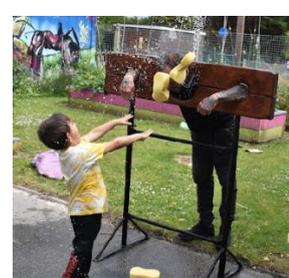




# Annual Governors' Report to Parents

## Autumn 2022



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



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2022-23

### Autumn Term

Staff Training Day 01.09.22

Staff Training Day 02.09.22

Term starts 05.09.22

Half term close 28.10.22

Half Term Open 07.11.22

Staff Training Day 23.12.22

Term ends 23.12.22

### Spring Term

Staff Training Day 09.01.23

Term starts 10.01.23

Half term close 17.02.23

Staff Training Day 27.02.23

Half term open 27.02.23

Term ends 31.03.23

### Summer Term

Term starts 17.04.23

May Day 01.05.23

Half term close 26.05.23

Half term open 05.06.23

Staff Training Day 3.07.23

Term ends 20.07.23



### **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.

### **Fantastic Inclusion Quality Mark achieved in July 2022:**

There is a strong inclusive ethos at Ysgol Y Foryd. The motto and values are fully embedded and shape all aspects of school life. There is a welcoming, positive atmosphere when you visit the school. From the moment you arrive, you are welcomed warmly into the community. The headteacher has a clear, ambitious vision for the school and is unwavering in achieving it. She places the children firmly at the centre of all decisions made. The staff will exceed expectations to support their pupils. There is a collective responsibility amongst the staff to look after the children and give them the best experience possible. All adults who work in the school are kind and nurturing. This kind and inclusive ethos permeates all staff, regardless of role. The support for families at Ysgol Y Foryd is exceptional. The Family Liaison Officer is highly impactful in her role. Positivity radiates throughout the school. Everyone spoken to during the assessment visit has a positive outlook. The staff, pupils and all stakeholders work very much "together" to find solutions to any issues they face. This sense of togetherness is a binding thread across all approaches.

### **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.



**Who is who on the Governing Body?**

**Headteacher**—Ysgol y Foryd—Mrs. N Rowlands

**Chair of Governors**—Mr Gary Young

**Clerk**-Mrs A Fraser

**Local Authority Governors - (appointed by LEA for a four-year term)**

Cllr G Corry (31.05.23)

Cllr M Smith (31.05.23)

Vacancy

Vacancy

**Community Governors**

Mrs S Priest (31.03.23)

Cllr B Griffiths (31.08.23)

Ms Joanne Matthews (24/9/24)

Mrs Rachel Hyland (01/10/25)

**Teacher Governors (appointed by teaching staff)**

Mrs S Hogg (01.09.26)

**Parent Governors (elected by parents)**

Mr C Headland (31.10.24) Vice Chair

My G Young (31.08.22)

Mrs R Quayle (31/08/23)

Mrs E Abdelkhalek (31.02.23)

Mrs Laura Carlyle-Jones (1/10/22)

**Ancillary Staff Governor (appointed by ancillary staff)**

Mr J Burt (31/03/25)

**Local Authority Contact:**

Mrs Kate Evans

**GWE Supporting Improvement Officer:**

Mrs Rhian Jones



### **Transition and what our pupils do after leaving our school?**

We work very closely with Ysgol Maes Owen to ensure our year 2 pupils have a smooth transition into year 3. Mr Hughes, temporary curriculum lead, and Miss Pye, transition lead at Ysgol 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 Pye visiting Y Foryd to work with the year two pupils in their familiar surroundings. Collaborative projects have been delivered, including preparation for the new curriculum.

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?**

As mentioned above as part of our inclusion award, wellbeing is a key focus throughout the school. Pupils are given many opportunities to express their feelings and talk about emotions. Pupils said they felt safe in school and they enjoyed learning new things.

Our School Council last year played a valuable part in contributing to ideas for improvements in classes and in the school grounds. They met with Mrs Rowlands on a half termly basis to monitor attendance, improve the school environment and ensure pupils were happy and safe at school.

