



Llywodraethwyr
Adroddiad Blynyddol i Rieni

GOVERNING BODY
ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
2024-25

Chair of Governors' Introduction

As Chair of the Governing Body, I am pleased to share our Annual Report to Parents for the 2024–2025 academic year. This report outlines our work in supporting the school's strategic direction, monitoring standards, and ensuring that every pupil is able to learn, grow and succeed.

In December 2024, Estyn visited the school to review our provision. Inspectors highlighted several areas of strength, including the strong safeguarding culture, highly effective care and guidance, the positive attitudes of sixth form learners, and the supportive work undertaken with pupils who have Additional Learning Needs. These findings reflect the dedication of staff and the positive ethos within our school community.

Estyn also identified that 'Significant Improvement' was required and gave the following five recommendations:

R1 Refine the roles and responsibilities of all senior leaders and ensure that they are held to account robustly

R2 Strengthen self-evaluation processes so that leaders have an accurate view of the school's areas for development and plan for improvement precisely

R3 Improve the quality of teaching to address the shortcomings identified in the report

R4 Improve the provision for the progressive development of pupils' literacy skills across the curriculum, in particular reading and writing

R5 Improve attendance

Work to address these began immediately. To strengthen capacity and ensure focused leadership in key areas, three new members have joined the Senior Leadership Team:

- Jenna Gravelle – Deputy Headteacher
- Jonathan Harvard – Leader of Learning for Pupil Progress
- Craig Wade – Leader of Learning for Curriculum

These posts will support our continued improvement journey.

There is much to be proud of at Gowerton School, and the Governing Body remains committed to working with staff, parents and pupils to build on our strengths while addressing areas for development with determination and care.

Morrison Frew
Chair of Governors

1. Governing Body Composition (31/12/25)

Category	Name	Term of Office Ends
Community	Morrison Frew (Chair)	23/09/2027
	Lynne Guy (Vice Chair)	10/09/2029
	Tanya Long	31/03/2027
	<i>Vacancy</i>	
	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Local Authority	Melissa Gammon	18/12/2029
	Susan Jones	24/07/2028
	Bethina Rees-Lawrence	18/12/2028
	Tim Williams	18/12/2029
	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Parent	Debbie Garratt	03/11/2028
	Amanda Wilson	04/12/2028
	Leanne Hopkins	01/11/2027
	Ricky Carmody	01/11/2027
Staff	Gareth Payne	21/09/2027
	Amy John	30/04/2029
	Marc Saunders	31/12/2029
Headteacher	Kathleen Lawlor	
Clerk to the Governors	Mrs Sarah Hunt	
Contact details for the Chair of Governors and Clerk	Gowerton School Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea SA4 3DL Hunts1@hwbmail.net Tel: (01792) 873461	

2. Gowerton School Governing Body

The Governing Body has a specific role in the life of the school.

To enable the Governing Body to discharge its responsibilities efficiently, several sub-committees are established and meet regularly.

Their role covers:

- Decisions on school policies
- Shared responsibility for the management of the school
- Advising and supporting the Headteacher and staff
- Ensuring the school meets the needs of the pupils
- Helping to decide what is taught
- Determining how the delegated budget is spent
- The appointment of staff
- The link between the school, the Local Authority and the community
- Staff and pupil disciplinary matters

3. Policies & Procedures

The school is required to have statutory policies and documents in place which are determined, adopted, implemented and reviewed by the governing body. Several non-statutory (but recommended) policies and documents are also in place. A full list of policies and documents is available on our website - [Policies & Guidance – Gowerton School](#) or on request from the Clerk to the Governing Body, Mrs Sarah Hunt, who may be contacted at the school.

4. Instrument of Governance

Gowerton is a Community School and lessons are taught through the medium of English.

5. Governing Body Meetings 2024-2025

During the academic year 2024-25, there were no requests for an Annual Parents Meeting.

