

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw



Annual Report to Parents

December 2023

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS LETTER

REFLECTIONS 2022 – 2023

As of September 2022, Ysgol Gyfun Gwnllyw underwent a major development, and is now registered with the Welsh Government as an all through 3 -19 yrs Welsh medium school, with a new name, Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw. This began a significant new chapter in the evolution of our school. A new purpose-built primary department building, named Gwaldys, was officially opened and the presence of younger pupils quickly began to have a positive impact.

It was a pleasure to welcome 21 new early years pupils and their families for the first time, and extend the membership of our school community. As the year moved on, it was very rewarding to watch the number on roll grow to 44 by Sept 2023. This increase represents the strengthening of Welsh medium provision in the local area, within Torfaen and across the region. In the long term our school will play its part in contributing towards the national mission of achieving one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The presence of younger pupils on site has also proved beneficial to leaders and staff who are responsible for planning the implementation of the new National Curriculum for Wales. They are now able to gain a clearer 'line of sight' first-hand when planning pupil progress within all areas of learning for the full span of their educational journey. This will enable smoother transitions at major milestones, such as nursery to primary, and primary to secondary., as well as enhance opportunities to support individual pupils who may have additional personalised needs.

In January 2023 Mark Jones took up the permanent position of Headteacher, which had the effect of stabilising roles and responsibilities within the senior leadership team. This stability and the progress made by the whole staff team towards the Post Inspection Action Plan was recognised by Estyn inspectors later that month when they judged that school no longer needs to be placed in the Special Measures category. This outcome was based on their regular visits to monitor school progress, which involved lesson observations, interviews with staff, pupils, governors, and a range of external partners. A decision which promotes confidence in the quality of education provided to our pupils moving forward.

The school premises benefited from a number of changes, thanks to the hard work and expertise of the school site manager and his team. There are now further improvements to site security, improved support spaces for individual and small group work, and extra meeting spaces. A new 3G sports pitch is forthcoming with construction soon to get underway.

The limitation and constraints of Covid restrictions were eventually fully removed over the course of the year, and this has helped school operate more fully and smoothly. Pupils are now able to access extracurricular activities, such as clubs, visits, sports and trips, as these have steadily been re-introduced.

Overall, 2022-2023 has been a positive one. The governing body now looks forward to working closely with the school's leaders and the wider community to secure further developments and continuous improvement during the year ahead.

Don't forget, if you want to join the governing body there are parent representative posts vacant. You can apply by completing the forms included in this document as an appendix and / or contact me directly to find out more. You would be very welcome.

Lesley Bush

Chair of governors

Governing Body Organisation 2022-23

Headteacher

Mark Jones (Support Headteacher until December 2022, permanent headteacher from January 2023)

Helen Rogers (Acting Headteacher until December 2022)

Local Authority Governors

Cllr Amanda Owen

Lesley Bush (chair)

Anne Gunter

Daniel Tromans

Susan Edmunds

Parent Governors

Christine Marchant

Michael Pearson

Elizabeth Green

Rachel Williams

2 vacancies

Community Governors

Alun Thomas

David Francis

Lewis Barber

2 vacancies (one has now been filled by Matthew Dicken (November 2023))

Staff Governors

Richard Davies

Leighton Thomas

Mark Powell

In addition to the statutory subcommittees, the following subcommittees continue to operate, which also undertake some statutory functions:

- Leadership and management (which includes finance, staffing, health and safety)
- Curriculum, learning and teaching
- Wellbeing and inclusion
- Self-evaluation

Governors have also been allocated a link role, covering one or more strategic aspects, e.g. additional learning needs, finance, curriculum, professional development etc. Visits are undertaken, meeting with relevant senior and middle leaders and report back to the relevant subcommittee or full governing body.

ANNUAL REPORT MEETING

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents and a meeting will only be held if 30 or more parents request such a meeting.

No request was made to hold a meeting and as such, no meeting was held during 2022-23.

Update on post-inspection action plan

Following the Estyn core inspection in 2019, the school produced a post inspection action plan (PIAP) to address the 5 recommendations noted in the report, namely:

R1 Improve standards, particularly the standards of boys and more able pupils

R2 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment

R3 Improve provision to develop pupils' skills in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT)

R4 Improve the quality and effect of leadership at all levels

R5 Improve the rigour and effectiveness of quality improvement processes

In February 2023, Estyn judged that the school had made sufficient progress to be removed from special measures. As such, the PIAP no longer applied. However, the school continued to work towards the targets noted in the PIAP during the remainder of the academic year 2022-23. A new school improvement plan, with priorities arising from self-evaluation and analysis of pupil examination results has been produced for the new academic year.

