



Cluster of Gell School (CoGS) End of Year Report

2025/2026

Introduction

Based on longstanding relationships between the local schools a formal collaboration was formed in 2016 as CoGS (Cluster of Gell Schools). Since then, it has gone from strength to strength as an arrangement which greatly benefits the children and families of our communities along with the staff who work in our schools.

Our schools remain independent and retain their uniqueness and ethos, but we see many advantages in the CoGS family supporting each other, sharing best practice, exploring additional training opportunities and an improved transition between schools.

2025/2026 Meetings

10th October 2025

6th March 2026

12th June 2026

All meetings were held at Wellspring Church, Wirksworth.

Attendance

Each of our schools are represented by the Headteacher and a Governor, who co-ordinate and develop our work.

School	Headteacher	Governor
Anthony Gell School	3/3	2/3
Bonsall Primary School	2/3	3/3
Crich Infant School	3/3	2/3
Crich Carr Primary School	3/3	0/3
Cromford Primary School	2/3	3/3
Middleton Community Primary	3/3	2/3
Turnditch Primary School	0/3	0/3
Village Federation - Brassington Primary - Carsington Primary - Kirk Ireton Primary School	3/3	3/3
Wirksworth CE Infant School	3/3	3/3
Wirksworth Junior School	3/3	3/3
Matlock Bath Primary School	3/3	3/3
Crich Junior School	3/3	3/3

Income

Each school made a £400 contribution in December 2025.

Carry forward August 2025 - £330.32

Expenditure

Clerk - £717.41 (-£11.49 from previous year)

Meeting costs including room hire, buffet, printing, refreshments etc - £837 (-£10.07 from previous year)

Cluster Art Project (July 2025) - £309.86

Cluster Art Project (July 2026) - £984.39

Additional costs of £1587.79 for picture framing and £96 for the printing of postcards were paid in September 2026.

Total cost of the project will be £2668.18

Carry forward August 2025 - £3106.96

After the above additional Cluster Art project costs, plus a minimal amount of pay uplift following the support staff pay rise the carry forward total will be £1414.88

CoGs Strengths

- **Science Fair**

The 2025/2026 Science cluster project was based on a 'Paper Airplane Curiosity Challenge' and ran on 15th April. The aim was to be to create a paper plane to fly the longest distance, measure the distance and amend the model accordingly.

This themed event was for children aged from infants to year 7 and this amazing science challenge was adapted for the different age groups.

The children involved went to Anthony Gell to present their findings and enjoy a visit to the science laboratories. This was a fantastic event and the children had a brilliant time!

- **Cluster Inset Day**

The cluster inset day was on Friday 24th October and based on staff wellbeing. Peter Johnston delivered a 30 minute update session on the new Ofsted framework. Art of Brilliance delivered an inspiring workshop on staff wellbeing. Staff enjoyed a buffet lunch and this provided lots of networking opportunities. The inset day was open to all staff, including support staff.

- **Cluster Art Project**

The Cluster Art project this year was based on 'Long grass with butterflies' by Vincent Van Gogh. Every child from Reception to Year 7 in our cluster schools created a small butterfly picture. Each schools butterflies were then put together to create a 60 x 80 picture of the long grass. These pictures were displayed at Anthony Gell School as part of Wirksworth's Art Festival. Postcards were printed and available for the public to take away. The postcard explains about the project and the 10th anniversary celebration of COGS.

- **Family Support Worker**

This early help offer would not be possible as individual schools however, as a collective this continues to be a great success for COGS. The Family Support Workers (FSW) are funded by COGS schools but employed by Anthony Gell School who also provide appropriate supervision, training, support etc.

They offer help and support to children and families within our communities on a range of different issues.

- **Governor networking and discussion time**

Governor training and network sessions have been run by Clive Worrall. Governors find these invaluable and are an opportunity to network. Each CoGs meeting there is Governor discussion time to enable support to be sought through confidential conversations and discussions.



Malcolm Kelly, Headteacher of Anthony Gell School and Chris Orridge, Headteacher of Crich Junior School left us at the end of this academic year. We wish them well and thank them for their contribution to our schools.

Amy Haynes
Clerk to CoGs