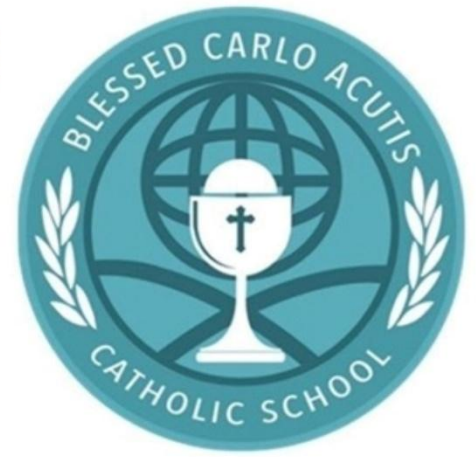


# Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School

Governor's Annual  
Report 2023/2024



**'Inspiring Faith, Families and  
Futures with Christ'**

**'Yn ysbrydoli fydd, teuluoedd a'r dyfodol gydag Iesu  
Grist'**

Prepared by Chair of  
Governor's, Judith Budding

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to present this second Report to Parents from the Governing Body of Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School. This report describes the work, activities and achievements of our school for the academic year 2023-2024 and fulfils the Welsh Government requirements of an annual report to parents.

Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 sets out how parents may formally request a meeting to discuss this report or any other relevant matters with the Governing Body.

This report is available to all parents and carers electronically and on request, in hard copy, from any of our campuses.

It has been another incredible year at Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School. Again a year not without its challenges but with lots of successes too.

The driving force for our school is to continue to provide a faith-based education for children up to the age of 16 in Merthyr Tydfil and the Heads of the Valleys area and this is very much reflected in our mission statement "Inspiring faith, families and futures with Christ".

The children across all our campuses continue to thrive spiritually, academically and emotionally, and we continue to strive to make Blessed Carlo Acutis a safe place for them where they can develop and grow.

The Governors are confident that the staff and Senior Leadership Team, across all our campuses, under the guidance and leadership of Mrs Hopkins, will continue to move the school forward from strength to strength through their hard work, dedication and support for our pupils and each other.

We are delighted to have welcomed some new Governors, to our Governing Body and as always, diolch yn fawr iawn to the Governing body and all who support it for the giving of their time and commitment.

On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I would like to extend our thanks to all our parents, volunteers and friends for their continued support and may God bless you, your families and everyone at our school.

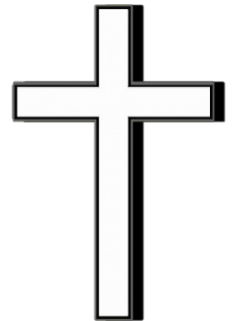
**Judith Budding**

**Chair of Governors**

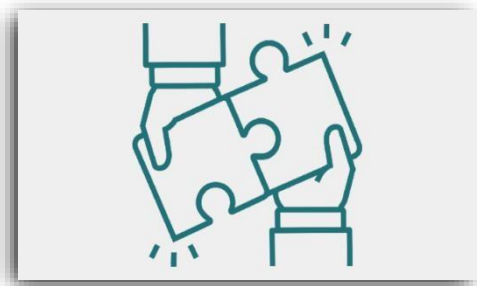
## 1. Our Mission

### *'Inspiring Faith, Families and Futures with Christ'*

**Faith** is central to all that we do and is inspired by Carlo Acutis who said that when we find God, we find the meaning of our life and that being united with Jesus should be our life's plan. Faith is what school life is centred around and what makes us unique. It firmly puts the person of Christ at the centre of all that we do and ensures that the Mass remains the 'source and summit' of the lives of all our pupils, staff and governors. It is imperative that teachers understand that they are responsible not simply for the academic success of each child, but the education of the whole person – morally, spiritually, emotionally and physically. The success of a Catholic school comes down to those who teach there; if they role model and emulate a Christian lifestyle then they act as a witness to all those in our care.



**Families** are so vitally important for the success of our pupils regardless of what that may look like.



Parents are the first educators of their children, and the school is there to support them in that role. Our school truly fulfils the requirement of a Catholic school to primarily 'offer its educational service to the poor' whether this is understood in a financial, spiritual or emotional way. Carlo Acutis recognised the worth of the poor as Christ himself was born of an impoverished mother and God chose Joseph, the poor carpenter as his earthly father and it is the duty of the school and all in it to recognise the worth of all

who walk through the doors. The school must work closely with families to ensure that firstly the Catholic ethos is supported and that the school enriches the faith lives of all stakeholders, but also to ensure that we help families to succeed as a unit supporting one another in love.

