# YSGOL GYNRADD GYMUNEDOL GYMRAEG ABERYSTWYTH 2017

# FULL ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

#### Dear Parent / Guardian,

It is an honour and a privilege for me as Chair of the Governing Body to present the annual report for Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.

It was great to receive an excellent report from the Estyn team of School Inspectors in November 2017, the summary for the report states:

"All of the school's life and work is based on three agreed aims for its pupils and staff, namely pride in their Welshness, mutual respect and doing their very best. These aims permeate all of its activities strongly. During their time at the school, nearly all pupils make very strong progress. They perform at levels that at least correspond to those that are expected, and over half exceed this consistently. The pupil's voice is important and is respected throughout the school. As a result, standards of wellbeing and nearly all pupils' attitudes towards learning are strong. The quality of teaching and learning experiences is very high, and support to ensure pupils' wellbeing is an exceptional feature. The school is led very effectively by a confident and creative headteacher, and the senior management team support him conscientiously, and ensure that the school provides education that is consistently of a very high quality and is based on maintaining and raising standards."

## Estyn Report, November 2016

We encourage you to read the report in its entirety, there is a copy available on the school website.

It is with pleasure that I thank the Headteacher, the Deputy, all teachers, teaching assistants, additional staff, parents/guardians, as well as the pupils for the school's constant success. It is clear that the school's aims in terms of Welshness, Respect for each other and Doing our very best continue to have a positive influence on the pupils and impact on everyone involved in this unique establishment. Due to the high standards of learning and teaching, the school is categorized as a green school by the Welsh Government and operates as a Pioneer school in the New Deal.

418 pupils attended the school as of July 2017 and there was a Headteacher, a Deputy Headteacher, 15 full-time teachers and 6 part-time teachers. Three members of staff act as Heads of Department in the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, and the Additional Learning Needs Department. The school has an effective team of Assistants who help in the Foundation Phase and support pupils with Additional Learning Needs. The school has a hard-working team of support staff who support the work of providing the best opportunities for the pupils. The team includes a secretary, caretaker, three cleaners, five dinner-time assistants and five

<u>Time and location of the Meeting</u> – The requirements regarding the need to hold an Annual Governors' Meeting have changed (see details below). However, we will provide an opportunity to discuss issues regarding the school, the work of the governors and the Education Authority as part of the PTA Annual Meeting, that will be

meeting.

kitchen staff.

There was no call for a Governors' meeting to be held with Parents in accordance with section 94 of the School Standards and Organization (Wales) Act 2013 during the 2015-16 academic year.

held at the school on Monday, 25 September at 6.30. The Chair of Governors will also be present at the

See the details below that outline the requirements of holding an annual meeting

## Changes to Parent/Governors Annual meetings

Section 94 of the Schools Standards and Organization (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) makes important changes to the previous legislative arrangements regarding Annual Parents'/ Governors' Meetings. It provides new arrangements where parents may request a meeting with a governing body.

However, parents will need to satisfy four (4) statutory requirements to call a meeting, namely:

- (i) the parents of 10% of registered pupils, or the parents of 30 registered pupils (whichever is the lowest) must sign a petition requesting a meeting;
- (ii) the purpose of the meeting must be to discuss matters regarding the school;
- (iii) the maximum number of meetings parents may request in any school year is three (3);
- (iv) there must be enough school days left in the school year to allow for a meeting.

## Additionally:

- (a) the meetings must be held within a 25 day period;
- (b) the 25 day period begins on the day after receiving the petition, but does not include any days that are not school days;
- (c) if another meeting needs to be held due to a different petition, the 25 day period will not begin until the day after the other meeting has been held;
- (d) there must be enough days left in the school year to hold the meeting within the 25 day period;
- (e) meetings will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, the Headteacher and anyone else who is invited by the governing body;
- (f) notification of the meetings to parents must include the date, time and venue, as well as the matter or matters to be discussed.

A copy of the report is available in the Governors' Section of the school website – www.ysgolgymraeg.ceredigion.sch.uk.

<u>Clerk to the governors</u> – Ceredigion County Council Education Department, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE.

<u>Chair of the governors</u> – Mr Dewi Jones, Brynllys, 26 Cefnllan, Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. SY245BZ

<u>Arrangements for the next Governing Body election</u> – the Education Authority and the school will inform parents/guardians of the arrangements for any opportunities to be part of the Governing Body and electoral arrangements.

<u>In-service Training</u> – full details of the courses attended by staff between September 2015 and July 2016 are available from the school. (please see examples of the courses below) I would like to thank the staff for attending these courses.