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents of 10% of the school's registered pupils/30 registered pupils to petition the governing body for a meeting on matters affecting the school.

Further advice on how parents/carers may go about requesting a meeting with a governing body is available on the Welsh Government's website at: [statutory-guidance-to-the-governing-bodies-of-maintained-schools-in-wales-regarding-the-duty-to-hold-meetings-with-parents.pdf](#)

The Full Governing Body and each of the subcommittees meet once a term with an additional FGB (AGM) meeting at the beginning of the autumn term. The staff review committee meets annually, as does the Headteacher's Performance Management panel.

Governing Body Meetings 2024-2025

	No. of meetings	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Full Governing Body	4	18.09.2024 18.12.2024	02.04.2025	16.07.2025
Teaching & Learning	1	11.12.2024		
Ethos & Wellbeing	1	09.12.2024		
Business & Resources	3	11.12.2024	16.05.2025	10.07.2025
Appointments Panel	6	03.09.2024	21.02.2025 11.03.2025 09.04.2025	13.05.2025 14.05.2025
Staff Review	1			10.07.2025
Discipline Committee (Pupils)	0	-	-	-
Discipline Committee (Staff)	0	-	-	-
Employment and Dismissal Committee Appeals Committee	0	-	-	-
Complaints Committee	1	-	-	15.07.2025
Headteacher's Performance Management	1	21.11.2024	-	-

Following the Estyn inspection in December 2024, the subgroups were restructured.

6. Financial Statement 2024-2025

SCHOOL: Gowerton Comp

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

	Delegated Expenditure £	Non-Delegated Expenditure £	Total Net Expenditure £
Teachers Salaries	4,707,516	11,640	4,719,156
Salaries	1,994,056	9,749	2,003,805
Other Employee Costs	2,725	7,587	10,313
Premises	63,916	0	63,916
Transport	2,887	503,729	506,616
Supplies & Services	1,132,252	0	1,132,252
Recharges	0	18,578	18,578
Gross Expenditure	7,903,351	551,283	8,454,635
Grant Income	-886,129	0	-886,129
Other Income	-367,912	0	-367,912
Gross Income	-1,254,041	0	-1,254,041
Net Expenditure	6,649,310	551,283	7,200,594

RESERVES:	£
FINAL FORMULA ALLOCATION:	6,430,077
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE:	6,649,310
TRANSFER TO / (FROM) RESERVES:	-219,233
OPENING BALANCE ON RESERVES 01/04/24	704,488

7. School Performance

Key Stage 4 Outcomes (GCSE or Equivalent)

Our outgoing Year 11 pupils should be congratulated on an excellent set of results. These are outlined below and are taken from the Welsh Governments' All Wales Core Data Set.

In more detail:

Performance measure	%	Average Point Score
5+ A*-A or equivalent	18.5%	
Capped 9 Points Score		369.1
Level 2 Welsh Baccalaureate / Skills Challenge Cert		39.4
Literacy		40.6
Numeracy		38.1
Science		38.2

Grade	Points		Grade	Points
A*	58		E	28
A	52		F	22
B	46		G	16
C	40		U	0
D	34			

Key Stage 5 (A Level or equivalent) Outcomes

Gowerton 6th Form has an open entry policy and students work towards qualifications appropriate to their ability on entry to their courses.

Progression to higher education is the priority aim of the majority of students who enter our 6th Form.

Of those who wished to go on to university in 2025 100% achieved their 1st choice of university place.

8. Attendance

At the end of this year, we had 1029 pupils on roll in Years 7-11 (and an additional 97 in the 6th form). Attendance is improving slowly post pandemic; however, attendance is still a national concern and as a school we are still below pre-pandemic attendance rates., Attendance remains a top priority, and we are constantly looking at initiatives to improve it.

The school's pastoral team works with families and outside agencies to address attendance issues and to offer support where needed. The school now uses Bromcom to track pupil attendance and parents can view their child's attendance on the MCAS app and report absences via their parent account.

