

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

**Governors' Annual
Report to Parents**

2024 - 2025



Empowered

Virtuous

Employable

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY TO PARENTS
ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: 2024-2025

On behalf of the Governing Body of the school, I am pleased to present you with this Governors' Annual Report to Parents for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025. This report is published via the school website and hard copies can be requested by contacting the school.

1. THE GOVERNING BODY – 2024-2025

Chair: Mrs J Phillips (Foundation)
Vice Chair: Ms. H Williams (LA)
Clerk to the Governors: Mrs S Delaney

The following were members of the Governing Body during the academic year 2024-2025

- 12 governors are Foundation Governors nominated by Archdiocese. The current Foundation Governors are –
 - Mrs Jackie Phillips (Chair)
 - Mrs Carmen Beveridge
 - Mrs Philipa Eaton
 - Mrs Chineme Emeghara
 - Mrs Angela Goldoni
 - Mrs Claire Jones
 - Mrs Collette Matchett
 - Father Tim McGrath
 - Mrs Susan Reynolds
 - Mrs Cathy Sherwood
 - Mr Lyndon Watkins
 - There is one vacancy
- 3 governors are Parent Governors and elected by parents/carers of children attending the school. The current Parent Governors are –
 - Mrs Alexandra Clarke
 - Mr Ian Suggitt
 - Mrs Olubunmi Ajayi-Obanewa
- 2 governors are Local Authority Governors nominated by Bridgend County Borough Council. The current Local Authority Governors are –
 - Mrs Helen Williams (vice chair)
 - Mrs Hannah Lewis.
- 3 governors are Staff Governors and elected by the staff. The current Staff Governors are –
 - Mrs Keran Machin (Staff)
 - Mrs Caroline Dunn (Teacher)
 - Mrs Karen Victor (Teacher)
- The Headteacher, Mr Ashley Howells is also a governor.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Archbishop. The Diocesan Director of Schools is Anne Robertson.

Parents will be contacted by the Clerk when vacancies for parent governors arise.

The full governing body meets once per term. In addition to this our Wellbeing, Standards and Curriculum and Resources sub-committees also meet once per term to review the progress of the school towards achieving its stated aims and to support the school in implementing its improvement plan.

School improvement priorities 24/25

Outcomes - Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Capped 9 outcomes to be above family, Wales and LA averages. To continue to close the gap in outcomes for those with ALN, RADY/barriers to progress.

Teaching – to embed the impact to professional development since September 2023
Curriculum for Wales – embed and monitor.

Skills – further evidence of systematic progress in lessons.

Welsh – develop communication skills – formally and informally.

Attendance – to continue upward trend in post-pandemic attendance (89.6% 2023, 89.9% 2024 90+% 2025). Focus on specific groups and persistent.

Behaviour – to analyse graduated response processes and to ensure improved behaviour and attitudes are shown by those with a history of FTE.

Pupil leadership – increase opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills – Year 12 prefects, buddy scheme, student council, learner voice.

Site safety and security – to manage and improve car-park and building access.

Culture and ethos – To further develop and simplify so that focus is on improving learning, well-being and Catholicity.

Self-evaluation – continue to refine and embed processes in order to further measure impact.

Professional learning – continue to refine in order to increase impact.

Governance – to develop the role and impact of link governors.

National priorities – continue to take actions to address – T&L, equity, C4W, ALN, promotion of Welsh language.