Summary of secondary school performance (SSSP) 2022-23

You can find information about Key Stage 4 qualifications outcomes for the school, alongside comparative and other data, on the My Local School (MLS) website. This [link](#) will take you directly to this school's page on MLS or you can go to 'mylocalschool.gov.wales' and type the name of the school into the search bar in the top right corner of the screen.

The Welsh Government updates MLS throughout the year as and when data becomes available from an annual cycle of data collections and statistical releases – a list of key dates can be found <http://www.gov.wales/welsh-government-school-information-data-releases-2023-update>. Qualifications outcomes data is usually updated in January in relation to the preceding academic year.

It should be noted that the different assessment arrangements and grading approaches in place in response to the lasting effects of the pandemic mean it is not appropriate to use this data for 2022/23 to judge or compare schools.

Development priorities 2023-24

1 – Raising standards at Key Stage 4

- 1.1 Enhancing partnership with parents to support learners academically
- 1.2 Specific departmental interventions in place to support underachievers
- 1.3 Learners undertake the relevant independent study to enrich learning and prepare for tests and examinations
- 1.4 Improved staff understanding of assessment requirements to reduce modification of coursework marks
- 1.5 Better staff understanding of course success criteria for courses
- 1.6 All departments to fulfil course requirements in good time
- 1.7 Ensuring that all learners work towards and gain a qualification that suits their ability
- 1.8 No learners to leave without qualification
- 1.9 Improved performance across the indicators: A*/A , A*-C, Capped points score (individual subjects to formulate quantitative targets)

Priority 2: Curriculum development for Wales

2A Curriculum development

- 2A.1 Curriculum plan formulated for CC4
- 2A.2 Curriculum plan formulated for CC2
- 2A.3 Relevant learning plans in place for CC1 &CC2
- 2A.4 Yrs 7 & 8 learning plans in place for all AoLEs
- 2A.5 Agreement on the content of schemes of work and activities/experiences within core subjects across the cluster
- 2A.6 Schemes of work for the progression step meet all the requirements of what matters for each AoLE
- 2A.7 Differentiated resources developed and implemented appropriately
- 2A.8 Progress assessed as required
- 2A.9 Learners making good progress
- 2A.10 Flexible curriculum model for mixed ability/banding in separate subjects
- 2A.11 Subjects within AoLEs within the same timetable blocks where possible
- 2A.12 Post-16 timetable aligned with Gwent Is Coed
- 2A.13 YGG staff ready to lead / teach a Childcare/teaching assistant course.

2B Developing Assessment

- 2B.1 Development of a whole school summative assessment system
- 2B.2 Assessment policy for Prog Steps1, 2 and 4 formulated and approved by staff and governors
- 2B.4 All AoLEs use the system for Yr7 &8 summative assessments
- 2B.5 Assessment systems in place and reflecting principles of progression
- 2B.6 Success criteria compiled for all extended tasks/work units in Yrs 7&8
- 2B.7 Success criteria offer access to all and a challenge to the most able
- 2B.8 Success criteria linked to learner progress, not just task delivery
- 2B.9 Success criteria for summative assessments in subjects within AOLEs moderated in terms of expected standards.
- 2B.10 Success criteria for summative assessments in subjects across AoLEs moderated in terms of expected standards.
- 2B.11 Success criteria and summative assessments moderated with a partner school.

- 2B.12 Learner progressing due to clear feedback
- 2B.13 Quality of learners' work improved by new system

Priority 3: Improve behaviour and approach to learning

3A Welsh language

- 3A.1 The Welsh language is used consistently within lessons (measured by lesson observations)
- 3A.2 Learners with a better attitude towards Welsh (PCAI questionnaire)
- 3A.3 Improvement in the use of the Welsh language within corridors and inside buildings (measured by staff opinion questionnaire)

3B Improving attitude to learning

- 3B.1 Learners complete independent study tasks
- 3B.2 Parents support learners' experiences
- 3B.3 Ensure access to the experiences that occur during or beyond the school day
- 3B.4 Reduction in number of learners taken out of lessons (sent to the Head of Dept, M9 etc)
- 3B.5 Learners demonstrates a better attitude towards their learning (through lesson observations and learner voice)
- 3B.6 Improve learner attendance and punctuality to lessons - reduction in total minutes late from 2022-23 figures.

3C Improving Behaviour

- 3C.1 Whole school system produced and implemented
- 3C.2 School rules are clear and consistently implemented across staff
- 3C.3 Reduction in the number of learners reaching the advanced stages of the discipline system
- 3C.4 Reduction in external exclusions from 2022-23 data
- 3C.5 Reduction in internal isolations from 2022-23 data
- 3C.6 Reduction in learner withdrawal from lessons from 2022-23 data
- 3C.7 Learners and parents report improved behaviour (via opinion questionnaire/focus groups)
- 3C.8 Additional alternative learning pathways available to KS4 learners
- 3C.9 Reduction in site-wide damage repair costs

General update

The primary phase opened in September 2022 and we have now have 44 learners across nursery, reception and year 1. We look forward to welcoming additional pupils in our rising 3s cohort after Christmas 2023.