Here is a taster of the In-service Training attended:

September 2016	Whole school staff training on health and safety, safeguarding policies,
	and curricular policies. School schemes of work were reviewed, as well as
	play-time supervision arrangements.
October 2016	Training for Pioneer Schools in Cardiff
November 2016	Training for the Digital Framework
January 2017	Donaldson developments and the new Professional Standards for teachers
January 2017	Training for Religious Education

March 2017	e-safety
March 2017	Safeguarding Children
April 2017	INSET - KS2 and KS3 teachers in cluster moderation
May 2017	Numeracy
May 2017	Autism training
July 2017	Headteacher on a refresher course for Estyn inspectors

## Opportunities to share Good Practice with schools and establishments

During the year the school has had opportunities to share good practice with schools throughout Wales. The Headteacher presented an update to Ceredigion Headteachers on the work of the pioneer school. Staff from the school shared good practice in digital learning at a conference in Ceredigion. Following the excellent inspection staff from a number of schools came to visit, Bro Hyddgen, Ysgol y Wern in Cardiff, a cluster of schools from Powys, Ysgol Aberaeron, Pontrhydfendigaid, Mynach, Syr John Rhys, Rhydypennau and University of Trinity St David.

# Annual Meeting (Autumn 2016)

There was no call for a meeting during Autumn 2016. There was an opportunity to discuss school developments during the Annual PTA Meeting – a presentation was given on specific areas regarding teaching and learning and the School Development Plan.

<u>Actions taken in light of decisions made during the meeting</u> – No decisions were made during the Autumn 2016 meeting.

## The Governing Body

Mr Dewi Jones	LA	04/11/2019
Cllr John Roberts	LA	09/05/2021
Ms Meleri James	LA	20/12/2017
Cllr Mark Strong	LA	09/05/2021
Dr Heather Williams	Parent	20/12/2017
Mrs Nia Gwyndaf	Parent	02/10/2017
Mr Rhodri Francis	Parent	16/11/2019
Ms Nia Evans	Parent	06/10/2020
Mr Geraint Pugh	Parent	16/11/2019
Ms Catrin Pugh-Jones	Community	06/10/2020
Mr Arwel Thomas	Community	02/10/2017
Mr Owain Schiavone	Community	20/12/2017

Dr Glenys Williams	Community	07/02/2021
Cllr Mari Turner	Community	17/05/2021
Mr Llyr Evans	Teacher	23/03/2021
Mr Gareth James	Teacher	03/11/2018
Mrs Eiry Evans	Staff	03/11/2019
Mr Clive Williams	Headteacher	

#### Financial details –

• Please refer to the appendix outlining the school's full financial statement.

### How the school uses the money received

- Budget cuts have meant that the school has had to adjust the amount available for maintenance and for general school resources. Fortunately, there was no impact on staff numbers this year.
- The school budget was used in order to ensure the best possible educational experiences for pupils and to ensure suitable resources for them. The strength of the current arrangement is that we are able to maintain two classes for every year.
- The school uses additional funding to target literacy and numeracy.

**Social Deprivation Grant** – The Social Deprivation Grant is used expressly to meet the needs of specific pupils; additional resources and staff were designated to support and raise standards in these areas.

## Donations to the school

- Generous contributions were received from the Parents' Association, which include sponsorship from local businesses by sponsoring Christmas and Summer concerts. The school very much appreciates the support.
- £1,500 contribution toward Llong Ned
- £4,000 general resources for every class
- £980 contribution of £10 per child for Gwersyll Glanllyn
- £3,305 contributions for cost of buses (the Parents' Association pay half the travel costs for trips/visits.)
- £850.00 costs for using the Great Hall
- The school is very grateful for the financial support and practical assistance given by the PTA throughout the year
- £200 donation from Emma Small

#### Allowances or subsistence costs for the Governing Body

• Governors' travel expenses – Governors were not paid any expenses during the year 2015-16. I would like to thank my fellow governors for providing their services completely voluntarily for the benefit and wellbeing of the school.

The school is very pleased with the progress seen in pupil assessments in both key stages (please refer to the appendices for pupil assessments). The excellent results reflect the hard work of pupils and staff, and the cooperation of parents/guardians. The school performs very well compared with similar schools on a county and national level.

## Pupil attendance

Period	Attendance	Authorized	Unauthorized	
		absences	absences	
Autumn	96.25	2.94	0.81	
Spring	96.59	2.96	0.45	
Summer	95.71	2.43	1.86	

## Comments on school attendance

We are pleased with the school's average attendance. Governors have set targets for the next three years in order to continue to improve attendance. The school focussed on punctuality during the summer term in 2017, and I would like to thank parents and guardians for responding positively to the campaign.

