



FULL ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS 2019-2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Headteacher, the Deputy, all of the teachers, the teaching assistants, the supporting staff, the parents / guardians and of course the pupils for their hard work over the course of the year, and for their contribution to the ongoing success of the school.

I am sure that I speak for everyone on the Governing Body in expressing my pride at the excellent opportunities afforded to all pupils, and the effort in highlighting the talents and special interests of each individual pupil. I would again like to thank the staff team for their efforts and commitment in securing those opportunities.

We take every opportunity to emphasise the School's aims - Welshness, Respecting each other and Doing our very best – and it is clear that these continue 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 categorised as a Green School by the Welsh Government and operates as a Pioneer school.

Pupil numbers at the school remain consistently high. 435 pupils attended the school as of July 2019, with a Headteacher, 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 kitchen staff.

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 30 September at 6pm. I, as 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 Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 during the 2016-17 academic year.

See the details below outlining the requirements of holding an annual meeting.

Changes to the Annual Parent / Governor Meetings

Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) makes important changes to the previous legislative arrangements in respect of the Annual Parent/Governor Meetings. It provides new arrangements whereby parents can request a meeting with a governing body.

However, the parents will need to satisfy four (4) statutory requirements when calling a meeting which are as follows:-

- (i) that the parents of 10% of the registered pupils, or the parents of 30 of the registered pupils (whichever is the lower), must sign a petition requesting a meeting;*
- (ii) the meeting must be for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the school;*
- (iii) the maximum number of meetings that parents can request in any school year is three (3);*
- (iv) there must be sufficient school days left in the school year to allow a meeting to be held.*

Further:-

- (a) meetings must be held before the end of a 25 day period;*
- (b) the 25 day period commences the day after receipt of the petition but does not include any day which is not a school day;*
- (c) if another meeting is required to be held as a result of a different petition, the 25 day period will not commence until the day after the other meeting has been held;*
- (ch) there must be sufficient days left in the school year to allow a meeting to be held before the end of the 25 day period;*
- (d) meetings will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, Head and any other person invited by the governing body;*
- (dd) notification of meetings to parents must include the date, time and venue of the meeting and the matter or matters to be discussed.*

A copy of this 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 Owain Schiavone. owssgiv@hotmail.com

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;

1 October	All school staff	Use of Epi Pen in an emergency
3 October	Headteacher	Middle management review
9 October	Holly Richards and Rachel Hull	Foundation Phase Module 2
10 October	Llŷr Evans	Pioneer Schools
24 October	Year 3 and 4 staff	Mathematics with Liwsi Harries
16 November	All school staff	Welfare Developments fod Aberystwyth schools
30 November	Cathryn Pridmore	Autism
10 December	Headteacher	Academy – Cardiff
12 December	Llŷr Evans	Curriculum innovation in Newtown
15 January	ALN Support Staff	'P Level' training
18 January	Headteacher	Aberystwyth Headteachers' Meeting
21 January	All teachers - Rhannu Dysg 1	An opportunity for teachers to observe each other's teaching practices.
23 January	Nia Roberts	Foundation phase leadership
28 January	All teachers – Rhannu Dysg 2	An opportunity for teachers to observe each other's teaching practices.
29 and 30 January	Cathryn Pridmore	ALN Course
4 February	Rhannu Dysg 3 – All teachers	An opportunity for teachers to observe each other's teaching practices.
5 February	Eleri Evans and Lowri Owen	Autism Champions
11 February	Rhannu Dysg 4 – All teachers	An opportunity for teachers to observe each other's teaching practices.
15 March	Llŷr Evans	Cardiff Met Research Meeting
3 April	Rachel West	HLTA
8 April	Cathryn Pridmore	ALN Personal Assessments
29 April	All school staff	Introduction to the New Curriculum and enriching tasks.
15 May	Headteacher	Evaluating the New Curriculum in Llandrindod Wells
4 June		Visit 2 of the Education Authority
14 June	Headteacher	Preparing to train Cohort 2 with the Academy

17 and 18 June	Llŷr Evans	Presentation on the Expressive Arts as part of the New Curriculum roadshow.
27 June	Gareth James	Ehedlin workshop

Opportunities to share Good Practice with schools and establishments

Due to our responsibility as a Pioneer School and one which is collaborating with the Welsh Government to develop the New Curriculum, there were a number of opportunities to share good practice with schools across Wales. There was an opportunity to share developments in the Estyn national conference in Cardiff. The John Furlong Committee and Aberystwyth University were part of very positive collaboration to share the latest practices in training teachers of the future. In September 2019, the school will act as a lead school with Aber Addysgu+.