The school continues to mature its collaboration with Ysgol Gwent Iscoed and Ysgol Cwm Rhymini to ensure a broad curriculum offer for post-16 learners. There have been further modifications to the school site to remodel use of rooms and developments for both security and accessibility purposes. Work is due to start shortly on the installation of a new all-weather 3G pitch on the site of the redgra pitch.

The school improvement journey continues and the systems put in place over the past year around teaching and learning and self-evaluation continue to mature. The school's work around curriculum and assessment is an additional priority and we are working hard to embed the new curriculum in progression steps 1, 2 and 4.

Toilet Provision

Please note: the below report relates to the toilet provision at the secondary department of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw in 2022-23. Toilet provision for nursery and reception learners in Gwladys Block are not included in this report.

The law requires schools with pupils over 5 years' of age to have a number of sanitation units equivalent to at least 5% of the number of pupils at the school.

There were 720 pupils at the school during 2021-22 (including sixth form). This would imply that the school must have at least 36 sanitary units.

A sanitary unit is defined as a water closet or 600mm of trough urinal (as per recommendation from the HSE).

Toilets are located in the main building, Glyndŵr Block, Llanofer Block and The Steffan and Bowden Centres. Disabled toilet facilities are in all the above locations.

Provision at Gwynllyw:

Boys' main toilets:	26 water closets
Girls' main toilets	27 water closets
Multi-user toilets:	3 water closets

Boys' changing room toilets	1 water closet
Girls' changing room toilets	4 water closets
Multi-use changing room toilets	1 water closet

Total number of sanitary units = 62

Maximum number of pupils for toilet provision: 1240 pupils

Additional toilet provision:

Boys Sixth form toilets	3 water closets
Girls Sixth Form Toilets	6 water closets

In all toilets, the school also provides the necessary ratio of wash basins to sanitary units (2/3 of the number of sanitary units).

Primary Phase

Top floor (juniors – not used until 2025)

2 disabled WC

8 wc's (gender neutral)

6 sinks

Bottom floor

1 disabled WC

12 infants' wc's (mixed gender)

9 sinks

Toilets are cleaned daily and inspected at least once during the school day.

School Term and Holiday Dates

School term dates make provision for 195 school days. Within these 195 days, schools are allowed to close for six days for training purposes. You should contact your child's school for information about the days on which they will close for training purposes.

2023/2024 Academic Year

School Term and Holiday Dates - 2023/2024 Academic Year

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Friday 01.09.23	Monday 30.10.23	Friday 03.11.23	Friday 22.12.23
Spring	Monday 08.01.24	Monday 12.02.24	Friday 16.02.24	Friday 22.03.24
Summer	Monday 08.04.24	Monday 27.05.24	Friday 31.05.24	Friday 19.07.24

In-service training (INSET) days 2023-24

(Please note, there are 6 Inset days in 2023-24 academic year)

Friday, September 1, 2023

Monday November 20, 2023

Monday, January 8, 2024

Monday, February 19, 2024

Wednesday April 10, 2024

Friday, July 5, 2024

2024/2025 Academic Year

School Term and Holiday Dates - 2024/2025 Academic Year

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 02.09.24	Monday 28.10.24	Friday 01.11.24	Friday 20.12.24
Spring	Monday 06.01.25	Monday 24.02.25	Friday 18.02.25	Friday 11.04.25
Summer	Monday 28.04.25	Monday 26.05.25	Friday 30.05.25	Friday 21.07.25

Financial Summary

The below summary relates to the 2022-23 financial year. Please note: significant Covid-related funding was received during 2021-22 and it was very difficult to be appoint staff to all the posts funded from the grants. As such, this contributed to a continued underspend. The school used a significant portion of this to make a capital repayment on a loan for solar panels which will significantly reduce our energy costs. However, additional financial pressures arising from increased resource costs and significant additional energy costs in the short term have led to an in-year deficit. However, this is more than balanced by the underspend.

The school closely monitors the budget and governors have agreed a break even plan over the coming years. The primary phase budget is managed separately until systems are in place within the local authority to be able to accommodate an all-through school budget.

