

Bridgend County Borough Council Education and Family Support Directorate



Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Summary



About this plan

Bridgend County Borough Council is writing a plan to make its schools and its family support services better.

The plan should be helpful for everyone linked to schools: children, families, teachers, school governors and the council.

We have looked at the different ways schools and family support services can be helped to run well, and then at how good the council is at doing this, by looking at:


- where we are now;
- where we want to be in future;
- what has been done well; and
- what needs to be improved.

How well do we think we are doing


	<p>We are doing great work all the time.</p>
	<p>Our work is good nearly all the time.</p>
	<p>Most of the time our work is good, but there are important things that we need to do better.</p>
	<p>We need to improve many things.</p>

Support for staff and pupil wellbeing

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Support for staff and pupil wellbeing

What have we done well?

Our pupils, their families and our staff managed to stay strong during the COVID-19 pandemic, and afterwards.

We did our "Food and Fun" project during the summer school holidays to teach pupils about healthy eating and healthy living.

Our schools had good support from experts in health and wellbeing.

We offered free school meals to our youngest pupils to help families.

Support for staff and pupil wellbeing

How will we do better?


We will offer free school meals to all primary school pupils.

We will introduce a system to improve wellbeing and mental health that helps everyone in school.


We will improve the way we support the mental health of children and young people.

Supporting children's behaviour and attendance at school

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Supporting children's behaviour and attendance at school

What have we done well?

We wrote a policy and set up a group to improve pupil attendance.

We worked with schools to find better ways of supporting children's behaviour in schools.

We let families know when their child was close to being excluded so that they had time to support their child.

Supporting children's behaviour and attendance at school

How will we do better?


We will give better support and training to people working in schools.

We will help schools to support pupil behaviour.


We will work better with families.

Helping children and young people at risk of harm

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Helping children and young people at risk of harm

What have we done well?

We provided training to teach our pupils about safe relationships.

We undertook checks in schools to keep pupils safe from harm.

Helping children and young people at risk of harm

How will we do better?

We will give extra help to pupils who are unable to take part in school.


We will find out what the best schools are doing and share what they are doing with other schools.

We will give more help to people who are not in work, in school or college or training.


We will work better with social services and other services to help children.

Helping children with additional learning needs

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Helping children with additional learning needs

What have we done well?

Schools have worked together well and shared best practice.

Our special schools and our pupil referral unit provided good support for our pupils.

We worked with a wide range of people to ensure children and young people with additional learning needs received good support.

Helping children with additional learning needs

How will we do better?

We will give better information to parents and carers.


We will ensure that we provide high-quality support for children and young people with additional learning needs.

We will continue to share what is working well in schools.


We will make sure school staff are well trained and know what they need to do.

Curriculum for Wales and assessment

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Curriculum for Wales and assessment

What have we done well?

All our primary schools now use Curriculum for Wales.

We shared what we are doing well with schools so that we can all learn from each other and other places.

All our schools have better wi-fi and have received more computers.

Curriculum for Wales and assessment

How will we do better?

We will find more ways for schools to share what they do well.

We will encourage schools to try new things.


We will support children better as they continue their learning journey.

We will help learners to get better qualifications.


We will give good quality training to our staff.

Teaching and learning in our schools

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Teaching and learning in our schools

What have we done well?

We created good ways for schools to work together and share ideas.

We now have a digital learning officer to help schools provide excellent online learning opportunities and support young people being safe online.

Teaching and learning in our schools

How will we do better?

We will continue to share the good things we do.


We will ask schools to work together more often.

We will keep giving our staff the chance to have good training.


We will do more to make sure the Welsh language is spoken and written in our schools.

Management of our schools

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Management of our schools

What have we done well?

We offered training to governors to ensure they were able to help their schools.

We have improved the way we work together and help headteachers learn about best practice elsewhere.

We asked school leaders to help us make our strategy so that our improvement plan works better.

We started a 'buddy' system to help new headteachers.

Management of our schools

How will we do better?

We will offer school governors better training.


We will give more chances to people so they can become leaders at different levels in schools and other places.

We will give better support to new and acting headteachers.


We will find new ways to attract and keep school governors.

Keeping children safe

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Keeping children safe

What have we done well?

We created a new team help pupils come to school and do well.

We have given safeguarding training to staff in all our schools.

We found better ways for elected officials and school staff to talk about keeping pupils safe.

We set up a new system to help us manage safeguarding issues.

Keeping children safe

How will we do better?

We will find better ways of managing social media that works for everyone.


We will offer suitable safeguarding training to school governors and staff.

We will develop a guide for pupils about how they should use phones, tablets, and computers safely.


We will offer different levels of safeguarding support to schools, depending on what they need.

Better school buildings

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Better school buildings

What have we done well?

We have involved more people in our plans to improve our school buildings.

We built five new primary schools.

We improved a secondary school for pupils with additional learning needs.

Better school buildings

How will we do better?


We will look at our plans for how we meet learners' needs to see if we could make them differently.

We will continue our plans to make schools better in the future.


We will do better at meeting the needs of pupils with additional learning needs.

Supporting young people

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Support for young people

What have we done well?

We gave good support to young people in our youth justice service.

We have helped the Young People of Pride and the Bridgend Youth Council do good work.

Fewer young people needed our youth justice service.

We hired two digital officers for our youth service.

Our Period Dignity project has been successful.

Support for young people

How will we do better?

We will find out who is most likely to need our youth justice service as early as possible.


We will work with our partners to make sure we have a good policy to stop serious violence.

We help our young people to stay in education, work, or training.


We will improve how we use the views of our children and young people.

Promoting the Welsh language

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Promoting the Welsh language

What have we done well?

We made a centre that helps people learn Welsh.

We helped pupils get better transport to go to Welsh-medium schools.

We finished our plans for how we make Welsh language better in our schools.

We set up groups that look at how to make the Welsh language better in our schools.

Promoting the Welsh language

How will we do better?

We will provide more places in Welsh-medium schools.


We will make sure more children learn Welsh in our schools.

We will ensure our 'Cymraeg for Kids' project is successful


We will give more support to people what want to learn to speak Welsh.

Health and safety

How do we think we are doing?

September 2023	
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Where do we think we will be in three years' time?

September 2026	
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Health and safety

What have we done well?

We gave schools lots of support during the pandemic.

We developed new ways to report accidents, including an online system.

We made new health and safety guidance.

We set up a Health and Safety Steering Group.

Health and safety

How will we do better?

We will make sure everyone follows our health and safety rules, including companies that do work for us.

We will look at how we report accidents and injuries to see if there are better ways of doing things.

We will make sure that our staff have the right training and know what to do if there is an accident.

Acknowledgement

This summary was developed with support from:

People First Bridgend

www.peoplefirstbridgend.co.uk