



## DERI VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Governors Annual Report to Parents 2015/2016**

### **Governors' Annual Report to Parents**



**Report for Academic Year – September 2015 - July 2016**

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# Deri View Primary School

**Dear Parents,**

As always, I hope you find the contents of this report both helpful and interesting, however please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any further items of interest you require.

The past academic year has, yet again, been busy for both pupils and staff.

Staff training continues to be an important feature that enables us to deliver the best possible educational experience for our pupils. The academic progress of the school is regularly monitored by our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and by the Educational Advisory Service (EAS) and we eagerly await the recent categorisation assessment, which is indicated to be favourable and will probably put Deri View School in the first quartile.

Our senior leadership team has been enhanced with the appointment of a new deputy-head teacher, Mr Tim Kane. The governors are delighted to have him join our school. The challenging academic targets and outcomes set for our pupils in September 2015 have been achieved and this has been recognised by the EAS and Estyn. Our head teacher, Mrs Sarah Davies was invited by Estyn to present a lecture at their recent conference, Deri View having been judged to be a school that had achieved outstanding academic progress.

Deri View continues to support other activities within the school, e.g. music, sport, Forest School, outside visits and after-school clubs. Many of our pupils also achieve success in "out of school" activities.

We have continued our Open Morning sessions where parents, family and carers can visit their children's classrooms and see for themselves the work done by pupils and teachers. Comments written in our Visitor Book indicate your appreciation of these opportunities.

Our PTFA continues to work very hard to support the school. The monies that they raise are all towards extra-curricular items that are supportive of the pupils. The creation and furnishing of our school library is a wonderful example of their dedication and in frequent use by the children.

School budgets and finances perpetually a challenge for all schools. We continue to be very vigilant in monitoring the finances, and have managed to have a small surplus for

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2015-2016, (having inherited a large deficit in 2012-2013). However, with ever increasing pressures and budget reduction in “real terms” by MCC we shall have to be careful not to slip back into deficit status. This problem is sadly not unique to Deri View.

The school governing body also work hard “behind the scenes”. More and more responsibilities are expected to be undertaken by governors, as we are responsible for overseeing academic standards, implementation of policies, monitoring health and safety, safeguarding, finances and appointments: and a legal requirement to produce this report for you. The governing body comprises of parent governors, community governors, local authority governors and representatives from the staff.

The school is served by dedicated and caring people – teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, office staff, canteen staff, playground supervisors, caretakers, and cleaners, and we governors, supported by you the parents/carers/families of our pupils. Together we are a team that is committed to giving each and every child a safe and happy environment in which to learn and thrive.

Many thanks to you all

Margaret Harris  
[Chair of Governors]



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#### **Introduction:**

Every year we send a report to parents as required by law. Parents have the option to request a formal meeting with the Governing Body. No meeting was held in 2015 as none was requested. This report has been written by your Governors with the support of staff and approved by the Governing Body as a whole.

You can write to Mrs Sarah Davies, Headteacher, and/or Mrs Maggie Harris, Chair of Governors c/o Deri View Primary School, Llwynu Lane, Abergavenny NP7 6AR

#### **Governing Body – September 2015-July 16**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Office Ends</b>	
<b>Mrs Maggie Harris</b> <i>Chairperson since Jan 2013</i>	Community Governor	2019	<u>Parent Governor</u> Elected as a representative of the parents and have a child attending the school when elected. <u>Teacher Governor</u> Elected by and from the teachers at the school <u>Staff Representative</u> Elected by and from the non teaching staff at the school. <u>Community Governor</u> Are chosen by governors who themselves are not community governors. It is desirable that they are from business within the community <u>Local Education Authority Governors</u> As appointed by the LEA <u>Head Teacher</u> Has the right to attend all meetings and is a full member.
<b>Cllr Norma Watkins</b>	Town Council	Appointed Sept 2015	
<b>Mr Jason Chapman</b>	Parent Governor	Elected November 2016	
<b>Ms Sara Burch</b>	Parent Governor	2018	
<b>Mrs Karen McHallam</b>	Parent Governor	2019 - (resigned July 2016)	
<b>Mr Adrian Morris</b>	Parent Governor	2017	
<b>County Councillor Roger Harris</b>	LEA	2018	
<b>Mrs Jane White</b>	Community Governor	2017	
<b>Miss Barbara Owen</b>	Community Governor	Appointed May 2016	
<b>County Councillor Maureen Powell</b>	<u>LEA</u>	Retired July 2016	
<b>Mrs Hannah Woodhouse</b>	Staff Governor	2018	
<b>Miss Hannah Barry</b>	Teacher rep	2018	
<b>Mrs Lavinia O'Brien</b>	LEA	Appointed Feb 2016	
<b>Mrs Sarah Davies</b>	Headteacher		
<b>Mr Barrie Hodges</b> Directorate for Children and Young People Monmouthshire County	Clerk		