The following initiatives are implemented by the school:

- Attendance Officer contacts parents/carers where a pupil is absent without a reason provided.
- Letters sent home if pupils are absent frequently.
- Involvement of the Family Liaison Officer and the Educational Welfare Officer i.e. if pupils' attendance is below 90%.
- ALNCo / Pupil Support to continue to liaise with Heads of Year, Child Welfare Manager and EWO on a regular basis.
- Holiday requests will not be authorised for pupils whose attendance is below 90%

We are here to help and will assist in any way we can to support you in bringing your children to school. Please see the school website for further information [Attendance – Gowerton School](#)

9. Health & Wellbeing

Gowerton ensures a whole school approach to Health & Wellbeing and promotes this on the school website, social media, form time and within Health & Well-being lessons in KS3 and within WBQ lessons in KS4. Please see below:

<https://gowertonschool.com/mentally-healthy-schools/>

<https://www.instagram.com/gowertonschoolwellbeing/>

The school works with Public Health Wales on a Whole School Approach to Emotional Mental Wellbeing implementation plan with three clear targets. This plan is reviewed annually and targets set based on the progress made during the previous year. Targets relate to both pupils and staff. Staff from across the school contributed to the completion of the assessment tool ensuring that every opportunity to review our provision and practice was undertaken.

10. Healthy Eating

The food and drink served in the school canteens can make a positive contribution towards giving children and young people a healthy, balanced diet and encouraging them to develop good eating habits. The aim is to achieve a whole-school approach towards healthy eating and to encourage healthy attitudes to food and drink from an early age. This is in line with the Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience within the new Curriculum for Wales. Pupils are taught about healthy eating in their H&W lessons in Key Stage 3 and through Welsh Bac lessons in Key Stage 4.

Gowerton School's canteen service is run by the Local Authority who adhere to the Guidance set out by the Welsh Government for Healthy Eating –

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/healthy-eating-in-maintained-schools-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-governing-bodies.pdf>

In addition to the normal breaktime and lunchtime service, there is a Breakfast Club from 8am every day for pupils to purchase a hot chocolate or snack before school starts. This encourages pupils to sit and chat with each other before formal lessons start.

The school canteens celebrate and promote events such as International Languages Day and Healthy Eating Week annually. These are publicised in assemblies and by form tutors within form time in the same week as the event. The school canteens offer a different selection of healthy dishes each day, with Jacket potatoes and a pasta dish remaining as fixed menu items. In addition, the 'Kanga Café' offers a selection of sandwiches, baguettes and wraps for those wanting cold food. Pupils are encouraged to eat sitting in the canteens and hot options are served plated.

The canteen only sells water and milk. In addition, there are water fountains located throughout the school for pupils to access drinking water or fill up their drinking bottle. All pupils are given a Gowerton School water bottle when they start in the school.

The School Council discusses Healthy eating during meetings and meets with canteen staff annually to present the views of pupils and discuss initiatives going forward. The Healthy Eating Governor is kept abreast of discussion points from School Council meetings and is invited to meetings with canteen staff.

11. Sport

<https://www.instagram.com/gowertonpe/>

In addition to timetabled PE lessons for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils the school offers a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular sporting activities. In addition to the 'traditional sports' – boys and girls' rugby, football, hockey etc., The school works in conjunction with the 50x60 sports officers to be able to offer further opportunities for pupils to take part in physical activity, e.g. Basketball at lunchtimes. The school's aim is to involve the maximum possible number of children at every level of ability.

Extra-Curricular Activities & Lunch time Clubs

Pupils are fortunate to be able to choose from a wide variety of activities. At lunchtimes pupils can attend the library for chess, board games and reading. Each year group is allocated a specific day. There are many clubs to choose from including drama club, choirs, dance club and language clubs. We also have after school training in PE which includes rugby, hockey, netball, football in all the year groups.

Staff provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities that reinforce learning and give opportunities for enjoyment.