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – end of financial year 2024/2025

Account	DELEGATED BUDGET 2024/25 £	SPENT AS AT EOY 31/03/25 £	VARIANCE £
Employee costs - teaching	£3,551,886.00	£3,699,765.40	-£147,879.40
Employee costs- other staff	£716,377.00	£696,579.42	£19,797.58
Supply Costs	£150,000.00	£115,464.22	£34,535.78
Repair & Maintenance	£23,100.00	£20,356.45	£2,743.55
Energy costs	£250,000.00	£144,838.28	£105,161.72

Rent & Rates (Inc. water)	£42,527.25	£43,855.76	-£1,328.51
Other Premises Related Costs	£124,500.00	£100,683.37	£23,816.63
Transport Related Costs	£20,802.00	£25,070.67	-£4,268.67
Capitation and Exam Costs	£178,000.00	£157,193.91	£20,806.09
Other Running Costs	£105,954.16	£90,809.61	£15,144.55
Service Level Agreements	£122,366.00	£154,079.66	-£31,713.66
Central Recharges	£114,481.00	£133,411.76	-£18,930.76
Grant Exp			
Revised Delegated Budget	£4,665,636.98	£4,745,205.77	
Income	£315,789.00	£606,199.86	
Carry Forward	£418,567.43	£418,567.43	
Total:	£5,399,993.41	£5,382,108.51	
Carry Forward:	£-	£387,864.55	

Private fund 2024-2025

ARCHBISHOP McGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL							
PRIVATE FUND							
2024/2025							
						Actual Bank Statement	
SUMMARY							
Opening Balance as at 1st September 2024						£ 47,930.13	
ADD:	Receipts during year					£ 175,243.74	
LESS:	Payments during year					£ 147,133.87	
Closing Balance as at 31.08.25						£ 76,040.00	
Less unrepresented cheques:						£ -	
Total Private Fund Cashbook Balance as at 31.08.25						£ 76,040.00	

No travel, subsistence or allowance payments were made to any members of the Governing Body in 2024/25

3. SCHOOL COMPARITIVE DATA – Welsh Government headline measures

Capped 9 points score

Archbishop McGrath achieved the highest outcomes in our family of schools and was also above the BCBC and Wales averages.

Chart 1.1a - Capped 9 interim - average points score

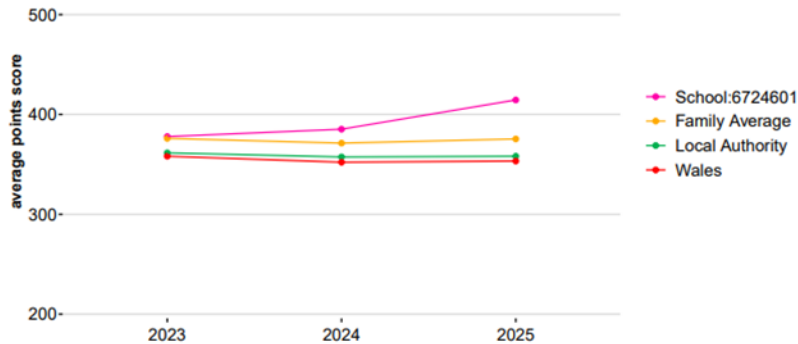
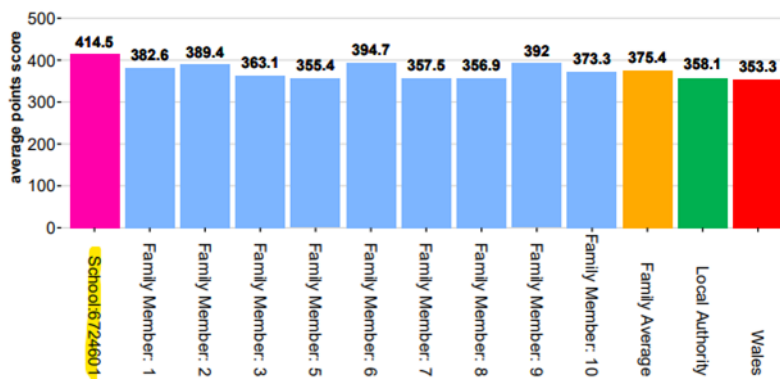
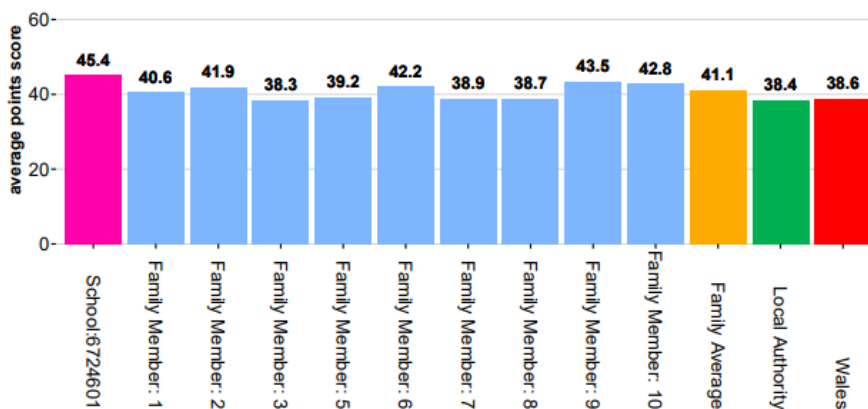


