



Dreaming, believing, succeeding together
Breuddwydio, coelio, llwyddo gyda'n gilydd



Annual Governors' Report to Parents Autumn 2025

(this report will share information about 2024-2025)



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Who is who on the Governing Body 2024-2025

Role	Name	End date
Acting Headteacher	Mrs Hannah Williams	31-08-26
Chair of Governors	Mrs Anna Macaulay	September 2028
Vice Chair of Governors	Mrs Lynda Griffiths	
Clerk	Mrs Rachel Marland	N/A
LA Governors (appointed by LEA)	Cllr. Michael Smith	May 2028
	Cllr. Louise Formston	October 2024 (resigned)
	Cllr. Bernice McLoughlin	May 2028
	Cllr. Lynda Griffiths	May 2028
Community Governors	Cllr Barry Griffiths	May 2028
	Ms Joanne Matthews	September 2028
	Mrs Rachel Hyland	January 2025 (resigned)
	Mrs Bethan Jones	May 2029
	Mrs Kath Evans	May 2029
Teacher Governors	Mrs Nia Williams	September 2027
	Mrs Hollie Davies	September 2028
Ancillary staff (elected by ancillary staff)	Mr John Burt	
Parent Governors (elected by parents and guardians)	Mrs Rebecca Quayle	September 2027
	Mrs Jasmine Cartwright	
	Mr Mitch Spicer	September 2027
Local Authority Contact	Mrs Kate Evans	
GwE supporting Improvement Officer/ Conwy EIS officer-improvement advisor	Mrs Sue Clisham	11.4.25
	Mr Llyr Gilmour Jones	31.8.25



SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2025-2026

Autumn Term / Tymor yr Hydref

<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>1st September 2025</i>
Term starts	2 nd September 2025
<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>13th October 2025</i>
Half term close	24 th October 2025
Half Term Open	3 rd November 2025
Term ends	19 th December 2025

Spring Term / Tymor y Gwanwyn

<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>5th January 2026</i>
Term Starts	6 th January 2026
Half term close	13 th February 2026
Half term open	23 rd February 2026
Term ends	27 th March 2026

Summer Term / Tymor yr Haf

Term starts	13 th April 2026
<i>May Bank holiday</i>	<i>4th May 2026</i>
Half term close	22 nd May 2026
Half term open	1 st June 2026
<i>Staff training day</i>	<i>12th June 2026</i>
<i>Staff training day</i>	<i>29th June 2026</i>
End of the school year	17 th July 2026
<i>Staff training day</i>	<i>20th July 2026</i>



Excellent Estyn Report March 2019 places school in top 2% of Wales:

Nearly all pupils including those with additional learning needs make good and often very good progress in the development of their literacy and numeracy skills by the end of Year 2, sometimes from low starting-points. Nearly all pupils' attitude towards learning is exemplary. Standards of behaviour and self-discipline in lessons and around the school are high. They are polite and considerate, and they relate well to each other. The quality of teaching supports very high levels of pupils' engagement and very strong progress in learning. Teachers and assistants work highly effectively as a team and create an enthusiastic learning environment in all classes. They have very high expectations of each pupil. The quality of care, support and guidance provided is excellent and has a very positive effect on pupils' standards and wellbeing. Senior leaders provide a strong strategic direction for the school with a clear focus on meeting the diverse needs and wellbeing of all pupils. Team work is a strength of the school. The governing body is highly supportive of the school.

Primary School of the Year:

We were extremely proud to win this award in November 2023. During the evening, the nomination was shared, expressing "The school was recently awarded the National Inclusion Award showing the dedication the school has towards both learners and staff. They go above and beyond to make families feel part of the school". Staff felt extremely proud that their hard work and dedication has been noticed by our parents and the community. We are also extremely proud of Mrs Anwen Maher and Mrs Nia Williams who were nominated for Best Support and Best Teacher.

Governor Meetings and Business

Since the last annual report to parents was published, the Governing Body have met every half term. The meetings are a combination of Full Governing Body meetings and Sub-Committee meetings. Curricular and non-curricular meetings were also held involving the pay and performance management committees and the data scrutiny group the finance working party.

Various curriculum policies and non-curricular policies have been reviewed in line with the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Policies reviewed include the statutory policies: Child Protection and Safeguarding, ALN Policy and Pay policy.



Transition – What happens before our pupils start with us and what our pupils do after leaving our school?

We work very closely with parents, local day nurseries and relevant outside agencies when it comes to inviting new pupils into our nursery class. The parents and children are welcomed into school from the Open Day in the Autumn term prior to their applications, taster sessions, parents' meetings and professionals' meetings ensure a smooth transition into part time school.