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Council Innovation House PO Box 106 CALDICOT NP26 9AN			<u>Clerk to the Governors</u> A representative for the Director of Education who records matters discussed and decisions made, but is not a governor.
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#### **Parent Governors**

If vacancies for Parent Governors become available all parents are informed and anyone interested can nominate themselves and a ballot is held.

#### **School Strategies**

School strategies, policies and practices are regularly discussed and reviewed by the Head teacher, staff and Governors.

#### **School Action Plan**

Deri View writes an annual action plan reflecting the current needs for the school. The main language of the school is English, with Welsh taught as a second language throughout the school. The current School Improvement Plan was agreed by Governors in January 2015. It is very detailed and available on request.

The major priorities set, each with detailed actions, are:

- Teaching and Learning:- all teachers to achieve at least 'good' in evaluation, establishing a 'Learning Group' to train, mentor and coach teachers, and all teachers to have a learning partner.
- English and Literacy:-Improve outcomes in writing at the end of Year 6 to 81% of children achieving level 4 and 17% achieving level 5, including children in the Special needs Resource Base. Improve outcomes in Oracy (speaking and understanding confidently) to 17% of children achieving level 5+ at the end of Year 6, including children in the special needs resource base. All pupils achievements in literacy to be tracked and monitored to check their progress and plan for further development.
- Maths and Numeracy: More opportunities for KS2 pupils to undertake investigations in maths. Introduce the EAS recommended methods across the school. Introduce catch up maths in year 2. Improve how work is marked and pupils are helped to improve. Specific training for Maths Co-ordinator, Teaching Assistants and other staff, and whole staff training on the EAS recommended calculation methods.
- Welsh Second Language: Increased opportunities for welsh outside lessons- criw cymreig. Increase the achievement of children in year 6 in Welsh to at least the national average. Increase writing in Welsh in KS2. Improve staff language skills so that all teachers in KS2 can teach Welsh confidently.

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- Leadership: 'distributed leadership'-all teachers co-ordinate an area of curriculum and/or have a whole school responsibility. All staff have responsibilities in the school improvement plan. Governing body complete the Bronze Mark evaluation.
- Reducing the impact of poverty. Improve the skills of teachers in identifying and addressing specific learning difficulties. Identify and develop the pupils who are more able and talented, academically, in sport and in the performing arts, measured by an increase in the numbers achieving at a higher level in external tests. Continue to improve wellbeing, attendance, and engagement with families, and continue to reduce the gap in achievement between children receiving free school meals and others.

During the year 2015-16 the school was closed for 5 staff training days and no snow days.

Term dates were

Autumn Term 1<sup>st</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> December. Half term 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Spring term January 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March. Half term 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February

Summer term 11<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> July. Half term 30<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

#### **Session Times**

	<b>Morning Session</b>		<b>Afternoon session</b>	
	<b>Start time</b>	<b>End time</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>End time</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	9:00am	11:30am	12:45pm	3:15pm
<b>Foundation Phase:</b>	9.00am	12.15pm	1:15pm	3.20pm
<b>Key Stage 2</b>	9.00am	12.15pm	1.15pm	3.30pm

#### **School Attendance and Pupil Numbers**

During the 2015-2016 academic year there was an average of 269 pupils in the primary school. By the end of the year there were 88 pupils in the nursery.