Chart 1.1b - Family comparison - average points score

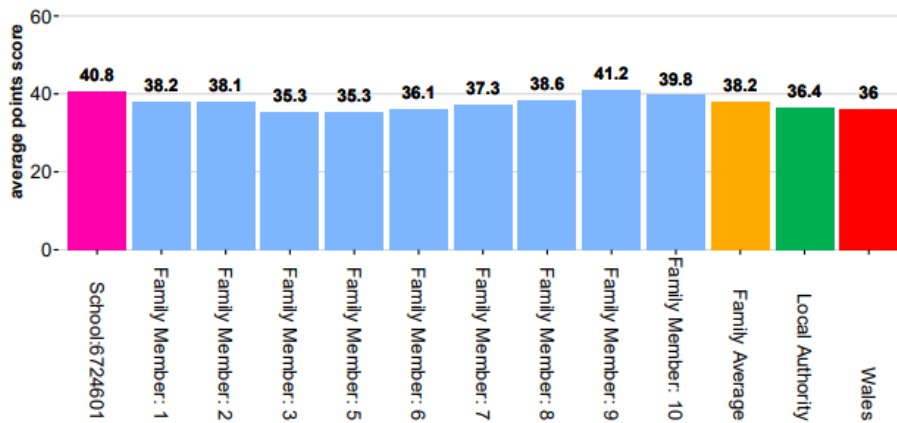


Literacy points score – Archbishop McGrath achieved the highest outcomes in our family of schools and was also above the BCBC and Wales averages.



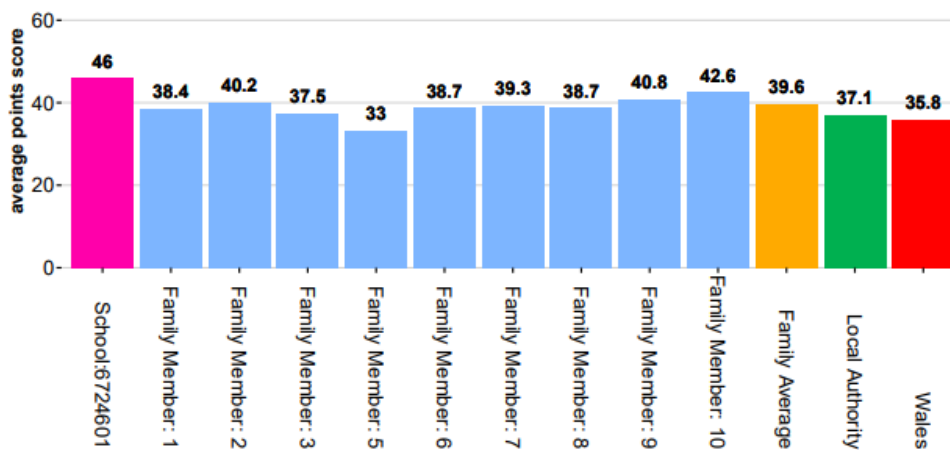
Numeracy points score – Archbishop McGrath achieved the second highest outcomes in our family of schools and was also above the BCBC and Wales averages.