Annual Meeting (Autumn 2018)

There was no call for a meeting during Autumn 2018. However, 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

- In general, school budgets has been a very challenging area over the last few years, and we are working very closely with the Education Authority to make best use of the money available. 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 Fl 1

Allowances or subsistence for the Governing Body

- Governors' travel expenses – Governors were not paid any expenses during the year 2018-19. 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)

We wish to see all pupils reach their potential, and the school is very pleased with the 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	Authorised absences	Unauthorised absences
Autumn	96.7	2.67	0.64
Spring	97.08	2.35	0.57
Summer	96.3	2.1	1.56

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 unauthorised 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 emphasising 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 2019-2020 - 96.7%

Attendance targets for academic year 2020-2021 - 96.7%

Attendance targets for academic year 2021-2022 - 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, 41 went to Penweddig, 1 went to Penglais and 1 went to Llandoverly College. 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. Activity for the National Eisteddfod in Ceredigion in 2020 will provide a number of opportunities for pupils to take part in further community aspects.

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 a Sponsored Walk. Developing educational resources and providing an additional room to support ALN pupils has been a focus for the Parent-Teacher Association's budget during the year. 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
R1 - Ensure that the provision to develop pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills build more systematically on those that they have already acquired	We have now planned strands 1, 2 and 3 of the DCF across the school and have recognised opportunities for the pupils to develop their skills more systematically. A new iPad timetable has been created, allowing better use of them across KS2. In order to respond to the new requirements of the DCF, the teachers have been using j2e in order to share homework and important messages. Response to Estyn's post-inspection recommendation We are currently creating assessment sheets to include in the pupils' books in order to ensure that each pupil is aware of the ICT skills they need. The aim of the sheets is to give the pupils an opportunity to recognise their strengths and weaknesses and to recognise the ICT skills they are acquiring during the lessons and across the curriculum.

Self-appraisal and School Development Plan

Main school priorities

1. Raise standards of literacy for specific groups of pupils throughout the school.
2. Raise standards of numeracy for specific groups of pupils throughout the school.
3. (Estyn 2016) Ensure that provision to develop pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills builds more systematically on those that they have already acquired
4. Develop the staff's skills and expand their information in accordance with the requirements of the new ALN measure
5. Build on the good work already being done to develop the SMT's roles

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 2019	Summer 2020	Summer 2021
Foundation Phase	100% (FPI average)	98%	98%
Key Stage 2	98% (FPI average)	98%	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 98% 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

No expulsions

Reviewing policies and school strategies - the school reviews policies on a regular basis in order to ensure the best provision for pupils. During 2018-19 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 2018-19, achieved high standards in the national rounds in swimming, cross country, rugby, football, gymnastics, netball, hockey, athletics and cricket. The addition of bicycle and scooter activities every Friday proved very popular last year. 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 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 Urdd Eisteddfod - Many of the school’s pupils competed in the local, regional and national Eisteddfods. In the Cardiff and Vale Urdd National Eisteddfod 2019, we succeeded to gain a range of prizes – 1st – Multi-disciplinary Dance, 1st – Art / Jewellery, 3rd – Action Song, 3rd – black and white photography and 3rd – colour photography. 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
2 and 3 September 2019, 25 October 2019, 20 April 2020

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 and 2) 3.20 (Reception)	3.20
-----------	------	---	------

Curriculum and teaching arrangements

The school is now one of Wales' pioneer schools 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 organised 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 an outside ALN teaching cabin and the nature garden area during the year. The PTA has donated generously towards these developments.

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.

Owain Schiavone, Chair of Governors