**Futures** is what we are aiming to secure for each child in our care. It is providing them with the support, teaching, care and guidance that they need to leave us as successful individuals who use their knowledge and power for the common good. Each child is an individual who has their own unique talents gifted to them by God and it is our duty to ensure that they can discover, develop and use those talents throughout their life, fulfilling their potential. As Carlo Acutis said, 'all people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies' and we want to ensure that each child understands their unique place in the world and, to quote Saint John Henry Newman, that 'God has committed to each person some work which he has not committed to another.'

## 2. The work of the Governors

The governing body is made up of 20 governors of different categories. **Foundation Governors** are appointed by the Archdiocese of Cardiff since the Catholic Church in England and Wales is the founding body of our school. There are two **Teacher Governors**, who are elected by the teachers, and a **Staff Governor** elected by the other staff, these ensure that the staff's voice is heard in the decision-making. Likewise, three **Parent Governors** are elected by the parents and represent their views on the governing body. There are two governors chosen by the local education authority, and

the headteacher, heads of campus, business manager and the clerk also attend the meetings. The governors come from a different variety of backgrounds and have different skill sets. Their time is given freely, and everyone brings something unique to the working of the governing body and its sub-committees. Governors can be contacted via the school office or at [governors@bcacs.merthyr.sch.uk](mailto:governors@bcacs.merthyr.sch.uk)

## 1.1 Members of the Governing Body

### Governors Details

Governing Body	Governor Type	Member	Start Date	End Of Office
Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School	Foundation Governor	Mrs Clare Allen-Barne	01/09/2022	31/08/2026
		Mrs Judith Budding	01/09/2022	31/08/2026
		Mr Kevin Canavan	01/09/2022	31/08/2026
		Mrs Emma Davies	27/09/2022	26/09/2026
		Cn Barry English	01/09/2022	31/08/2026
		Mrs Kylie Flynn	09/05/2024	31/08/2026
		Mrs Fiona Jones	01/09/2022	31/08/2026
		Mrs Karen Lewis	01/09/2022	31/08/2026
		Mrs Rachel Lewis	15/11/2023	31/08/2026
		Mrs Lauren Moran	05/02/2024	04/02/2028
	Headteacher	Mrs Sarah Hopkins	01/09/2022	
	Local Authority Governor	Mrs Darya Brill-Williams	04/05/2023	03/05/2027
		Mr James Michalski	24/09/2024	23/09/2028
	Parent Governor	Mr Gregory Clark	12/03/2024	11/03/2028
		Mr Julian Long	27/09/2022	26/09/2026
		Mr Matthew Waghorn	27/09/2022	26/09/2026
	Staff Governor	Mrs Amy John	27/09/2022	26/09/2026
	Teacher Governor	Mr Liam Brewer	15/01/2024	14/01/2028
		Mrs Sarah Thomas	27/09/2022	26/09/2026

## 1.2 Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has a strategic role to ensure the vision, mission, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined by setting the aims and objectives of the school. Governors are responsible for promoting high standards of educational achievement, whilst ensuring the school meets statutory requirements. Work undertaken by governor's includes:

- Responsibility for school policies
- Responsibility for admissions

- Employment of staff members
- Advising and supporting the Head Teacher and staff
- Ensuring the school meets the needs of the pupils
- Responsibility for the budget

### 1.3 Voluntary Aided school



Blessed Carlo Acutis is a Voluntary Aided School. This means that religious education and worship are led through the Catholic faith, and we can apply specific requirements to student entry and staff appointments. The governors are responsible for ensuring and promoting the Catholic Christian ethos in the school.

### 1.4 Campus Link Governors

Whilst we are working across four campuses the Governing Body felt it important that Campus Link Governors were appointed. These Governors ensure pertinent information is shared between the Governing Body and the various Campuses, thus improving lines of communication across the school. The link governor holds regular 'catch up' meetings with the Head of Campus and meetings with the Campus councils once a half term and attends school events to become a visible face around the Campus. The Chair also meets with the School Senedd regularly to ensure pupil voice is considered.

### 1.5 Lead Governors and Sub-Committee Structure

Much of the work of the governing body is undertaken by sub-committees. Subcommittees are responsible for overseeing a particular aspect of the school's work and reporting back to the full governing body. This year we have the following subcommittee structure.