Chart 1.4b - Family comparison - average points score



Science points score – Archbishop McGrath achieved the highest outcomes in the family and was also higher than the BCBC and Wales averages.

Chart 1.5b - Family comparison - average points score



5A*/A – Archbishop McGrath achieved the highest in the family and was also above the BCBC and Wales average.

1.6 5+ A*-A or equivalent

Chart 1.6a - % of Year 11 pupils achieving - % of pupils

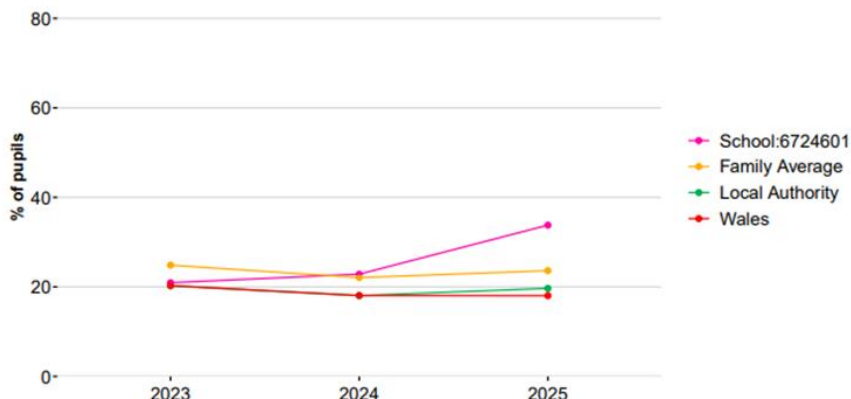
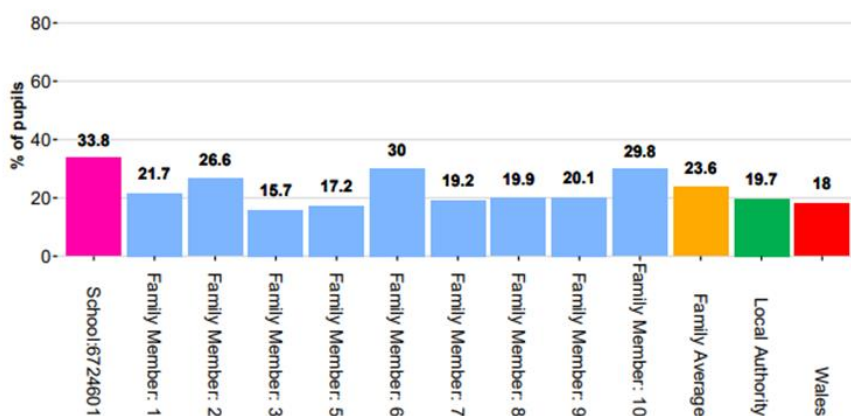


Chart 1.6b - Family comparison - % of pupils



A-level outcomes

- Cohort and Context:
52 students sat A-level examinations across 149 entries, with an average GCSE score of 6.09 (slightly down from 6.22 in 2023/24). The proportion of high prior attainers was 33.1%, with middle prior attainers at 44.4% and low prior attainers at 22.6%.
- 66.4% of A-level grades met or exceeded Alps Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs), with 51.7% on or above target.

