



FULL ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS 2017-2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

It is with pleasure that I thank the Headteacher, the Deputy, all of the teachers, the teaching assistants, the supporting staff, the parents/guardians as well as the pupils for the school's consistent success. It is clear that the school's aims in terms of Welshness, Respecting each other, and Doing our very best continues to have a positive influence on the pupils and an impact on everyone who is involved with this unique institution. 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.

439 pupils attended the school as of July 2018 with a Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, 15 full time teachers, and 6 part time teachers. Three members of staff act as Head of Departments 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 kitchen staff.

This year, the Headteacher was successfully chosen as a member of the National Academy for Educational Leadership. The academy includes 12 headteachers from Wales who work closely with the Welsh Government in order to concentrate on leadership within the developments of Our National Mission. We are very proud of this achievement and congratulate the Headteacher.

Time and location of the Meeting -

Time and location of the Meeting – 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 which will be held at the school on Monday, 25 September at 6.30.

The Chair of Governors will also be present at the meeting.

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 2016-17 academic year.

See the details below outlining 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.

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

Chair of the governors – Mr Dewi Jones, dewi@innovis.co.uk

Arrangements for the next Governing Body election – 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.

In-service Training – full details of the courses attended by staff between September 2017 and July 2018 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

20 September	Mari Davies and Caryl Davies	Foundation Phase Profile Training	
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6 October	Support Staff	Autism Champions	
16 October	All school staff	Epi Pen Training	
20 October	Headteacher	Presentation in CYDAG's national meeting	
17 November	All school staff	Performance Management meetings in the morning and a summary of the developments of the School Improvement Plan in the afternoon.	
2018			
9 + 10 January 2018	Headteacher	Pioneer Schools Meeting in Cardiff	
16 January	Llŷr Evans	Coding / ICT	
19 January	Caryl Davies and Cathryn Pridmore	Ceredigion Healthy Schools	
6 February	Foundation Phase Staff	An update of the new outcomes for the Foundation Phase	
Summer Term			
23 April	Gareth James	Evolve Health and Safety Training	
24 May	Llŷr Evans Gareth James Clive Williams	Presentation in the Pioneer Schools Good Practice Conference with Estyn in Swansea	
24 April	Clive Williams Gareth James Cathryn Pridmore	Presentation to Professor John Furlong's committee on developing partnerships to train future teachers with Aberystwyth University.	
3 May	Year 2 and 3 Teacher	Presentation by Liwsi Harries, Advisory Mathematics Teacher on effective transitioning methods between year 2 and 3 mathematics.	
22 June	Headteacher	Cynhadledd Penaethiaid Ceredigion Ceredigion Headteachers Conference	
Summer Term	ALN Support Staff	A comprehensive programme is in place for updating information and upskilling staff to meet the needs of every child.	

Opportunities to share Good Practice with schools and establishments

During the year the school has had opportunities to share good practice with schools across Wales. Following the excellent inspection in 2016, the Headteacher presented in CYDAG's National Conference in Llandrindod Wells. Staff from the school shared good practice in digital learning at a conference in Ceredigion. There was an opportunity to share the pioneer school developments in an Estyn conference in Swansea. Following the school's success, 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, Aberystwyth University, Estyn, John Furlong Committee and University of Trinity St David.

Annual Meeting (Autumn 2017)

There was no call for a meeting during Autumn 2017. 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

Actions taken in light of decisions made during the meeting – No decisions were made during the Autumn 2017 meeting.

The appendix provides a list of the school's governors, who appointed them, and the date of which the term of office comes to an end.

Financial details -

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

How the school uses the money received

- The school budget was used in order to ensure the best possible educational experiences for pupils and to ensure suitable resources for them.
- 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.
- £100 – donation from a parent from Reception class

Allowances or subsistence costs for the Governing Body

- Governors' travel expenses – Governors were not paid any expenses during the year 2017-18. I would like to thank my fellow governors for providing their services completely voluntarily for the benefit and wellbeing of the school.

School performance in end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 assessments.

Comparative information of pupils' assessments at the end of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 (please refer to results table)

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 co-operation of parents/guardians. The school performs very well compared with similar schools on a county and national level

Pupil attendance

Period	Attendance	Authorized absences	Unauthorized absences
Autumn	96.55	2.54	0.91
Spring	96.17	3.31	0.52
Summer	96.46	2.1	1.45

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 year, and I would like to thank parents and guardians for responding positively to the campaign.