Please see school website [for further information- Clubs & Sports – Gowerton School](#)

'Drop in' sessions are also run by subject areas at lunchtimes.

After school opportunities include:

Soccer, Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Street Dance and Spanish as well as 'catch up' sessions and extra lessons for examination groups.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award is offered to pupils in Year 10. For further information, please contact Mr Collins at the school or see the school website for further information. [Duke of Edinburgh Award – Gowerton School](#). Pupils who are successful at achieving the Bronze award can go on to complete the Gold Award.

12. Community Focussed School

Gowerton School strives to be a good school which is truly community focused.

The continued success of the school is reliant upon a successful partnership between pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.

Continued development in school performance will be achieved by reinforcing the partnerships which bring about success and by focusing on:

- Building a strong Community
- Having high expectations of us all
- Achievement which permeates all aspects of school life

- Relationships which build on Respect
- Involvement of ALL.

We would invite you to browse our [newsletters](#) on our school website for a full report on the activities and events that have taken place this year.

Charitable Activities

Various charities will benefit from the money raised this year through cake sales, non-school uniform days, sponsored walks etc:

Community Links

We continue to have a good working relationship with a variety of community partners including:

Partner primary schools

We work very closely with our North Gower Partnership, with weekly meetings to discuss the new curriculum, joint planning and to share good practice. The schools that form the partnership are Gowerton, Penclawdd, Penyfro, Llanrhidian and Waunarlwydd primary schools.

Dunvant Male Choir

We are very grateful to the male voice choir for their continued support. This year they held the Young Singer of the Year competition at the school and also joined us at our [North Gower Brangwyn Music Festival](#).

South Wales Police

South Wales Police continue to have close links with the school through our 'school beat' and on site surgeries. Local PCSOs visit the school and provide regular links through the PSE Programme conducting assemblies and talking to classes.

Gowertonians

Our former staff and pupils' association, the Gowertonians, play a significant part in ensuring continuity between our current generation and those who preceded them. The Gowertonians' Society has many links into the wider communities and reflects the status of the school as it is and as it was. More information on can be found on their website <https://www.gowertonian-society.co.uk/>

The society continues to support us with generous monetary contributions, e.g. annual Awards Evening.

Remembrance

In November we welcomed a number of distinguished guests to the school alongside members of the local community, Gowertonians, Governors, cadets and pupils from our partner primary schools. Further information on the Remembrance Service can be read in the [November 2024 newsletter](#).

13. Educational & Cultural Events

The school runs a number of trips and excursions to suit all budgets. A summary of these can be seen on the school website [Trips & Excursions – Gowerton School](#)

This year, amongst others, Year 7 pupils visited Llangrannog for an exciting fun packed weekend, pupils attended the Welsh Festival at Disneyland Paris and the annual ski trip took place in Austria.

14. Transition & Home/School Partnership

Key Stage 2 to 3

The Transition Roadshows were again successful this year with parents and Year 6 pupils having the opportunity to have information about Gowerton School and ask questions of the Gowerton Year 7 and Sixth Form representatives.

This year's Open Evening took place in July and was extended to include Year 5 parents/pupils and once again, proved to be very popular, with over 300 parents and pupils attending. The school also held an Open Morning in September alongside 1-to-1 tours for Year 6 pupils and their families. During the Open Morning and the Open Evening, parents and pupils had a guided tour of the school, visited classes in action, and were given a chance to ask questions. The individual tours offered families the opportunity to ask individual questions and view areas of the school that individual pupils were particularly interested in.

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a 4-day transition experience at Gowerton in July. This gave them the opportunity to experience lessons, sports events, team building, and the Cymanfa Ganu.