The average attendance throughout the year was 95.2 % in the Primary school, exceeding a target of 94.4%, and putting Deri View in the top quartile for attendance compared to similar schools.

#### **School Policies**

The Head teacher, staff and governors have worked together to produce a number of policies to ensure that all pupils are cared for to a very high standard and that they receive a broad and balanced education.

Curriculum policies are reviewed annually and general policies are reviewed on a rolling programme either bi-annually or more frequently as practices in education change and/or to meet the needs of our pupils. A copy or copies of these policies is available to parents on request.

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#### **Inspection and external evaluation**

The school was last inspected by ESTYN in January 2013. For the first time in January 2015, all schools in Wales were evaluated according to a National School Improvement and Categorisation System, whereby schools are graded and the categories are colour-coded according to the school's capacity to ensure improvement. Deri View was categorised as a 'yellow' school (the categories being green, yellow, amber and red), one of the few schools in Monmouthshire to achieve this standard, being judged as 'above average' in outcomes and 'improving rapidly', and therefore needing low intervention. The Governing body feels that this is a fair reflection of the progress being made at the school and an appropriate accolade to the hard work of staff.

#### **Staff Changes**

As several experienced senior staff left for promotions in July 2015, we were fortunate in having Mrs Nicola Balkwill seconded to us for the year as Deputy Head. Mrs Balkwill's secondment ended in July 2016 when Mr Tim Kane was appointed to the permanent role. Mr Meirion Callaghan joined the school in January 2015. Mrs Alison Spencer and Mrs Jeanette Butt left the school in August 2016 due to the review and temporary closure of the SNRB.

#### **Transition/ School leavers**

Staff at Deri View Primary School continue to develop close links with the staff of the local comprehensive school, King Henry VIII School. Throughout their junior years pupils are introduced to the comprehensive school with joint working practices in sport. During the year King Henry staff are invited to Deri View to meet with the staff and pupils prior to transition. Y6 pupils are invited to King Henry VIII School for 'taster days' and in this way they are introduced to life at the comprehensive school. The Y6 and Y7 teachers work collaboratively on curriculum projects. Some of this work is started at primary school and completed in King Henry.

#### **Class Organisation 2015-16**

Nursery	3 - 4 year olds	1 class am & 1 class pm (Sept-Dec) 2 classes am & 1 class pm (Jan-July)
Reception	4-5 year olds	1 class
Reception/Y1	4-6 year olds	1 class
Y1/Y2	5 - 7 year olds	1 class
Y2	6 - 7 year olds	1 class
Y3	7 - 8 year olds	1 class
Y3/4	7 - 9 year olds	1 class
Y4/5	8 - 10 year olds	1 class
Y5/6	9-11 year olds	1 class
Y6	10-11 year olds	1 class
SLC	5 – 11 year olds	1 class
ILC	5 – 11 year olds	1 class

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#### **Sport**

The staff and governors of Deri View Primary School are keen to have a healthy school population with high standards in sport. Pupils have a minimum of two hours timetabled teaching of PE each week, over the year this will include dance, gymnastics, games, athletics, swimming (KS2) and orienteering. Many of our pupils are involved in various clubs outside school as well. The School's link with King Henry VIII has given children lots of opportunities to participate in sporting events, including Y5/6 Cross Country, Super 8s athletics, Y1-Y5 multi sports days, and swimming events. Pupils also took part in regional tennis and football events and special needs pupils took part in riding for the disabled and Welsh disability sports gymnastics competitions. Pupils in year 5 greatly enjoyed the trip to Hilston Park.

Deri View has many children who excel in sport and take part outside school.

#### **Forest School**

All junior classes have been fortunate to experience Forest School sessions throughout the whole of the year. Each class has received at least 6 consecutive sessions at the Skirrid site in Abergavenny. This has involved whole classes accompanied by 3 experienced Forest School leaders and their class teacher travelling to the Skirrid and taking part in a variety of activities. All children have been included and have had the opportunity to learn new skills, particularly cooperative and organisational skills. All children have been able to learn how to use a variety of tools and how to create fire and cook in the outdoors.