Staffing costs	
School balance from 2021-22 financial year	£597,383
Employee costs (whole school)	3,850,839
Sickness absence, replacement staff and holidays	
Overtime and additional hours	£57,601
Maternity and paternity overall (including credit)	£1,128
Allowances	£8,521
Additional costs: course fees, advertising, employee charges, etc	£10,351
Total	£3,842,164
Premises Costs	£463,668
Transport costs	£17,162
Supplies and services	
Furniture, equipment and capitation, admin, licences, examination fees etc	£285,497
Catering	£44,381
Link courses and alternative provision	£30,157
Service level agreements	£78,404

Capital repayments and internal loans	£7,534
Total expenditure	£4,530,766
Total funding including grants	£4,802,628
Total surplus	£671,045

The Welsh language and extra-curricular activities

As per WG Circular 023/2007, Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw is a Welsh medium secondary school.

All subjects (including RE and PSE) apart from English are taught through the medium of Welsh to all pupils.

Welsh is the day to day language of the school. Welsh is used as the language of communication with the pupils and for the school's administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages.

For all pupils the normal expectation is that assessment at KS3 and KS4 will be through the medium of Welsh in all subjects apart from English or other languages, and that pupils will be able to progress easily to Welsh medium Post 16 provision. This will be the last year that the current assessment system at Key Stage 3 will apply. From September 2024 onwards, pupils in year 9 will be following curriculum for Wales and assessed according to local arrangements.

Extra-curricular activities are also offered to enable learners to practice their Welsh in informal contexts.

As we recover from the impact of Covid, the school is now offering a wealth of extra-curricular academic, cultural and sporting activities.

Subject-support and subject clubs are now running, including support for year 11 pupils in core subjects via a structured timetable of support activities. A host of trips both domestic and international are now running. In addition, the school offers a wealth of extra-curricular sporting opportunities via the following clubs:

Below is a list of the clubs offered during 2022-23

Autumn/Spring term:

After-school clubs

Netball, KS3 football, girls' football, KS3 rugby

KS4 Rugby, Girls' rugby, KS4 football

Dance

Physical Education clubs/extra-curricular activities

Girls' fitness

KS3 Fitness

KS4 Fitness

Badminton KS3

Badminton KS4

Dodge-ball

Teams

Rugby – Yr 7-11

Netball – Yr 7-13

Girls' football – Yr 7-9

Spring/Summer term:

Summer clubs

Rounders

Athletics

Welsh baseball

Tag rugby

Lunchtime clubs

Rounders

Girls' fitness

KS3 Fitness

KS4 Fitness

Athletics

Welsh baseball

Just Dance

The above activities allow the pupils to use the Welsh language in a social setting whilst strengthening their wider key skills.

Appendix 1 – election of parent governor – application form

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES - ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

The Headteacher of your Child's School has been asked to arrange an election for a Parent Governor.

The Role of Governors has become increasingly important. They must ensure that the requirements of the national curriculum are met, establish standards of behaviour, select staff, deal with budget matters and prepare and present the Annual Report to Parents. Governing Bodies are required to meet at least once a term and most meetings are in the evening. The frequency and time of meetings is decided by the Governing Body.

Governors are elected for a four-year term of office, but parents may continue to serve even if their child leaves the school during that time. Training is continually available for all Governors, at no cost to the individual. All Governors, new and experienced, are expected to take advantage of any courses arranged as it is vital to keep up to date with new ideas and legislation.

A nomination form is enclosed to enable you to put your name forward for election.

Each nominee is invited to make a brief statement in support of their nomination which will be circulated to Parents in the event of an election. Please ensure any statement is clearly written to avoid problems when being reproduced.

All nominees **must be** a Parent, or Legal Guardian, of a Pupil registered at the School. Grandparents of Pupils are not allowed to take part in the election unless they are the Legal Guardians of the Child. No person may serve on more than two Governing Bodies in any category.

A person is not permitted to stand as Parent Governor if the following apply:

- (a) an elected member of the local education authority;
- (b) employed by the local education authority in connection with its functions as a local education authority;
- or
- (c) paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve-month period commencing on 1 August and finishing on 31 July.

The nomination form should be returned to your child's school by the date given by the Headteacher. If nominations exceed the number of vacancies a secret ballot will be held. Details of the election will be sent to you if appropriate.

The name of the elected governor(s) will be displayed at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lesley Bush

Chair of Governors

ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw

NOMINATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Signed _____ Date _____

This form should be returned to the Headteacher through e-mailing yggswyddfa@gwynllyw.cymru by 30th November.

Your personal details will not be shared, these are for school administrative purposes only

Personal statement (to be used for election purposes only – this will be inserted into a ballot paper together with your name if a ballot is required) no more than 50 words.

The personal data above will be securely held by the EAS and will not be shared. If not successful in securing a governor position within two years, this information will be destroyed in accordance with GDPR.