All KS2-3 Transition information is available on our school website [Key Stage 2 – Key Stage 3 | \(j2bloggy.com\)](#)

Key Stage 4 to 5

An Open Evening was also held for prospective Sixth formers in which parents and Year 11 pupils were given information about the various A' level subjects and were able to speak to the relevant staff. Information on Gowerton 6th Form, including our prospectus can be viewed on our school website - [Sixth Form – Gowerton School](#)

Parents evenings were held in person for all year groups. There were also meetings held for Year 7 parents regarding Banding, Year 9 for Options information and for Year 11 pupils, regarding mentoring and help in preparing for GCSEs.

14. Inclusion at Gowerton

At Gowerton School we ensure that all pupils are given the support, guidance and resources necessary to enable them to achieve their full potential. All pupils study the broad, balanced and relevant curriculum to which they are entitled, and they are also included fully in the school community.

The school recognises that all learners have individual needs and aims to ensure fair and equal treatment for all and promotes practice that celebrates diversity and maximises the achievement of all. The school places great emphasis on developing the whole child and forming positive, supportive relationships between staff, pupils and parents/carers.

The school believes in working in partnership with parents/carers through regular contact, which includes documentation, meetings and reviews. The school also works closely with outside agencies to draw on specific expertise to deal with pupils' learning needs.

Pupils who require support are identified through close liaison with partner schools and progress is carefully monitored by the ALNCo. The programme of support is adjusted as the needs of the pupil change. Pupils are involved in their learning through regular assessments and dialogues between pupil, parent and teacher.

The educational programme for pupils with identified ALN is co-ordinated and managed by the ALNCo, Ms. Sian Meyrick.

At Gowerton support is given to pupils with learning differences, emotional and behavioural difficulties and medical conditions. Indeed, the school's ALN Policy aims to ensure that all pupils with additional educational needs receive a relevant, balanced education which is differentiated to suit their needs and aptitudes. Pupils are encouraged to develop their full potential through a co-ordinated teaching and learning programme involving regular support and monitoring.

The school gives a high priority to establishing a caring ethos for pupils with additional learning needs and staff work with the school's Pupil Welfare Manager and specialist outside agencies to ensure that all avenues of support are explored and utilised and that appropriate resources to meet the needs of individuals are deployed.

All pupils who have ALN are treated as individuals and have an Individual Development Plan that is regularly reviewed. The main aim of the additional learning needs teaching in the school is to enable pupils with learning differences to progress and reach as high a standard of literacy and numeracy as possible. It is through acquiring these basic skills that the child forms a working access to other parts of the curriculum; these skills will be critical throughout their lives. All pupils identified will follow a broad and balanced curriculum with as many opportunities as other children in the school.

There is close and regular liaison with parents/carers who are encouraged to contact the school with any anxieties. There are also annual Person-Centred Reviews for statemented pupils. The school has a Specialist Teaching Facility for pupils who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome.

Please see the school website for further information [Additional Learning Needs – Gowerton School](#)

15. Gifts to the school

The Gowertonian Society continues to provide financial support for students and school projects.

16. Toilet facilities

The school has an adequate number of toilets, throughout the school, for use by children and adults. There are two toilet facilities which are accessible for disabled persons.

All toilets are cleaned daily, checked for supplies and replenished as required. The school employs a daytime cleaner to monitor the toilets for cleanliness during breaktime and lunchtimes.

From September 2025, CCTV will be in use in the communal areas only of pupil bathrooms. This is to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Toilet facilities are refurbished on a rolling programme.

17. Traffic Management Procedures

We continue to monitor traffic management systems, as advised by the Health & Safety Executive, to ensure the school site is safe for our students, staff and visitors. Barriers, gates and bollards are in operation throughout the site to restrict traffic movement during the school day. There is a 5mph speed limit on the drive and on the school site.

Both entry gates are closed from 2.55pm to 3.05pm to avoid pupils coming into contact with moving vehicles. In addition, the main school gates are closed to vehicles during break and lunchtimes for the safety of pupils and parents are asked not to attempt to enter the school site to collect pupils between these times unless of an emergency. Pupils are made aware of road safety measures in assemblies.

Park Road entrance gates are locked during the school day.