As the children move into full time education, staff ensure that they continue to build relationships with their new children, making sure that they visit them in their current classes, transition meetings are held during the summer term between staff, parents have an opportunity to meet their new class teachers and teaching assistants and find about the school year ahead. We also ensure that staff from the previous year, who are familiar and trusted adults to the children continue to link in with the children, especially during the first few weeks of the school year. This again supports the children with their transition from class to class.

Once the children complete year two, they transition to the juniors, with most children choosing Ysgol Maes Owen, which is our feeder junior school. The year two teachers and the year 3 and 4 teachers at Maes Owen planned and delivered a comprehensive transition programme which saw year 2 pupils visiting Ysgol Maes Owen several times during the summer term and Miss Blears (head of lower school) visiting Y Foryd to work with the year two pupils in their familiar surroundings. Mrs Maher, our Family Liaison Officer also organised an opportunity for Year 2 parents to meet at Ysgol y Foryd for a "Coffee and Chat" session which was very successful and feedback from parents was that this opportunity to share concerns, ask questions in a informal way was reassuring.

Ysgol Emrys Ap Iwan update us with news of past pupils and we enjoy hearing their success stories.

What do the pupils say about school and does this support school improvement?

Pupils' well-being is a key priority throughout the school. From the moment the children come in to school in the morning, they are greeted by their class staff with our "Meet and Greet" which allows the children to choose a hug, high five or a non-contact wiggle and dance. This allows the staff to greet each individual child. Children are then encouraged to share how they are feeling, from placing their name on a Colour Monster, choosing an emotion to place by their name or by telling the class staff. Teachers regularly check in with the children throughout the school day to ensure that the children are ready to learn. Children have expressed

"the teachers always say Bore da to me when I arrive at school"

"everyone always smiles and makes me happy to come in to school"

"we love doing a dance when we get to school, it gets our bodies moving ready for the day"

During the Spring term, nearly all pupils in years one and two completed a survey called 'Pupils Attitude to School Survery' (PASS). The children are asked a number of questions and their answers help build a picture around feelings around school, preparedness for learning, learner self worth and response to learning. The results of this survey are extremely positive with pupils sharing they feel happy and safe in school, they trust the people in school, they have friends and they are ready to learn. We also completed the Conwy Wellbeing Survey with our Year 2 children. The results were very positive



with

- 94% I like being at school
- 98% I feel safe in school
- 98% I am treated fairly in school
- 98% I know who to talk to if I am upset or worried
- 98% My school teaches me how to be safe online
- 98% My school expects me to work hard and try my best
- 98% In my school children behave well in lessons and during playtimes
- 100% I have never been bullied

Our school council consists of Year 2 children met regularly with Mrs Williams and shared the ideas in assemblies and during class visits. Each child wrote a letter to express their interest and then the children in Year 1 and Year 2 voted for the children who they thought would make good councillors. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Mrs Williams, share their view on how they wanted to learn, what they needed as children to make school a safe learning environment and enjoyed supporting Mrs Williams around the school.

Our Eco Councillors continued to work hard on their targets to ensure we were still meeting the needs of the Platinum Eco Award. They chose to focus on litter this year and we launched our Eco Challenge. The Ocean Trawler challenge from the British Ironworks Centre was launched during the Spring term and Ysgol y Foryd and the community collected over 8,000 crisp packets to fill the trawler net. The information was shared regularly with parents and on the school website. We were extremely proud of the children and grateful to our families who supported our challenge.

Crisp packet trawler challenge

This week in class we have been learning to count in 10s. We started by putting the crisps and sweet packets in piles of 10 before counting them all. We predicted what the total would be. Joshua was the closest.

2nd May 2025	
Dosbarth	Number of crisp and packet to be recycled
Gwdihw mawr a bach	200
Wiwur mawr a bach	64
Cwningen	128
Draenog	40
Llygoden	70

Total = 502

64 499 409 306 999



Classes planned opportunities for the children to learn and have a better understanding of the Eco areas across the year – litter, waste, energy, school grounds, biodiversity, transport and global citizenship. Eco news was shared on the monthly newsletter.



The Criw Cymraeg continued to support Mrs Williams on developing the targets set in the Arian Cymraeg Campus. After being awarded the Silver Cymraeg Campus in 2023 our mission is now to embed and develop these targets further, especially the use of Welsh outside the classroom. The children have continued to take Cai Coch on his travels around the local area and this is shared with the children on our “Happy News Post” in a Friday assembly. We celebrated Dydd Gwyl Dewi in a joint event with Ysgol Maes Owen where we welcomed Mr Urdd to TirPrince, paraded from school and shared songs and traditional Dawnsion Gwerin with the parents and families. This was a wonderful day celebrating and showing that we are proud to live in Wales.