Committee	Membership
Faith	Mr K Canavan (Chair) Mrs E Davies Mrs K Flynn Mrs K Jones Mrs F Jones Canon B English Mr P Knight (when available)

<b>Families – Admissions, Attendance &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<p>Mrs Karen Lewis - Chair  Mrs Sarah Hopkins - Executive Headteacher  Mr Liam Brewer  Mrs Emma Davies  Mrs Amy John  Mrs Lauren Moran  Mr Matthew Waghorn  Mr James Michalski  Reserves: Mr Julian Long and Mrs Darya Brill-Williams</p>
<b>Futures</b>	<p>Mrs Judith Budding - Chair  Mrs Sarah Hopkins - Executive Headteacher  Mrs Darya Brill-Williams  Mrs Fiona Jones  Mrs Rachel Lewis</p> <p>Reserves: Mr Matthew Waghorn and Mrs Clare Allen-Barnes</p>
<b>Discipline</b>	<p>Mrs Darya Brill-Williams - Chair  Mr Greg Clark  Canon Barry English  Mrs Lauren Moran  Mr Matthew Waghorn</p> <p>Reserves: Mr Julian Long and Mrs Fiona Jones</p>
<b>Appeals</b>	<p>Mrs Karen Lewis - Chair  Mrs Clare Allen-Barne  Mrs Kylie Flynn</p> <p>Reserves: Mr Kevin Canavan and Mrs Rachel Lewis</p>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<p>Mrs Judith Budding - Chair  Mrs Sarah Hopkins - Executive Headteacher  Mr Greg Clark  Mrs Karen Lewis  Mrs Lauren Moran  Mrs Sarah Thomas</p> <p>Reserves: Mr Julian Long and Mrs Darya Brill-Williams</p> <p>Observer: Mr Jon Caple - Business Manager</p>

### 2.5.1 Link Governors

<b>Safeguarding Governor</b>	Mrs L Moran
<b>RE Governors</b>	Canon B English & Mr Kevin Canavan

ALN Governor	Mrs D Brill-Williams
Families Governor	Mrs K Lewis & Mrs Lauren Moran
Community Focused Schools	Mrs Amy John & Mr Liam Brewer
Whistleblowing Governor	Mrs Rachel Lewis
H&S	Mr Greg Clarke
Governor Training	Mrs J Budding

## 2.5.2 Campus Link Governors

Bishop Hedley Campus	Mr K Canavan
St. Aloysius Campus	Mrs J Budding
St. Illtyd's Campus	Mrs Rachel Lewis
St. Mary's Campus	Mrs D Brill-Williams
All Saints School	Mr Liam Brewer
St. Joseph's School	Mr R Davies
St. Margaret's School	Mrs S Hopkins
St. Mary's Brynmawr	Mrs K Flynn

## 2.6 Meetings

The Governing Body meet once a half-term. During our meetings we receive reports from the Headteacher and other members of the Senior Leadership Team as well as from the sub-committees and from governors with oversight of a particular area of the school's life. Sub-committees meet more frequently, as needed. All governors attend training provided by the Archdiocese, Local Authority and Education Consortia.

## 2.7 Policies

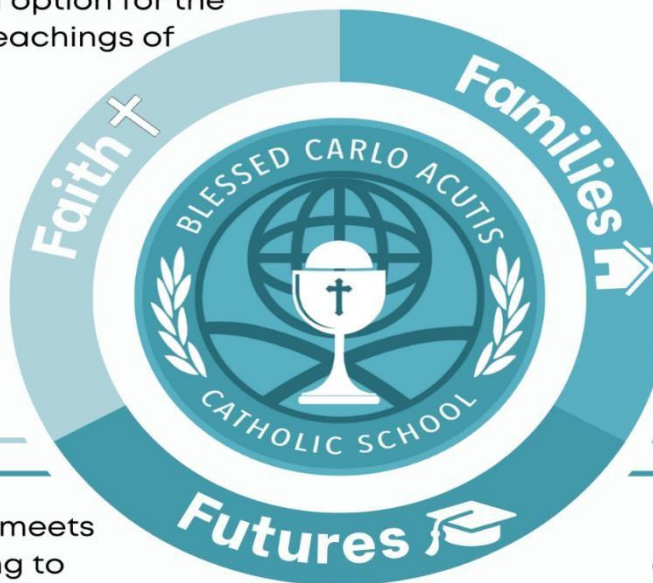
The school and Governing Body review school policies and progress towards implementing strategies when appropriate. These can be accessed via the school website [bcacs.merthyr.sch.uk](http://bcacs.merthyr.sch.uk), by contacting the school office or by emailing the school [office@bcacs.merthyr.sch.uk](mailto:office@bcacs.merthyr.sch.uk)