## <u>Improving attendance and reducing the number of unauthorized absences</u>

The school follows clear steps for reducing the number of unauthorized absences. Pupils who arrive late can affect unauthorized absences. The school sends a letter to parents emphasizing punctuality and drawing attention to the situation where some take holidays during term time. The school contacts parents/guardians where the attendance level is low or inconsistent.

#### Attendance targets

Attendance targets for academic year 2017-2018 - 96.7% Attendance targets for academic year 2018-2019 - 96.8% Attendance targets for academic year 2019-2020 - 96.9%

<u>Pupils</u> who leave the school at the end of Year 6 – pupils at the end of Year 6 usually transfer to the secondary schools in the town, Penweddig and Penglais. This year, 42 went to Penweddig and 6 went to Penglais. The school has a positive partnership with the secondary schools and implements effective transition plans. We offer our best wishes to those transferring this year.

## Building links between the School and the Community

The school is one of the main establishments in the town and an integral part of the local community. The school makes particular use of local resources, including the National Library, the University, Leisure Centre, Arts Centre, and the local secondary school. The school has been on a number of educational visits, including Castell Henllys, local farms, Glanllyn etc. the school has performed to local institutions and there is very good support for the two grand concerts at the Arts Centre.

Activities were held to promote understanding of raising money for good causes during the year. A total of more than £512 was raised for Children in Need and £354 for Red Nose Day.

## Parent - Teacher Association / Friends of the School

I would like to thank the PTA and all friends of the school for their support during the year. The PTA is very active and enthusiastic and holds a variety of activities to raise money for buying resources and organizing social events with a Welsh family feel to them.

Activities were held throughout the year and included a Book Fair, Concerts, Disco Dwynwen, Coffee Afternoon, Social Evening/Barbeque and Sponsored Walk. There will be a full report on the activities and money raised at the annual PTA meeting during the autumn term.

<u>Parent/Guardian meetings</u> – there is an excellent partnership with parents. During the year the following are arranged:

- Annual PTA meeting
- Open evenings every term and an invitation for parents/guardians to come to the school after receiving their children's reports in July.

- Invitation for parents/guardians to come to an open afternoon at the school.
- Invitation for parents/guardians to attend morning assemblies.
- Invitation to the school sports day.
- Two grand concerts are held every year (with around 800 in attendance each time).
- Meetings for parents/guardians of children in the nursery who will be starting at the school.
- Meetings between parents/guardians of pupils receiving support and the specialist teachers.
- The headteacher notes on every letter "if you have any concerns regarding your child's education please contact me immediately."

<u>Use of the building/campus</u> – Parent and teacher meetings of Ysgol Gymraeg, some football teams, Yr Angor (Aberystwyth local paper), Aberystwyth Town Department, National Urdd Meetings, Urdd Eisteddfods, Gang y Graig and the Bridge Club.

<u>Links with the police</u> – police officers work closely with the school and contribute positively to personal and social education activities. The police discuss with the School Council and assist with the transport issue by the school entrance.

## Progress on the School Action Plan (post inspection)

The school is implementing the Action Plan following the 2016 Estyn report. Here is a summary of developments.

Description/activity/progress	Progress
R1 Ensure that provision to develop pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills builds more systematically on those that they have	The school has implemented an action plan following the 2016 Inspection. The focus of the plan will be on developing aspects of Digital learning.
	Llŷr Evans is the link between the school and the Education Authority (specifically Kay Morris, ICT Advisory Teacher)
already acquired	A meeting is held every half term to track school progress in terms of modifying the National Digital Framework.
	Staff meetings focus on personalizing the Framework to the requirements and themes of Ysgol Gymraeg.
	There is a robust timetable in place in order to focus on various aspects of the framework.

## Self-appraisal and School Development Plan

## Main school priorities

- 1. Challenge the More Able and Talented pupils throughout the school focusing specifically on reading and boys' oracy at the higher levels.
- 2. Raise standards of Literacy for specific groups of pupils throughout the school.
- 3. Raise standards of Numeracy for specific groups of pupils throughout the school.
- 4. (Estyn 2016) R1 Ensure that provision to develop pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills builds more systematically on those that they have already acquired.
- 5. Build on strategies and partnerships with Pioneer Schools in order to address the requirements of the 'Successful Futures' document (Donaldson) the aim is to develop a curriculum that promotes enthusiasm and curiosity.
- 6. Develop pupils' social use of Welsh in the school following Ceredigion language charter strategies.

The school has made good progress in developing aspects of the School Development Plan during the previous year – a full copy of the SDP is available from the headteacher.