Sixth Form pupils have been informed they are welcome to park their vehicles at the front of the school.

We also ensure the main school drive remains clear for emergency vehicle access and all visitors to the school are asked not to park in this area. Yellow lines and 'Keep Clear' markings are in place.

18. Accessibility

The school remains unable to comply with the requirements of the Disability Act. The site and buildings are of an age that a very large sum of money is needed to make the necessary

modifications. It is hoped that the planned new build in the future will enable the school to become fully accessible.

All new building work seeks to consider the needs of all stakeholders and incorporate appropriate modifications. There is access on the ground floor in all Blocks for use by disabled persons with additional or modified needs. There are two dedicated disabled parking spaces at the front of the school.

Accessibility is considered by the Governing Body as part of the School's Strategic Equality Plan.

The new build planned to commence in Autumn 2027 will address the accessibility issues of the school and ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all.

19. Use of Welsh language

Welsh is taught as a second language to all pupils in Years 7 – 11. All pupils entering Key Stage 3 follow the National Curriculum guidelines and in Key Stage 4 all pupils are entered for full course, GCSE 2nd Language Welsh.

Although the medium of instruction and communication within the school is English, the use of Welsh is encouraged in the daily life of the school. There is an action plan to develop learners' bilingual competency. The use of Welsh is heard in lessons and registration, when answering the register, and also in greetings and general phrases. Signage throughout the school is bilingual. Welsh is used in assemblies, lessons, and form time. The Welsh dimension of the curriculum continues to be an important feature of the school with the Eisteddfod, Cymanfa Ganu, Shw Mae Day to name but a few.

The school is proud to have achieved the 'Gold' standard in Siarter Iaith. It was the second Secondary school in Wales to have been awarded this standard of excellence.

In addition, our Criw Cymraeg often host events for parents and governors in the school as well as visiting places of interest in our community to learn more about local Welsh history.

More information on Siarter Iaith can be viewed here –

<https://sites.google.com/view/ysgoltregwyrsiarteriaith/cartref-home>

20. Term Dates for 2025-2026

School term and holiday dates 2025 / 2026

Term	Term begins	Mid-term holiday begins	Mid-term holiday ends	Terms ends
Autumn 2025	Monday 1 September 2025	Monday 27 October 2025	Friday 31 October 2025	Friday 19 December 2025
Spring 2026	Monday 5 January 2026	Monday 16 February 2026	Friday 20 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026
Summer 2026	Monday 13 April 2026	Monday 25 May 2026	Friday 29 May 2026	Monday 20 July 2026

Bank Holidays

Monday 4th May 2026

21. Timing of the school day 2025-2026

Form / Assembly	8.40-9.00
Period 1	9.00-10.00
Period 2	10.00-11.00
Break	11.00-11.20
Period 3	11.20-12.20
Period 4	12.20-1.20
Lunch	1.20-2.00
Period 5	2.00-3.00

22. INSET Days 2025-2026

Monday 1/9/25

Monday 3/11/25

Monday 5/1/26

Monday 16/3/26

Monday 13/4/26

Monday 20/7/26

School Prospectus

The school prospectus includes all statutory requirements. The most recent version of our prospectus can always be found on the school website with paper copies available on request. [Prospectus-Update-March-2025.pdf](#)

Keeping in touch

Your first point of contact will usually be your child's Head of Year or via the school reception. The school and governing body welcome parental involvement. Please send messages for the Headteacher and/or for the Governing Body to:

Mrs Sarah Hunt, Gowerton School, Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea SA4 3DL.

Telephone:/Ffôn: 01792 873461

Email:/Epost: Gowerton.School@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

In addition to MCAS (main form of communication), the school also uses its website and social media channels to share information on events and activities:

Website: www.gowertonschool.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GowertonSchoolOfficial>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gowertonschoolofficial/>

Departments also have their own Instagram pages e.g. PE, Health & Wellbeing, 6th Form