### 3. School Development Plan

The school development plan is our strategic approach to help continually improve the quality of provision at Blessed Carlo Acutis leading to the highest standards achievable for all our students. It is a three-year plan of improvement, which is modified periodically and reviewed to ensure the impact of our actions. A summary of the main priorities, based on our mission statement and how we will measure the success of these is summarised below.

To achieve our vision of inspiring faith, families and futures we will.....

1. Provide regular opportunities for spiritual development of all in our community.
2. Live out our Catholic mission as it permeates all aspects of school life affirming that the school remains the preferential option for the poor and reflects the life and teachings of Blessed Carlo Acutis.
3. Ensure that our school systems, practices and process meet the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and the Archdiocese of Cardiff.
4. Grow and nurture our Catholic faith with strong home, school and parish links.



1. Work with the community to ensure the wellbeing of all.
2. Ensure all learners have equal access to extensive school provision through improved attendance.
3. Consistently place the person at the centre of all planning, delivering an inclusive curriculum for all.
4. Create an engaging and positive climate and environment for learning that supports the highest standards for all pupils, their families and the community.

1. Ensure a dynamic curriculum meets the needs of all learners, leading to high standards of achievement/attainment
2. Develop excellent pedagogical practice resulting in high quality learning experiences and outcomes.

3. Support learner progress by ensuring systems and processes are aligned.
4. Provide a range of professional learning opportunities to support staff development and succession planning



## 4. Key data 2023/24

### 4.1 Pupils on Roll

	Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School	Bishop Hedley	St. Aloysius	St. Illtyd's	St. Mary's
Pupils on Roll	1080	585	146	137	212
Boys	496	264	70	74	88
Girls	584	321	76	63	124
Free School Meals	234	125	38	35	36
EAL	337	171	29	55	82

### 4.2 Attendance Data and Exclusions 2023/ 24

#### 4.2.1 Attendance Data and Codes

	Whole School	Bishop Hedley Campus	St Aloysius Campus	St. Illtyd's Campus	St. Mary's Campus
Target	93.0%	92.0%	93.0%	93.0%	95.0%
Actual	88%	85%	89.8%	92.4%	92.5%
Variance	-5%	-7%	-3.2%	-0.6%	-2.5%

Campus	Whole school
Illness and Medical	6.1%
C Code (Other authorised absence)	0.98%
Exclusion	0.1%
H - Holidays	0.8%
G – Unauthorised Holiday	0.5%
Unauthorised Absence	2.9%

#### 4.2.3 Exclusions

Campus	No. of Students	Number of Days
Bishop Hedley	30	149
St. Aloysius	5	5
St. Illtyd's	2	17
St. Mary's	4	4.5
Whole School	41	175.5

#### 4.2.4 Academic Performance

Year 11 results - Summer 2024			
	All	Boy	Girl
Cohort No Yr 11 on Roll	118	53	65
ATT % (actual)	80.2%	84.9%	76.5%
Capped 9	380	381	379
Literacy APS	42	41	43
Numeracy APS	37	40	35
Science APS	39	41	38

#### 4.2.5 Destination of Leavers

Whilst we hold our own internal data of where our Year 11 move onto, this is data that has to be verified centrally, which takes place each April. We have destination data for each learner and are extremely proud that they leave Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School academically, socially and emotionally equipped for the next step in their journey.

### 5. Curriculum for Wales update

Over the last year the curriculum at BCA has been reviewed, evaluated and developed to create a new, spiralised curriculum from 3-14. The curriculum leads from each campus have been working to create a bespoke curriculum for BCA that ensures breadth and depth of knowledge, whilst providing a wide range of opportunities for skills development. Key concepts and knowledge have been highlighted, and the curriculum is progressive allowing

pupils to work with greater independence, skill and accuracy. The curriculum ensures that there is an appropriate level of challenge, allowing all pupils to succeed.