Younger children continue to use the Forest School area on the Deri View site for outdoor education sessions. Work is underway to improve the school's Forest School area.

#### **Music and Events**

The staff and governors work hard to develop the music curriculum in Deri View Primary School by offering pupils the opportunity to have lessons on a wide range of instruments.

Early Years pupils continue to be introduced to instruments; with weekly violin and cello lessons in Year 1. A love of music is fostered at all Key Stages. Many of our pupils received music lessons from peripatetic music teachers who came into school throughout the week. Class music included steel pans, African drumming, and garageband sessions.

Events in school included a Harvest celebration, Remembrance day, Christmas concerts, a St David's Day celebration, a Nursery Summer concert, class events and book fairs. We had a successful school Eisteddfod and children from Deri View represented the school in the Abergavenny Eisteddfod and the Urdd.

Year 6 marked the end of their time at Deri View with a leavers' meal, celebration of achievement and trip to London.

#### **Whole school projects**

Children and staff used several themes during the year as an inspiration for cross-curricular work, including 'Out of This World' (space and the universe), 'Wild at Heart' and the Rugby



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World Cup. The themes inspired pupils to engage in independent research, collaborative work and some exciting and creative home learning projects.

#### **Welsh Language**

Welsh language is taught throughout the school both incidentally and in Welsh lessons. Children are welcomed daily through the medium of Welsh, e.g. register/dinner register. As a school we endeavour to create a Welsh ethos with signage and the use of incidental Welsh throughout the school day.

Children are formally assessed in Welsh at the end of Key Stage 2, ready to continue learning Welsh in secondary school.

#### **Charity Events- Fundraising-Donations**

Money was raised for different charities: Comic Relief and Children in Need continue to be a large fund raising event at school. Money was also raised for Macmillan Cancer Care.

All fundraising events are superbly supported by parents, staff and the community.



#### **Bursary Scheme**

The school runs a bursary scheme to ensure that children from families under financial pressure are able to take part in every opportunity offered at Deri View.

#### **PTA**

We have an excellent PTA and we thank all parents who work so hard to ensure this continues to be successful. Fund-raising events were organised throughout the year with events ranging from family bingo nights to the Summer and Christmas Fairs, sponsored bounce and Ice Cream Fridays. The Bake-off in July was a particular success. All fund raising events were well supported by parents and people in the community.

#### **School Council**

Deri View's School Council and Eco-council continued to promote citizenship and represent the views of pupils at the school.

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#### **Health in school**

Deri View educates all pupils about how to grow up healthily. The 'designed to smile' dental health initiative and encouragement to take up school meals are all part of this approach. The school has policies in place to support children with particular health needs, and staff received training as required during the year. The school has Healthy Eating policies in place. Children are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks only and to enjoy fruit at breaktime. School meals are provided in accordance with Monmouthshire's healthy menus and parents who choose to provide packed lunches are encouraged to provide a balanced meal. Children are taught about the importance of getting their 'five a day'. A free Breakfast club operates every day.

#### **Links with the Community**

As a community school we foster strong links with the community. We welcomed regular visits from PC Cath, the Fire Service, Salvation Army, and St Mary's Church. Cornerstone Church use the school every Sunday and have been generous in sharing resources.

#### **The Eco-Committee**

The Eco-Committee had a busy year! During the 2015-2016 the Eco-Committee took part in lots of projects to develop our school and the local community. They planted wild flowers in the school grounds to encourage bees and butterflies. Year 3 and 4 designed posters with Friends of Castle Meadows to encourage people to put litter in the bins and to clean up after your dogs.

The Eco-Committee were involved in the Big Bug hunt with the National Eisteddfod, to register flowers, plants and insects to ensure that no damage occurred to them during the Eisteddfod.



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#### **Work experience/Training Placements**

The school welcomed a wide range of interested people who requested a placement to further develop their career, from KHS work experience students to NVQ placements and teaching students.

