



Annual Governors' Report to Parents

Autumn 2021



The School Ethos and Mission Statement

At Ysgol Y Foryd, *“Our aim is to provide quality education within a happy, caring, secure environment to provide each pupil with the opportunity to develop to his/her full potential”.*

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



SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2021-22

Autumn Term

Staff Training Day 01.09.21

Term starts 02.09.21

Staff Training Day 22.10.21

Half term close 22.10.21

Half Term Open 01.11.21

Staff Training Day 22.12.21

Term ends 22.12.21

Spring Term

Staff Training Day 06.01.22

Staff Training Day 07.01.22

Half term open 08.01.22

Half term close 18.02.22

Half term open 28.02.22

Term ends 08.04.22

Summer Term

Staff training day 25.04.22

Term starts 26.04.22

May Day 02.05.22

Half term close 27.05.22

Half term open 06.06.22

Term ends 19.07.22



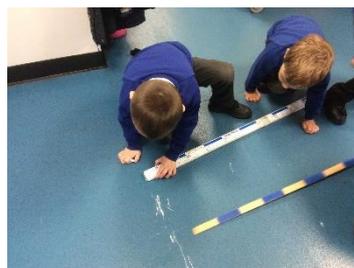
Excellent Estyn Report March 2019 places school in top 2% of Wales

The school's current performance is excellent because:

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.

What happens next?

We are extremely very proud of our results which judged Ysgol y Foryd as excellent in every one of the 5 inspection areas. You can read the full Estyn Inspection report on our school website. In 2020 we completed a Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) and we continue to progress towards specific targets outlined in our school improvement plan (SIP). This process ensures that we continue to improve and move forward with the changing curriculum. Our Green status demonstrates that we are highly effective in self-improvement.



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Governor Meetings and Business

The Governing Body met, via Microsoft Teams, each half term since the last Annual Report to Parents Meeting. 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.

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

Who is who on Governing Body?

The Governing Body is made up as follows:

Headteacher—Ysgol y Foryd—Mrs. N Rowlands

Chair of Governors—Rev G Parry (18-19)

Clerk—Mrs A Fraser

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

Rev G Parry (31.05.21)

Cllr G Corry (31.05.21)

Cllr M Smith (31.05.21)

Mr G Drew (31.05.21)

Community Governor (representing Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council)

Cllr J McKenna (31.03.23)

Community Governors

Rev B Lines (31.08.20) Vice chair (18-19)

Mrs R Quayle (31.08.19)

Mrs S Priest (31.03.23)

Cllr B Griffiths (31.08.19)

Teacher Governors (appointed by teaching staff)

Miss Y Smedley (31.08.22)

Mrs H Williams (31.08.23)

Parent Governors (elected by parents for a 4-year term)

Mrs N Glazzard (20/09/21)

Mr C Headland (31.10.21) Elected Chair from September 2019

My G Young (31.08.22) Elected Vice chair from September 2019

Vacancy

Mrs E Abdelkhalek (31.02.23)

Ancillary Staff Governor (appointed by ancillary staff)

Mr J Burt (March 2021)

Local Authority Contact:

Mrs Kate Evans

GWe System Leader:

Mr P Davies

New Governor Appointments:

Miss Yasmin Smedley

Mr Gary Young

Mrs Emma Abdelkhalek

Cllr Jean McKenna

Mrs Sarah Priest



Transition and what our pupils do after leaving our school?

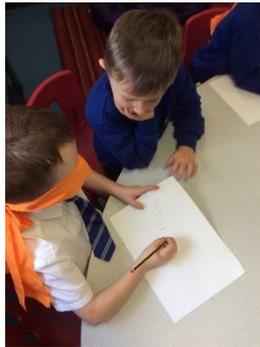
We work very closely with Ysgol Maes Owen to ensure our year 2 pupils have a smooth transition into year 3. Year 2 pupils visited Ysgol Maes Owen for a tour of the school and they participated in outdoor activities during the summer term led by year 3 teachers. Year 3 staff from Ysgol Maes Owen also visited the children at Ysgol Y Foryd.

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?

During the last academic year pupil wellbeing was a key focus throughout the year. Pupils were given many opportunities to express their feelings and nearly all 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 also played a part in encouraging peers to return to school if they were feeling a bit anxious. Our Eco-Council have met regularly within their year groups to support sustainable development. We successfully gained the Eco Platinum Award which we are very proud of. Our Criw Cymraeg have met regularly within their year groups to improve standards of welsh throughout school, setting challenges for classes and rewarding good use of welsh in classes.





What activities and options are available for our pupils?

We hope to continue to offer our wide range of extra-curricular activities during the year 2021-22. These include nature, cookery, football, ICT, Art and Craft, Dance, Story Club and Board Games.

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' experiences. We also make good use of Ysgol Maes Owen's outdoor area and classes regularly use the leisure centres Muga for outdoor PE sessions.

