of School Policies

All statutory policies have been reviewed during the Autumn Term. In addition, the following policies have been created or reviewed: Severe Weather, School Prospectus, Behaviour and Relationships Policy, CAME Policy.

Finance:

The budget allocated in 2025-2026 was £636,077 which included a carry forward from 2024-2025 of £6,305. The school budget is overseen monthly by the finance department at Monmouthshire County Council and is closely monitored by the Finance Committee and shared at the full Governing Body Meetings. Spending is allocated with the priorities of the school.

Funding has been used to purchase a range of resources for the plazas, including Capula, Block Play, gardening equipment, plants, and to support a range of learning experiences, for example Music lessons, and visitors into the school.

No gifts are identified for this financial year and no member of the Governing Body claimed travel or subsistence. Full accounts are available for parents / carers to peruse upon request.

SUMMARY			
		2025-26 BUDGET	2026-27 BUDGET
TEACHING STAFF		636,077	636,072
SUPPORT STAFF		274,200	264,061
NON PAY BUDGET		345,161	426,923
INCOME		-199,949	-189,419
FUNDING		-1,070,967	-1,154,780
TRANSFER (TO)/FROM RESERVES		-15,478	-17,143
RECONCILIATION		-15,478	
Estimated Outturn 25/26		-65,000	-82,143