#### **Support for Home Learning**

As part of improving standards all children have home learning tasks including maths learning, reading books and projects which run over a longer period.

#### **Whale Done**

The 'Whale Done' programme continued to run through the year, with children earning 'Whale Done' points for behaviour, punctuality, good work, uniform and attendance, resulting in trips or treats at the end of term. This year's whale done trips were: Feb –Gold-Bowling, Silver-film day in school, Bronze,-classroom activities. July – Gold-ice skating, Silver- film day in school (planned as Bailey Park), Bronze – classroom activities.

#### **Contact with Parents**

Deri View works hard to foster and maintain strong links with parents and carers of children at the school. From prospective parent visits through to the whole of the child's school life the head teacher, teaching staff and governors are available to speak with parents and carers to provide support.

During the year parent consultations were held in the Autumn and Spring term and parents were invited to concerts and events throughout the year. All parents are provided with an end of year report giving information about their child's progress and important next steps in their learning. Parents have the opportunity to feedback on the report for staff to continually evaluate their practice.

#### **The Acorn Centre**

The Acorn Centre houses a range of organisations that provide services for children and their families in the local community including childcare, education, family support and community education. Buzzy Bees Creche is run by The Acorn Project and provides childcare for parents to attend a variety of programmes at the centre, and a child development creche for identified children, funded through Families First. Butterflies Playgroup offers Flying Start free part-time childcare in the mornings for 2 - 3 year olds. The setting also offers places for those not eligible for Flying Start childcare at a cost. Deri View Dragons Out of School Club runs after school care and holiday care in the centre for 3 - 11year olds. There are a variety of activities and games available. The centre provides training courses and programmes run by external organisations such as Child Psychology, First Aid, Food Hygiene, Confidence Building and more. The centre runs the FUN Kitchen Project, which aims to improve parents' cookery skills to enable them to cook balanced, healthy family meals on a budget. Monmouthshire Parent Network provides a monthly support group for parents. Dads Can, a project that support young fathers run drop in sessions at the centre.

The centre hosts a variety of Flying Start services for eligible families such as access to health visiting, childcare, early language development and parenting support. The centre hosts a variety of Acorn Project services such as learning support, parenting support and

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childcare. Parenting courses run at the Acorn Centre and are suitable for parents with children aged 0 - 12. Flying Start and The Acorn Project offer 5 different programmes - The Incredible Years Infant Programme (birth - 6 months), Toddler Programme (6 months - 3 years) Basic Programme (3 - 8 years) School Age Programme (8-12 years) and Take 3 Parenting programme (10 - 18 years). Acorn Project services are provided to families through a referral system.

The centre hosts the Families First funded 'Watch, Wait and Wonder' programme. This is a programme that aims to work with families to improve parent/child relationships and attachment. The programme is provided to families through a referral system. Flying Start and The Acorn Project run language and play and baby groups at the centre.

#### **Additional Educational Needs**

During the year, Monmouthshire County Council consulted on plans to close the Special Needs resource base at Deri View school. Numbers of children in the unit have declined over recent years, as Monmouthshire Council has not identified it as the best placement for many children. Parents and special needs professionals lobbied hard against closure at public meetings and Governors also voted to oppose closure. As a result, the review into special needs provision has been re-opened, and the future of the unit remains uncertain. There are currently no children in the unit. Children with special needs in the school are integrated into mainstream classes with support or a differentiated timetable as appropriate.

#### **More Able Pupils**

We have a number of pupils in Deri View who regularly achieve above average scores in standardised assessment tests and who consistently perform very well in class work. We ensure that a differentiated curriculum on a day-to-day basis is provided so all pupils meet their full potential.

#### **Admission for Disabled Pupils**

The school believes in inclusion and integration where appropriate, and no pupil is denied admission because of disability. The school has an equal opportunities policy, which states that all pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and that disabled pupils should not be treated less favourably than all other pupils.

Access to the building for disabled pupils or adults is provided via ramps, walkways, wide corridors and doors.