## Improvements set by the Governing Body regarding pupil performance

## Targets for the next three years

Please refer to the targets for the number of pupils who will attain outcome 5 or above in the Foundation Phase and level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 for the next three years. The school sets these targets based on current information on pupils according to annual teacher assessments. Additionally, we set a level of challenge for the future in order to raise standards continuously.

	Summer 2017	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
Foundation Phase	98% (FPI average)	98%	98.5%
Key Stage 2	97% (CSI average)	97.5%	98%

#### Comments

- The school has made good progress in terms of pupil assessments in both key stages.
- The results provide a positive reflection of the challenging targets set each year.
- Following regular assessments and a number of tests the level/outcome every pupil attains by the end of the year is noted. There is a close link between teachers in order to moderate levels and identify the way forward for the individual pupil.
- Pupils receive constant targets in Language, Mathematics, Science and English at Key Stage 2.
- As a school, we strive to ensure that 98% of Foundation Phase pupils and 97% of Key Stage 2 pupils attain the expected level/outcome (outcome 5 or above in the Foundation Phase and level 4 or above at KS2).
- Every parent receives a detailed report at the end of the year and there are regular open evenings and an opportunity to discuss the end of year report.

## **Expelling Pupils**

One pupil was suspended (temporarily) during the 2016-17 academic year.

<u>Reviewing Policies and school strategies</u> – the school reviews policies on a regular basis in order to ensure the best provision for pupils. During 2016-17 all school policies were reviewed, specifically those regarding health and safety, safeguarding children, bullying and some aspects of the curriculum. There are copies of the policies available from the school or on the website. The list of policies that have been reviewed are in the governors' records at the main entrance.

Action following the review of policies – The developments are monitored constantly in the termly meetings. Staff from the school have received further training on safeguarding children and implementing autism friendly school procedures.

## Sport and Extracurricular Activities

The school provides a variety of sports activities in all aspects of Physical Education. Pupils gain skills and experiences from the Nursery to Year 6. The school is successful at a national level and in 2016-17, achieved high standards in the national rounds in swimming, cross country, football, gymnastics, netball, hockey, athletics and cricket.

There is a wide extracurricular programme that attempts to satisfy the interests of all pupils at the school. A weekly Urdd Club is held, where school staff volunteer to offer various activities to pupils. The activities at Key Stage 2 include sport, a weekly running club 'chwys trabŵd', art club, gymnastics club, and various activity

clubs for the Foundation Phase. The school supports hockey activities with the Mini Minor league every Friday evening.

There is a strong link between the school and the Urdd and pupils have enriching experiences through following the programme of activities for the year. Every year, school staff prepare pupils for the local, regional and national Eisteddfod and they achieve success in various competitions at the national level. Both concerts held at the Great Hall are very popular with parents and the community. The National Urdd Eisteddfod in Bridgend was successful, and pupils had enriching experiences in a number of areas. We gained second place in the Instrumental Ensemble, and the Côr Cerdd Dant came third. I would like to thank all trainers for their work and parents for their co-operation and support.

<u>Healthy eating and drinking</u> – the school promotes pupils' health and is eager to adopt healthy eating and drinking patterns. Healthy school meals are provided daily and pupils are encouraged to eat healthy packed lunches at dinner-time. A daily fruit shop is open and there is plenty of water available for pupils, every pupil is encouraged to bring a plastic bottle in order to refill it during the day.

<u>Changes to the school Handbook</u> – The handbook is reviewed and updated on a termly basis. A copy of the handbook is available on the school website or from the headteacher. There were changes made to the content of the handbook during the current year in order to improve the format.

#### Dates for the year

(please refer to the appendix)

## Days closed for INSET

4 September 2017, 17 November 2017, and 16 April 2018

#### Session times

	KS2	Foundation Phase	Nursery
Start school	9.00	9.00	9.00
Morning break	10.30 – 10.45	10.30 - 10.45	10.30 - 10.45
Dinner	12.00 – 1.00	11.45 - 1.00	11.50 – 1.15
Afternoon start	1.00	1.00	1.15
Afternoon break	2.20 - 2.30	2.20 - 2.30	2.20 - 2.30
Home time	3.30	3.30 (Year 1 & 2)	3.20
		3.20 (Reception)	

## Curriculum and teaching arrangements

The school is now a pioneer school in the new deal and operates as an establishment that shares good practice and provides innovation in teaching and learning. The quality and variety of learning experiences provided for the pupils throughout the school is very important to us. A wide and balanced curriculum is offered, that meets all statutory requirements. Teachers continue to review the curriculum in light of new developments. A strong focus is placed on developing communication, number, ICT and thinking skills. The school has worked very closely with the University of Wales Trinity St David to develop a programme of enriched experiences for trainee teachers who will be the teachers of the future. Staff use the computer planning programme Cwmpawd on a weekly basis. This programme identifies Literacy and Numeracy Framework skills. The Framework is fully implemented throughout the school and reports to parents identify pupils' progress in these areas.