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

We have been able to maintain excellent pupil to staff ratio's for the academic year 2020-21 despite a significant reduction to the budget. Across school we currently have one higher level teaching assistant (HLTA), ten teaching assistants and one family liaison officer. We also have four Learning Support Assistants (LSA) who support pupils with complex 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 continued via Microsoft Teams 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 and a 'Headteacher's award' is given weekly to somebody who has been outstanding in their behaviour, attitude or work. 'Foryd Values Awards' are also given and published on class dojo for those pupils who follow them well, and an award for good use of Welsh is awarded weekly, chosen by the Criw 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, an Individual Educational Plan is drawn up to help them make good progress against personal, specific targets. The school continues to work in accordance with the Code of Practice concerning children with Additional Learning Needs. Our ALNCo in school is Mrs Samantha Hogg. Pupils are withdrawn, when appropriate, for various intervention groups, including literacy, numeracy, nurture, physical development, SALT (speech and language therapy), Headsprout and MAT (More Able and Talented groups). 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. This enabled us to designate specific toilets to each year group to ensure bubbles did not mix. All facilities are checked and cleaned by our two cleaners on a daily basis.

What we are trying to improve?

Following a rigorous self-evaluation process we devise priorities for school improvement. 2020-21 priorities include:

- To improve standards and attainment in the four main curriculum areas, from nursery to year two. (LLC, MD, PSD, PD)
- To improve emotional wellbeing (staff and pupils) and promote readiness for learning strategies within school.
- To work towards implementing the new curriculum.
- To improve standards of Welsh, working towards the Cymraeg campus silver award.
- To improve attendance and lateness.
- To work towards implementing the new ALN Bill
- To improve outdoor learning experiences.

PLCs (Professional Learning Communities or Working Groups) are established annually to develop relevant aspects of school improvement priorities.

There were 4 PLC's during 2020-21, consisting of teachers and teaching assistants from various year groups.

- Eco
- Playground Buddies
- Cymraeg Campus
- Growth Mindset





What are our child absence rates?

- 2020-21 attendance is 92.3%, steadily increasing from 89.4% throughout the academic year.
- Authorised absence – 5.7%
- Unauthorised absence – 2%
- Covid related absence 7.3%

We target the poorer attenders through careful interventions including telephone calls, text messages and meetings with our family liaison officer and attendance officer.

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 hope to be able to resume parent and governor helpers coming into school next year which is a great way to enhance the learning opportunities for our children.

Parents evenings were held during the academic year via telephone calls to ensure we kept 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

Literacy:

	Outcome 5+	Outcome 6
Year 2 (have achieved)	71.6%	10%
Year 1 (on track) Currently 4b or higher	28.8%	0%

Numeracy:

	Outcome 5+	Outcome 6
Year 2 (have achieved)	80%	11%
Year 1 (on track) Currently 4b or higher	26.9%	0%

PSD:

	Outcome 5+	Outcome 6
Year 2 (have achieved)	73.3%	18.3%
Year 1 (on track) Currently 4b or higher	51.9%	0%



FPI:

	FPI
Year 2 (have achieved)	65%
Year 1 (on track) Currently 4b or higher	36.5%

Year two end of foundation phase data is lower than previous years, however, it has improved from the on entry outcomes for this cohort. We have taken into account that these children have missed essential time in school and although home school work was provided, numbers of children engaging was not consistent and many LLC tasks were not completed. On return to school, class staff identified the children who needed additional support, and interventions were put in place accordingly. However, the children's well-being and working on connectivity again was priority as we understand that over time, these children will continue to improve academically once they feel happy and secure again in school.

Year 1 data is extremely low compared to previous years, however these children have missed essential play opportunities in both their Reception year and again in Year 1. Interventions have been put in place and during transition meetings with the new Year 2 team, the Year 1 staff have identified emotional needs as well as learning needs. During the summer pupil progress meeting, 25% of the year one pupils have been recognised as working an outcome above their peers in all areas. Therefore, the new year two team are mindful of the need for more able and talented provision in the academic year 2021-22.

Other matters of interest:

- Reception and Year 1 received Balance bike training sessions
- Year 2 have taken part in the Lead Creative Schools Project which has been a huge success
- We were awarded the Platinum Eco Award
- Our sponsored Pirate and Princess day raised a huge £1,980!
- New Parents meetings were held via Microsoft Teams





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 £729,366 with additional resources which include a substantial EIG and Foundation Phase Grant of £126,563. The total resources for the school was £1,072,214.86 and carried over a surplus of £186,881 (17%). This large carryover is intentional, planning for reduction in number of pupils.

No expenses were claimed by members of the Governing Body 2020-21

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.

Thank you

The Governors wish to express a special thank you to our longstanding members of staff who retired at the end of the academic year. We wish Mrs Watson, Mrs Stockford and Mrs Crumpton-Whitehead a long and happy retirement.

The Governors would also like to wish Miss Smedley the very best of luck on her two year sabbatical to Thailand and wish to thank her for her hard work, especially in delivering the Lead Creative Schools programme this year.

Also a special thanks to Miss R Seeley for all her hard work and commitment to maintaining the high standards within the office, and to Mrs Anne Fraser who has worked diligently in her role as Clerk to the Governors.

A special thank you to Mrs Anwen Maher for supporting our families through another difficult year, providing food hampers and a listening ear at times of need. Also to Joanne Matthews for her great support in providing support to those in their time of need.

Thank you also to Ceri Williams and Marc Berw-Hughes who have supported Ysgol y Foryd as our 'Supporting Improvement officers' this year. We look forward to continuing to work with Marc during the next academic year.

The staff and pupils are also to be thanked and congratulated on a wonderful year. They have met the needs of pupils within difficult boundaries during the year.

Thank you to all the parents for your continued support:

- for supporting your children with their home learning when necessary
- for supporting in our PTA events which raised money for school during such difficult times
- for supporting our ethos of believing in the ability of every single child in our school and providing the nurture and encouragement they need to develop and grow