All staff work hard to ensure that disabled pupils are fully included in all aspects of school life and have access to the wider curriculum. Class teachers differentiate the curriculum so that all pupils can take part regardless of their disability.

The SEN Health and Safety co-ordinator for Monmouthshire is contacted for advice on access for individual pupils and a range of therapists/agencies are consulted for support on a regular basis. Therapists are also invited to work with pupils in school and at the same time offer advice and support to teachers and staff on the best way to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils. Individual education plans are written following consultation with therapists and in this way the school endeavours to ensure that disabled pupils are treated fairly at all times.

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#### **Management of the site**

Deri View is fortunate in having a modern school building with excellent facilities. Our caretakers look after the building and we have a contract with Direct Services Organisation for cleaning. Regular premises and health and safety checks are carried out and any issues rectified. The school has been redecorated throughout in recent years, and lockers provided.

#### **Toilet Facilities**

The school toilets are cleaned on a daily basis under a Service Level Agreement with Monmouthshire County Council. All toilets have liquid soap, hand dryers and are checked daily to replenish supplies. Nursery pupils have access to separate girls' and boys' toilets directly from the nursery classroom. There are two girls' bathrooms and two boys' bathrooms available to infant pupils with each bathroom containing 3 toilets and 3 wash hand basins. The same facilities are also available to junior pupils in the junior department of the school. The school also has disabled toilet facilities available in both the infant and junior departments.

#### **Standardised Assessment Results – 2015-/2016**

Y2 and Y6 pupils are assessed at the end of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. The results of these teacher assessments and national comparative data can be seen below.

**Performance in the Year 2 assessments was above the Welsh average, while performance in the year 6 tests was slightly below the welsh average, but above the average for our group of similar schools.**

#### **End of Year Foundation Phase Results for 2016**

	<b>outcome</b>	<b>No. in cohort</b>	<b>Deri View</b>	<b>Welsh Average</b>
Language, Literacy and Communication	<b>5+</b>	37	94	88
	<b>6</b>	37	30	34
Mathematical Development	<b>5+</b>	37	91	90
	<b>6</b>	37	21	34
Personal and Social Development, Well Being and Cultural Diversity	<b>5+</b>	37	100	95
	<b>6</b>	37	33	56
Foundation Phase Indicator	<b>5+</b>	37	91	87

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Summary of National Curriculum Assessment results of pupils in the school (2016) and nationally (2015) at the end of Key Stage 2 as a percentage of those eligible for assessment.

		N	D	NC O1	NC O2	NC O3	1	2	3	4	5	6+	4+
<b>English</b>	<b>School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14	48	31	0	79
	<b>National</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	10	51	35	1	87
Oracy	<b>School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	52	29	0	81
	<b>National</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	9	50	36	1	88
Reading	<b>School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	48	33	0	81
	<b>National</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	10	48	38	1	87
Writing	<b>School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	21	45	24	0	69
	<b>National</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	15	53	27	1	81
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	55	29	2	86
	<b>National</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	52	35	1	88
<b>Science</b>	<b>School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	62	26	0	88
	<b>National</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	54	36	0	90

<b>Core Subject Indicator</b>	<b>78.5 (National 84)</b>
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#### **The School's Finances**

After the recovery plan implemented in previous years, the school started the financial year in April 2015 with a small surplus. However there were cuts in funding and increases in costs in 2015-16, and the school is coping with an even tighter budget in 2016-17.

The figures below are for April 2015 - March 2016, reflecting the Council's financial year.

Income	MCC/ Welsh Gov	£1,569,289
	Other Income and donations	£118,172.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£1,687,461.00</b>
Expenditure	Employee Costs	£1,335,733.00
	Supplies and services (inc IT)	£79,887.00
	Premises	£145,914.00
	Transport	£3,980.00
	Share of central costs	£57,655.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£1,623,169.00</b>
<b>NET Surplus in year</b>		<b>£64,292.00</b>
<b>Deficit carried forward from previous years</b>		<b>£21,765</b>
<b>Surplus carried forward into 2015-16</b>		<b>£86,054.00</b>