A whole school monitoring of the curriculum, pupil work and programmes of study provided all staff with the opportunity to reflect and evaluate the curriculum to date and ensure that progression is evident across the continuum. A valuable experience that allowed cross phase and stage professional dialogue and resulted in amendments and developments to the curriculum.

By the Summer Term there will be a completed, coherent 3-14 curriculum that is consistent with across all primary campuses and is built upon in the secondary campus. The three themes of Fi a fy nheulu, Cynefin and Y Byd immerse the primary campuses into the local, national and global world, whilst in the secondary the subject specialisms allow for greater depth of knowledge.

## 6. ALN

The school's policy for the Assessment of and Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs is summarised as follows:

The school's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with additional learning needs is consistent with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales (approved by the Senedd on 23rd March 2021) under section 4 of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

The school's Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them. The ALNCo also liaises with all members of staff, to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.



During the academic year 2023/2024 14 pupils were in receipt of an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

## 7. Welsh Language

At our school, we are deeply committed to fostering an environment that celebrates and supports the Welsh language. Our dedication to the Welsh language is evident through various initiatives, with a particular focus on the involvement of pupils in Criw Cymraeg. Criw Cymraeg serves as a vital platform for students to actively engage with and promote the Welsh language within our school community. In primary phase Criw Cymraeg has implemented an initiative where a fortnightly phrase is introduced to the entire school community, and those who use this phrase are celebrated in Assembly. The fortnightly phrase initiative not only encourages Welsh language development but also reinforces the importance of Welsh as a living and vibrant language within our school community. Our school proudly commits itself to aligning with the goals set forth in Cymraeg 2050, an initiative driven by the Welsh Government to ensure a thriving and dynamic future for the Welsh language. All campuses were awarded the Siarter Iaith Gymraeg Bronze Award during 2023/24. In March 2024 our Criw Cymraeg's worked alongside

Bronwen Lewis to create a bi-lingual school anthem encompassing our Mission Statement & Catholic Values. Our second BCA Cluster Eisteddfod also took place in March where all our primary campuses came together to celebrate the Welsh Language and took part in competitions. The winners represented BCA at the Local Authority’s Noson Lawen. In August 2024 Pupils from our Primary Campuses who attended the Food & Fun Summer Programme also visited the National Eisteddfod in Pontypridd.

## 8. Sport and Extra-Curricular Activities

Across the year, pupils across all our campuses can participate in sports and extracurricular activities which are communicated to parents. Students are often provided opportunities to participate competitively in school sports team, varying from netball, rugby, running, cricket, and gymnastics. We have also enjoyed celebrating some of our pupils outside achievements in sports, with many pupil’s having success in dance, rugby, boxing, horse riding and many more. Our Year 7 Cheer Team were crowned National Champions, one of our learners won several medals in athletics along with two of our learners who got into the Dragons RFC Women’s U18s squad. We are so proud of them all.

## 9.Promoting Healthy Eating and a Healthy Lifestyle

Our school is committed to promoting healthy eating habits and fostering a lifestyle centered around well-being. As a school, we are committed to following the healthy eating guidelines provided by the Local Authority. We have been working with the Local Authority to ensure our food and drink is compliant with The Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations 2013. We have been engaging with Merthyr PIPYN and community support networks to support families lead a healthy lifestyle.

## 10.Toilet Facilities

Each campus provides safe, clean, and accessible toilet facilities for students and staff. Toilet facilities are kept clean, well-maintained, and cleaned daily. Any issues that arise with the toilets during the school day are swiftly dealt with by the onsite caretakers. Facilities are provided for pupils of different age groups across our campus and toilets are private with partitions and locks on the doors. The school ensures compliance with relevant regulations and guidelines regarding health and safety, accessibility, and hygiene standards. During break times and lunchtime, toilets are supervised by a member of staff.

## 11. Financial Statement

	Spend	Income
Salaries	5,846,205	
Premises	468,726	
Supplies/Services	917,770	

Grant Resources	52,111	
Transport	20,341	
Funding		7,466,391
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,305,156</b>	<b>7,466,391</b>

Surplus £161,235.

The spend reported upon here has been calculated for the academic year 2023/24.

## 12. 2023/2024 Calendar

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2025</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Summer Term 2025</b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July

### Inset Days

- 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- 4<sup>th</sup> November
- 29<sup>th</sup> November
- 21<sup>st</sup> February
- 24<sup>th</sup> March
- 21<sup>st</sup> July