What activities and options are available for our pupils?

We always listen to our children and follow their lead when planning and delivering extra curricular sessions. Kick it has been a popular choice again this year with children from Year 1 and Year 2 attending the weekly sessions to develop ball skills and team work. School staff have also volunteered their time to deliver Games Club.

We have trim—track play equipment, a climbing frame, a slide, swings and a train to use at break times, along with resources which are taken on to the playground, from tennis rackets, basket ball, footballs, stories, building resources, skipping ropes and much more. We also have an outdoor classroom to broaden the pupils’ learning experiences. We make good use of Ysgol Maes Owen’s woodland area and community woodland. Classes regularly use the leisure centre for various activities, including outdoor PE sessions in the MUGA. This is also where our Sports Days have been held over the past few years.

The year one and year 2 children attended a week’s worth of swimming and water confidence sessions in Abergele Leisure Centre. These sessions have been invaluable to the children and we feel it is important to promote swimming and water confidence as we are located so close to the sea. It was great to see the children’s confidence growing during the course of the week.

How are we making sure that every child is taught in a way that meets their individual needs?

Across school we currently have one higher-level teaching assistants (HLTA), 7 teaching assistants and one Family liaison officer. We also have four teaching assistants with responsibility for supporting pupils with additional learning needs. All staff are committed to providing pupils with the necessary skills and support to achieve their full potential. Classes are all of mixed ability and teachers provide a variety of activities to suit the diverse learning needs of all pupils. Pupils regularly talk about their learning and discuss their next steps with adults. Pupil voice is encouraged to support the planning and the next steps in their learning. Progress is tracked carefully throughout the year, with teachers assessing informally and formally using assessment for learning strategies.

Pupils are rewarded, praised and encouraged when working hard and learning new things. Our weekly celebration assembly continues to be held on a Friday throughout the year, celebrating all achievements, both in and out of school. ‘Stars of the Week’ are chosen for pupils who are positive and cheerful. The stars of the week become the class ‘Helpwr Heddiw’ for the following week. A ‘Headteacher’s award’ is given weekly to somebody who has been outstanding in their behaviour, attitude or work. Pupils are also awarded for following the ‘Y Foryd Values’ and for good use of Welsh in class and around school; these pupils are chosen by the ‘Criw Cymraeg’.



The new Curriculum for Wales became statutory from September 2022 and we are very pleased with the implementation thus far, making changes and updates where necessary to support the changing needs of our children. Our curriculum has been designed to suit the needs of our learners and we are carefully monitoring progress to ensure the pupils experience a range of activities during their time at Y Foryd which will help them achieve the four purposes (healthy, confident individuals, ethically informed citizens, ambitious capable learners and enterprising, creative contributors).

Parents are encouraged and welcomed to be partners in their children's education and we regularly report to them on their child's progress and achievements. Termly reports are shared with parents with "I can" statements for areas of the curriculum. Class Dojo helps to inform parents of their child's learning journey and staff are always visible at the start and end of the school day to answer any questions parents may have about their child's learning. Where appropriate parents are invited into the classroom to learn with their child.

At Ysgol y Foryd our highly experienced and trained team of staff work collaboratively to support pupils and, through early identification, plan and deliver the interventions they may need. Where pupils are identified as having Additional Learning Needs (ALN), the class teacher works with the additional needs coordinator to ensure those needs are being met. Pupils identified as having ALN in these year groups will have either a school Individual Development Plan (IDP) or a local authority IDP, which ensure more focused support in addition to the universal provision offered by the school. Our additional learning needs coordinator in school is Mrs Samantha Hogg. Various interventions are delivered to a diverse range of pupils; sometimes being withdrawn from class but mostly within their own class setting. Interventions include literacy, numeracy, nurture, physical development, TalkBoost, SALT (speech and language therapy), SAFMEDS (Say-All-Fast-Minute-Every-Day-Shuffled) and RWI (Read, Write,inc) 1:1 sessions. All such interventions are tracked to ensure pupils are making progress.

How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well supported?

We continue to develop an excellent programme of play, physical education, sport and games to keep learners active and fit. School meals are free for all of our children and there is a good number of children who have school dinners. We encourage parents to remember our Health Schools ethos when making packed lunches for the children. Pupils have fruit with milk or water at snack time and have water bottles in class to encourage them to keep hydrated.