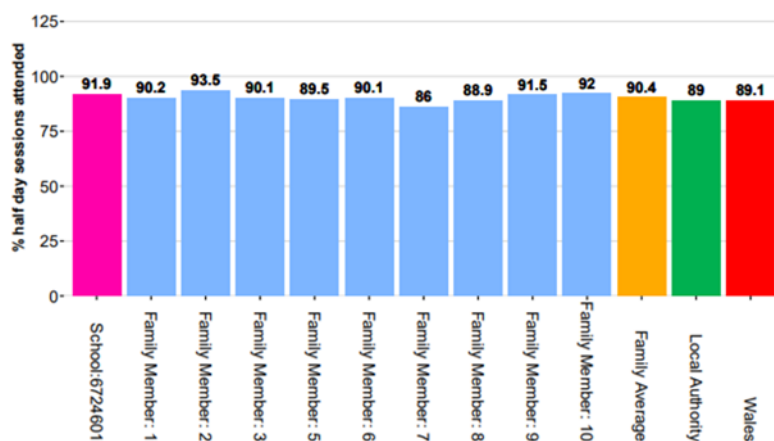
4. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance has shown a positive upward trend, reaching 91.9% in 2025, an improvement from 89.6% in 2023 and 89.9% in 2024. This places the school 2.2 percentage points above modelled expectations and above all key benchmarks, including the family average (90.4%), local authority (89.0%), and national average for Wales (89.1%). The school is positioned in the top quartile for attendance among schools with similar levels of free school meal (FSM) eligibility and achieved the highest secondary school attendance in BCBC for 2024/2025.

Gender comparisons show that boys (92.2%) have slightly higher attendance than girls (91.6%), with a gender gap of 0.6% in favour of boys.

Attendance among eFSM learners (87.2%) remains significantly lower than their non-FSM peers (92.9%), with a persistent gap of 5.7 percentage points, consistent with previous years and reducing this is a key school improvement priority for 2025/2026.

Chart 1.2c - Family comparison - % half day sessions attended



5. DESTINATION OF YEAR 11 SCHOOL LEAVERS 2024/25

	Yr11
Further Education	36
Other School Sixth Form	3
Employment	6
Training	2
Other / Unknown	4
Archbishop 6 th Form	99

A significant number of our pupils continue their studies at at our 6th form whilst others moved directly into the world of work via apprenticeships or to further education colleges.

6. COMMUNITY LINKS

The school maintains strong partnerships with a wide range of community stakeholders. Links with the faith school primary cluster are well established and continue to strengthen,

particularly in curriculum development. This year, CSC facilitated AoLE meetings to promote a shared understanding of progression and skill development.

Archbishop McGrath plays an active role in both local and faith-based secondary school networks, giving learners access to collaborative KS5 courses. For example, Further Maths is delivered remotely in partnership with Bishop Vaughan School, while other students pursue A-level courses at neighbouring schools and Bridgend College.

Employer engagement is supported through strong links with Careers Wales and an expanding alumni network, which regularly contributes to CWRE activities. Sixth form students benefit from work placements with a diverse range of local employers. Additionally, the neighbouring parish church uses school facilities at weekends.

Community life is enriched through well-attended termly music concerts, welcome Mass, and open evenings. Regular newsletters and social media updates help maintain strong relationships with pupils, families, and the wider community. The school also enjoys excellent ties with the local parish, with weekly year-group Masses led by the parish priest and school chaplain, alongside regular chaplaincy team meetings.

In addition to its community involvement, the school makes significant annual charitable contributions to local and national causes, including the local food bank, CAFOD, and Velindre.

7. TERM DATES FOR 2025-2026

 Autumn Term 1st September 2025 - 19th December 2025	 Spring term 5th January 2026 - 27th March 2026	 Summer Term 13th April 2026 - 20th July 2026
 Half term 1 & Christmas Holidays 2025 27th October - 31st October 22nd December - 5th January	 Half term 2 & Easter Holidays 2026 16th February - 20th February 30th March - 10th April	 Half term 3 2026 25th May - 29th May

8. CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The School's prospectus is updated annually in order to take into account any adjustments as necessary. The latest copy of the prospectus can be found on the school website.