Our Eco-Council have met with Mr Patterson regularly during the year to support sustainable development. Mrs Patterson obtained a grant to improve our outdoor area, which enabled us to create another eco garden. From this, we saw pupils enjoying planting, harvesting and sharing fruit, vegetables and flowers. We have improved the eco system found on our grounds and the children have been very interested in learning about this, particularly bees!

Mrs Williams has supported both staff and pupils in developing their Welsh language and has met regularly with the Criw Cymraeg during the year, with the 'Welsh detectives' monitoring classes to ensure they are teaching and learning Welsh progressively through the school. The use of the Welsh language is rewarded with Dojo points which the children love to receive!

### **What activities and options are available for our pupils?**

We were able to re-start our extra curricular activities again which included story club, ICT club, Dance club and board games club. More extra-curricular activities will be on offer next academic year.

We have trim—track play equipment, a climbing frame, a slide, swings, a train and sand pit to use at break times. 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.

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

During the year 2021-22 we had reduced class sizes in years one and two which enabled us to provide additional interventions and support to all pupils. Across school we currently have two higher-level teaching assistants (HLTA), ten teaching assistants and one family liaison officer. We also have four Learning Support Assistants (LSA) who support 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 effectively differentiate lessons to ensure the diverse learning needs of all pupils are met. Pupils regularly talk about their learning and discuss their next steps with adults. Progress is tracked carefully



throughout the year.

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 'Crew Cymraeg'.

A rich, broad and balanced curriculum is used to help children develop their knowledge and skills, and to enable them to succeed as lifelong learners. 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. 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 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 in mandated year groups for the new ALN bill (Years Nursery and year 1) were given an Individual Development Plan (IDP), which ensures more focused support in addition to the universal provision within 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, SALT (speech and language therapy), Headsprout (reading) and SAFMEDS (Say-All-Fast-Minute-Every-Day-Shuffled). All such interventions are tracked on an electronic system called SIMS. Thank you to Mrs Williams and Mrs Hogg for their hard work in this area.

#### **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. Conwy catering department offer a balanced diet throughout the week should pupils choose to have school meals. 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.

**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 Jones the caretaker and to Mrs Rowlands or Mrs Williams when of a more urgent nature. Mr Young 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. 2021-22 priorities included:

- To work towards implementing the new curriculum for Wales in September 2022
- To implement the necessary changes in line with the new ALN bill.



- To improve social and emotional wellbeing in order to ensure pupils' readiness to learn (incorporating outdoor learning, attendance, TIS, PR4L)
- To improve standards and attainment in the key areas of learning
- To improve the STEM provision across the cluster in line with the pedagogical principles, in particular to promote problem solving, creative and critical thinking
- To continue on our Welsh language journey, increasing the % of Welsh used in classrooms, both incidental and directly taught skills.
- To continue to work closely with families and the attendance officer to improve attendance and punctuality which will impact positively on attainment.

#### What are our child absence rates?

- 2021-22 attendance is 88.4%
- Termly attendance figures are as follows:
  - Autumn – 89%
  - Spring – 87%
  - Summer – 88%

#### Pupil information:

- 24 pupils attendance is over 95%
- 63 pupils attendance is between 90-95%
- 33 pupils attendance is between 85-90%
- 33 pupils attendance is below 80%

#### Covid:

- If a child has tested positive for covid their attendance will decrease at least by between 9-12% whilst needing to self-isolate depending on whether they had Covid themselves or a family member was positive and had to self-isolate.
- 132 pupils have been effected with the use of covid coding.

We target the poorer attenders through careful interventions including telephone calls, text messages and meetings with our family liaison officer and attendance officer. We also work hard to encourage pupils to be on time for school; this has been a significant concern this year.

#### 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 emailed to parents, keeps all parents and members of our school community informed of Y Foryd business. This also includes a calendar of forthcoming events. It is also published on our website.

We have delivered numerous parent groups this year and have welcomed Governors back into the school environment. Groups have been well attended and feedback has been extremely positive. Mrs Maher runs a 'cuppa and chat' morning with the family centre which has benefited parents from Y Foryd and Maes Owen.

Face to face parents evenings were held during the academic year to keep parents informed of their child's progress.