The Welsh Assembly Government ensure all pupils are able to receive a Free breakfast. We continue to run a free breakfast club from 8am and breakfast club staff safely deliver pupils to their classes at 8.45am. During the session the children receive cereal, toast, fruit and milk. They have an opportunity to play games and then an active time before calm time, ready to start the school day.

Health and Safety is regularly monitored through protocols in school and checklists are carried out monthly within each year group and monitored by Mrs Fernandes. All defects are reported to Mr Ravi Kumara the caretaker and to Mrs Williams when of a more urgent nature. Mrs Anna Macalay is designated Governor for Health and Safety.

Toilet facilities. We have sufficient toilets for our pupils and two disabled toilet facilities as well as four adult toilets. All facilities are checked and cleaned by staff throughout the day and by our two cleaners after school hours.



What we are trying to improve?

Following a rigorous self-evaluation process, we devise priorities for school improvement. 2024-2025 priorities included:

Current school priorities:

2024-2025 Current school priorities:

1. To refresh planning for mathematics and improve application of numerical skills so that all pupils make good progress
2. To enhance authentic learning provision across the school so that pupils develop a deeper understanding of why they are learning and develop their self-evaluation skills
3. To further develop whole school understanding of neuro diversity in order to enhance the teaching of pupils with additional learning needs

2024-25 Additional priorities:

1. To continue to develop assessment and tracking/monitoring procedures to ensure good progress in all areas of learning (cluster priority 2024-2025)
2. To continue to work closely with families and the attendance officer to improve attendance and punctuality, aiming for a whole school percentage of 94
3. To continue to work on the Silver Cymraeg Campus Targets to ensure they are embedded into all aspects of school

National priorities:

1. improving pupils' progression by ensuring their learning is supported by a range of knowledge, skills and experience
2. reducing the impact of poverty on pupils' progression and attainment

What are our child absence rates?

Whole School attendance for this academic year is 90.8%

The national average attendance for this academic year is 91%

Authorised absence 7.5%

Unauthorised absence 1.7%

Unauthorised reasons for absence i.e. not an acceptable reason for absence 0.666%

Present marks 88.8%

Circumstanced absence 0.557%

Late 0.815%

Late after the register closes 0.115%

Illness 5.746%

Medical absence 0.319%



Holiday absence 1.69%

68 Pupils have had a holiday recorded as a reason for absence

51 pupils have had a holiday 1 week or more

FSM Attendance	87.98%
Non-FSM Attendance	93.69%
FSM Girls	89.01%
Non FSM Girls	92.46%
FSM Boys	86.67%
Non FSM Boys	94.61%

Comparison of year groups over the last 3 years	2024/2025	2023/2024	2022/2023
Whole School	90.8%	91.2%	91.9%
Year 1	91.3%	89.3%	88.6%
Year 2	90.3%	89%	91.4%

How are we working with parents and community?

As a school, we continue to build strong links with all our parents to enrich the learning opportunities for our children. Our monthly newsletter, which is shared on the school website and on Class Dojo keeps all parents and members of our school community informed of Y Foryd business. This also includes a calendar of forthcoming events. We also use Class Dojo to regularly update parents on the progress their child is making on their individual portfolios and we use the events section to inform parents of any upcoming events.

Parents are encouraged to actively engage with school when looking at their progress and learning. Photos and videos are uploaded regularly on the children's individual portfolio on Class Dojo and photos and videos are shared on the class page to share the learning and experiences in class. Parents receive termly reports sharing "I can" statements which are in line with the skills and taught during the term. During the Summer term, parents also received pupil voice, general comments and head teacher's comments which gave an overview of the child's experiences and learning during the year.

Parents were invited in to celebrate class work during the year. They attended our Sports Days, Christmas concerts and movie night and also our Year 2 leavers celebrations.

This year's joint summer fair with Ysgol Maes Owen was an extremely successful event, raising much needed funds for both schools and an opportunity for the community and parents to see the two schools working together.

Attainment and progress:



Mrs H Williams, Mrs N Williams and Mrs Hogg held termly pupil progress meetings with all teachers, providing an opportunity to discuss all pupils, ensuring all pupils are making progress, discussing any pupils who may not be making progress in order to provide relevant interventions. The needs of the children are discussed and referrals to the different agencies and support systems are discussed and plans are put in place.

When starting in Nursery and in Reception, pupils are assessed using our baseline assessments. This allows us to have a starting point for each child and we can track their progress with us until the end of Year 2. When a child joins us mid year, we complete an On Entry assessment and again this can then be used to track the child's progress. Progress is good and we are continually developing ways to evidence this in line with the expectations of the new curriculum.