9. CURRICULUM PROVISION

We have developed a curriculum to fully address the requirements of the Welsh Government whilst ensuring, we keep "Christ at the Centre" at all times. Our core purpose is to ensure that all pupils reach or exceed their potential by using their God-given talents to develop as healthy, ambitious, life-long learners ready to live as valued members of our local community, Wales and the world. We aim for all our pupils to leave our school as Empowered, Virtuous

and Employable individuals. (EVE) Our work in developing our curriculum has ensured learners will experience an authentic, broad and balanced curriculum covering all Areas of Learning and the cross-curricular themes. In addition to literacy, numeracy and digital skills, there will be six areas of learning and experience. Everything our children learn will be connected to these areas: Humanities Expressive Arts Health and Well-being Languages, Literacy and Communication Science and Technology Mathematics and Numeracy The curriculum also covers: human rights diversity and respecting differences experiences and skills for careers and the workplace learning about local, national and international contexts developmentally appropriate relationships and sexuality education.

In the first term, all year 7 pupils sit an online Cognitive Ability Test (CAT). This has proven to be a very reliable indicator of pupil potential and this measure underlies many of our key principles in terms of pupil performance.

Most year groups have five teaching classes. Some specialist subjects such as Design Technology are taught in smaller groups for safety reasons. Classes are arranged in broad ability based bands with some subjects able to set by ability. We believe in having high expectations for all our learners and outcomes at GCSE and 'A' -Level are consistently very strong.

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study the core curriculum of RE, Welsh, Science and Maths. Pupils choose three additional option subjects. The school has a two week timetable cycle of 50 periods.

We have excellent opportunities for our more-able and talented pupils including access to the SEREN programme. We realise that not all learners make progress at the same rate and some will need extra support in order for them to be able to fulfill their potential.

Some of our learners have access to a wide range of interventions including literacy and numeracy support. For others, we link in with outside agencies in order to provide them with emotional and behavioural interventions. Our therapy dog, Ice, has been a welcome addition to the school support team and his visits are hugely popular with pupils and staff. Our ALN department is staffed by a dedicated team of support staff and is led by our ALNCo. They are located in a designated suite of rooms which includes our pupil progress centre.

10. WELSH LANGUAGE

Whilst Archbishop McGrath is an English medium school, we strongly encourage the use of Welsh in lessons and around the school by both pupils and staff. All pupils study for a full GCSE in Welsh second language. Some more able learners are entered to sit this exam before the end of Year 11. We realise that pupils enter the school with a range of competency in the Welsh language. Our policy is to ensure Welsh is available and accessible for all. The Welsh dimension of the curriculum continues to be an important feature of the school. As well as the annual Eisteddfod, there are regular visits and residential trips to Urdd camps.

11. TOILET FACILITIES

There are sufficient toilet facilities for the number of pupils in the school. Toilet blocks for pupil use are available in the following locations:

Ground Floor

Middle Floor

Top Floor

PE changing rooms

Accessible toilets are located on all floors.

12. ACTION TAKEN TO REVIEW SCHOOL POLICIES

There is a continuous process of review of school policies and these can be viewed on our school website. All school policies due for annual review have been completed and have been amended to reflect new legislation (where applicable), guidelines and good practice. Implementation of all policies is monitored by the person responsible.

13. PROVISION FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school aims to instil a positive attitude towards physical activity and to encourage the participation and enjoyment of sport by all. The school recognises the importance of physical activity and its contribution to promoting the wellbeing and health of all pupils. A wide range of sporting activities are offered through time-tabled PE lessons and through extra-curricular activities. Regular fixtures are held with local schools for Netball, Basketball, Rugby and Football. Wherever possible, pupils are encouraged to compete at school, local, regional or national levels. Our Music department hosts three concerts per year with all those in receipt of peripatetic lessons expected to take part. The school has a growing orchestra, wind band, choir and various other ensembles depending on the talents available each year. There are a vast array of leadership opportunities available for pupils of all abilities. They include Prefects, Sports Leaders, Food Ambassadors, Chaplaincy team and Cyber Ambassadors.