Additional Learning Needs – The school makes every effort to ensure that all pupils feel that they are an integral part of school life and work and that they achieve their potential as individuals. The school reviews the Additional Learning Needs policy on a regular basis in order to ensure suitable support for pupils. Mrs Nia Gwyndaf is the governor with responsibility for Additional Learning Needs.

<u>Pupils with disabilities</u> – The school campus has been adapted regularly in order to provide easy access for pupils with disabilities. Ramps have been placed to facilitate access to classes and careful planning has achieved the inclusion of pupils with disabilities fully in the school curriculum.

School language category - Specified Welsh school

#### Use of Welsh in the school

- Welsh is used in the Foundation Phase and at Key Stage 2 as the main language in every element of curricular and extracurricular work and activity in the school. English is introduced to pupils in Year 3.
- Welsh is the language of natural communication in the school.
- There is no limit on the use of Welsh in the school. Welsh is promoted in every aspect of the life and work of Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.
- The school ensures through careful planning that there is regular continuity and progression in experiences to use Welsh in all curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Pupils who are latecomers to the school are able to take advantage of the Language Centre provision organized by the Education Authority at Ysgol Uwchradd Penweddig.
- Pupils transfer to secondary schools in the town where there are opportunities for them to continue to develop their use of Welsh. There are extended transition opportunities available to pupils who need to gain confidence in using Welsh during the Summer term.

## Toilet arrangements and facilities

The school has an adequate number of toilets for the pupils registered at the school. The facilities are cleaned daily by the Education Authority cleaning service. There is an effective 'Tackling Toilets' committee, which is a crew of pupils who work on behalf of the School Council to improve the toilets with the Senior Management Team.

## Buildings maintenance

The school has improved the safety of the Nursery Unit by renewing the fence around this area.

## Safety

Th school's insurance policy allows pupils to be at school from 8.45 onwards (Breakfast Club 8.15-8.45). In the afternoons, Nursery children will leave at 3.20 and the other pupils will leave at 3.30. Before this time, parents or guardians are expected to inform the office at the main entrance of their presence.

Cautions is required when parking in front of the school and cars must not be parked in disabled/taxi bays nor on the grass. Cars should also not be parked on the Ysgol Plascrug road to avoid the risk of traffic jams. Safety is very important to the governors, the Senior Management Team, the School Council and staff. People must be careful and respectful of others.

<u>Building safety developments</u> – renewing the fence around the Nursery yard has improved safety and prevented strangers from entering.

#### Breaking in

There was one case of breaking in to the school during this academic year (Year 5 computers stolen)

I hope you found reading about developments in this busy school useful. Don't hesitate to contact the Headteacher if you require any further information on the development of the school.

Thank you again as parents for your dedication to the school. Your support at home is an important part of the success of your children and the unique culture at Ysgol Gymraeg.

Mr Dewi Jones, Chair of Governors

## CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2017/18

2017- September							
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2017 - December							
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	2018 - January							
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	2018 - February							
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2018 - March							
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2018 - June							
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2018 - July							
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2018 - August						
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27	28	29	30	31		

DIRECTED TEACHERS' DAYS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 4 Sept 2017 & Monday 16 Apr 2018

Bank holidays

Good Friday -30.03.18 Early May Holiday -07.05.18 Easter Monday - 02.04.18 Spring Bank Holiday -28.05.18

		Half	-term		Number of
Term	Begin	Begin	End	End	school days
Autumn 2017	Tuesday 5 Sept 2017	Monday 30 Oct 2017	Friday 3 Nov 2017	Friday 22 Dec 2017	74
Spring 2018	Monday 8 Jan 2018	Monday 19 Feb 2018	Friday 23 Feb 2018	Thursday 29 March 2018	54
Summer 2018	Tuesday 17 April 2018	Monday 28 May 2018	Friday 1 June 2018	Tuesday 24 July 2018	65
Plus directed	teachers' closure	days Monday	4 Sept 2017 & Mor	nday 16 Apr 2018 TOTAL	2 195

Please note that this calendar is subject to any changes which may arise as a result of government policy decisions. Ceredigion County Council does not accept liability for any losses incurred in respect of altered holiday arrangements following such changes