Other matters of interest:

- We supported Children in Need and Red nose day
- We took part in a two minute silence for remembrance and held a short assembly. The children were all very respectful during the remembrance assembly and sang "We will remember".
- All year groups performed Christmas events and Year 1 and 2 made a Christmas movie to share with parents over hot chocolate and treats.
- The PTA held successful fundraising events and a joint summer fair with Ysgol Maes Owen
- A whole school Eisteddfod was held to celebrate Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant
- We had a St.David's Parade, again a joint event with Ysgol Maes Owen, where we paraded from school to Tir Prince where we were welcome by a huge crowd of parents and families. Mr Urdd made an appearance and the children sang a variety of Welsh songs and performed Dawnsio Gwerin.
- The pupils and staff dressed up as a character from their favourite book for World Book Day, with the staff all being characters from Alien's Love Underpants. Children from Ysgol Maes Owen came to read their books which they had published and the children loved listening to a story being read by real authors.
- The pupils enjoyed having an intensive week's worth of swimming and water confidence sessions
- Each year group held Sports Days and parents were invited to come and watch
- We had a whole school trip to Manorafon farm. This was an excellent day for all.
- Year 2 children went to the "Children's Day" at Llangollen's International Eisteddfod
- Year 2 children stayed late in school for their treat afternoon. They voted to have pizza, play games which of course had to be a Hide and Seek around the school – even allowed to hide in Mrs Williams' office.
- Bwyd a Hwyl successfully ran for 3 weeks during the summer holidays. This was opened to siblings from Ysgol Maes Owen and we had a huge number – 60 children attending which was great, and a carnival to celebrate.
- Mr Hughes successfully completed his year on the Welsh sabbatical and will be returning to school in the Autumn term – Croeso yn nol Mr Hughes.
- Miss Grimes-Thomas and Miss Sharpe have been appointed to complete another year with us at Y Foryd.
- We have a strong PTA who have met regularly and arranged PTA fundraising ideas which included bingo, raffle and cake stalls.
- We had an Easter parade and amazing Easter bonnets were brought in from home -this event turned in to a full wedding for Miss Jones, now Mrs Davies. Congratulations.



- Design to smile initiative has re-started so all pupils (with consent) are brushing their teeth in school
- We took part in a two minute silence for remembrance and held a short assembly

Finances

- School budget/allocation for the year 2024/2025 £845,473
- Additional Resources £289,425 (includes School Standards Fund - £150,059)
- Total Resources available for 2024/2025 £1,134,898 (includes other grants + reserves b/f)
- Reserves carried forward to 25/26 = £160,292 (14%)

Leadership

Mrs Hannah Williams has undertaken a year as Acting Headteacher. Mrs Hannah Williams has been Deputy Headteacher since June 2019 following an 18 month period as acting deputy Headteacher. Leadership was judged as excellence in our 2019 inspection, stating that “senior leaders provide a strong strategic direction for the school with a clear focus on meeting the diverse needs and wellbeing of all pupils. Team work is a strength of the school. The governing body is highly supportive of the school.” Mrs Nia Williams was appointed Acting Deputy Headteacher for 2024-2025. Mrs Samantha Hogg is part of the SLT (Senior Leadership Team).

Thank you

Firstly, we would like to thank all the staff at Y Foryd for dedicating so much care, time and effort in to making Y Foryd a wonderful place to be. They all work tirelessly to ensure that the children are safe, secure, happy and excited about learning. It has been a difficult year with challenging times; however the staff have all risen to the challenge and it has really been a wonderful year.

Thank you to Mrs H Williams and Mrs N Williams for being Acting Headteacher and Acting Deputy Headteacher. You have ensured that life at Y Foryd has continued to be a happy one, supported staff through challenges and ensured that the children are welcomed in every single day to a happy and safe environment.

The Governors would also like to thank Miss Natasha Puttick, as she leaves Ysgol y Foryd following successfully applying for a Reception Teacher post closer to home. We wish her well in her new role and also as she celebrated her wedding in August – congratulations Mrs Dench. Also leaving Y Foryd at the end of the summer term, we would like to thank Mrs Rachel Ullah who after graduating from her University Degree is excited for her new adventures. Good luck Mrs Ullah.

A special thanks to Miss Seeley for all her continued hard work and commitment in maintaining the high standards within the office, and to Mrs Rachel Marland who has again been a key support in her first year as clerk to the governing body.



Also, we wish to recognise Mrs Anwen Maher for continuing to support our families and the work undertaken with outside agencies to ensure staff, parents and pupils are supported.

And our final thank you goes to you as parents. Thank you for your support in working together with the staff to ensure the best education and care for your children. Diolch yn fawr.