Parents received interim written reports during the Spring term which included detailed attendance information which helped to improve attendance during the second half of last year.



### Attainment and progress:

Mrs Williams and Mrs Rowlands hold termly pupil progress meetings with all teachers, giving opportunity to discuss all pupils, make predictions and review interventions, attainment and value added. This year we have had Autumn Pupil Progress meetings and Summer Pupil Progress meetings.

### End of Foundation Phase data 2021

	<u>Literacy</u>		<u>Numeracy</u>		<u>PSD</u>	
<u>Nursery</u>	54%		70%		76%	
<u>Reception</u>	63%		65%		75%	
<u>Year 1</u>	69%		82%		85%	
<u>Year 2</u>	60%		67%		79%	

Year two end of foundation phase data is lower than previous years, however, pupils have made progress from their on entry assessments. We have considered the fact these children have missed essential time in school over the last two years, as well as the impact Covid has had on pupils' wellbeing. During the year 2021/22 numerous interventions were put in place to support pupils and help them to achieve their potential. Wellbeing remained a priority throughout the academic year, in line with our strong belief that pupils need to be emotionally ready before they have the capacity to learn.

### Other matters of interest:

- Reception pupils enjoyed taking part in our Lead Creative Schools project
- The PTA have been very active and have raised funds for the school
- Year two pupils enjoyed a one night stay at Pentrellyncymer
- The whole school enjoyed the Y Foryd carnival which was held between Y Morfa leisure centre and our school grounds
- Nursery home visits took place in preparation for the new school year
- All year groups enjoyed their sports days which parents were allowed to attend once again
- The whole school enjoyed an amazing trip to Manorafon farm
- Year two pupils went to the 'Children's day' at Llangollen eisteddfod
- We were assessed and successfully gained the Inclusion Quality Mark award
- We delivered a successful school holiday programme for the first three weeks of the holidays

### Finances

A full Financial Statement is available on request from the Senior School Support Officer, Miss Rebecca Seeley

Briefly, the school budget for the year to April 2021 totalled to £704,680 with additional resources which include a substantial EIG and Foundation Phase Grant of £118,382. The total resources for the school was £823,062 and a surplus of £226,903 (22%) will be carried into 2022-2023. This large carryover is intentional, to maintain staffing levels despite an expected reduction in number of pupils.

No expenses were claimed by members of the Governing Body 2021-22

### Leadership

Mrs Nicola Rowlands has been the Headteacher since May 2019 following an 18 month period 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.”

More recently, leadership was praised as part of our Inclusive Schools award in July 2022. The report stated: “The Headteacher is inspirational. Her calm demeanour determines the calm approach from all staff. She has a clear, ambitious vision for the school and is unwavering in achieving it. She places the children firmly at the centre of all decisions made. The staff are all aligned to her vision. Governors describe how the “Headteacher lives the message with the staff,” role-modelling an inclusive approach.”

### **Thank you**

The Governors wish to express their thanks to Miss Lisa Owen, who covered Mrs Williams’ maternity leave during the academic year. Miss Owen quickly became a fond member of team and we wish her well in the future.

The Governors would also like to thank Miss Anne Fraser, Clerk to the Governing body for her hard work and commitment to Ysgol Y Foryd for many years. Miss Fraser has been successfully appointed to a new role in Denbighshire and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

The Governors would like to express their gratitude to Mrs Nia Williams and Mr James Hughes who temporarily joined the senior leadership team to support the headteacher in the absence of Miss Smedley and Mrs Williams. They both fully committed to their role and worked extremely hard during their first year at Y Foryd.

A special thanks to Miss Seeley for all her hard work and commitment to maintaining the high standards within the office.

Also a special thank you to Mrs Anwen Maher for supporting our families throughout the year, working with outside agencies to ensure the needs of staff, parents and pupils are met.

Thank you also to Mrs Rhian Jones who have supported Ysgol y Foryd as our ‘Supporting Improvement officer’ this year.

The staff and pupils are also to be thanked and congratulated on a wonderful year.

Thank you to all the parents for your continued support.

The Governing body would like to add a special Thank you to Mrs Rowlands for her leadership and dedication to Ysgol Y Foryd.