Improving attendance and reducing the number of unauthorized absences

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 2018-2019 - 96.5%

Attendance targets for academic year 2019-2020 - 96.6%

Attendance targets for academic year 2020-2021 - 96.7%

Pupils 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, 52 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 annual grand concerts at the Arts Centre.

Activities were held to promote understanding of raising money for good causes during the year. A generous amount of money was raised for Children in Need.

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 Dwywnwen, Coffee Afternoon, Social Evening/Barbeque and a Sponsored Walk. There will be a full report on the activities and money raised at the annual PTA meeting during the autumn term.

Parent/Guardian meetings – 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 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."

Use of the building/campus – 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.

Links with the police – 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 transport issues 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
<p>R1 – Ensure that the provision to develop pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills build more systematically on those that they have already acquired.</p>	<p>The school has implemented an action plan following the 2016 inspection. The focus of the plan will be on developing aspects of digital learning.</p> <p>Llŷr Evans is the link between the school and the Education Authority (specifically Kay Morris, ICT Advisory Teacher)</p> <p>A meeting is held every half term to track school progress in terms of modifying the National Digital Framework.</p> <p>Staff meetings focus on personalizing the Framework to the requirements and themes of Ysgol Gymraeg</p> <p>There is a robust timetable in place in order to focus on various aspects of the framework.</p> <p>Following the school's activities as a Pioneer School, the school has presented exciting developments in a national conference organised by Estyn in Swansea in May 2018. The presentation and the work planned in the school received high praise.</p>

Self-appraisal and School Development Plan

Main school priorities

1. Challenge the More Able and Talented pupils throughout the school focusing specifically on science and maths activities in Key Stage 2.
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) A1 Ensure that provision to develop pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills builds more systematically on those that they have already acquired.
5. Develop pupils' social use of Welsh in the school following Ceredigion language charter strategies.

6. Establish distributed leadership to develop a curriculum that will engage an interest and curiosity.

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 2018	Summer 2019	Summer 2020
Foundation Phase	98% (FPI average)	98%	98.5%
Key Stage 2	97% (FPI 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 regular 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 2017-18 academic year

Reviewing Policies and school strategies – 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. Copies of the policies are available from the school or on the website. A list of the policies that have been reviewed can be seen in the governors’ records at the main entrance.

Action following the review of policies – The developments are monitored regularly in the termly meetings. Staff from the school have received further training on safeguarding children and implementing autism friendly school procedures. The school has improved safety by improving the fences between the school and the nature garden.

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 2017-18, achieved high standards in the national rounds in swimming, cross country, rugby, football, gymnastics, netball, hockey, athletics and cricket.

There is a broad 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 trabwŵd’, 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.

Many of the school's pupils competed in the National Urdd Eisteddfod hosted by Brecon and Radnorshire. We succeeded to gain first place prizes in creative writing and creative music, gained second place with the orchestra and the multi-disciplinary dance and third place in the brass solo and in the cerdd dant solo. I would like to thank all pupils, staff and parents for their hard work during Whitsun week. I would also like to thank the instructors for all their work and parents for all their cooperation and support.

Healthy eating and drinking – 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. The fruit shop is open daily and there is plenty of water available for pupils, and every pupil is encouraged to bring a plastic bottle in order to refill it during the day. Year Three's milkshake company has provided milk for the pupils occasionally during the year.

Changes to the school Handbook – 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. Changes were 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
3 September 2018, 16 November 2018, 7 January 2019, 29 April 2019

Session times

	KS2	Foundation Phase	Nursery
School start	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(Reception)	3.20

Curriculum and teaching arrangements

The school is now one of Wales' pioneer schools 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 broad and balanced curriculum is offered which 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 Aberystwyth University to develop a programme of rich experiences for trainee teachers who will be the teachers of the future.

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.

Pupils with disabilities – 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 the 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. The Nursery’s toilets were developed during the year.

Maintenance

The school has developed the nature garden area during the year to facilitate access and the pupils’ use of this valuable resource. The nature garden is available for pupils to use during break time and a detailed care schedule is operated. The PTA has donated generously towards this development during the spring and summer terms.

Safety

The 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.

Caution 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.

Building safety developments – renewing the fence which is part of the nature garden has improved safety and prevents strangers from entering.

Breaking in

There were no cases of breaking into the school during this academic year.

I hope you found reading about developments in this busy school beneficial. 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 is an important part of your children's educational and social development and the unique culture at Ysgol Gymraeg.

Mr Dewi Jones, Chair of Governors.