



Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn



Annual Governors' Report to Parents

September 2021 - July 2022

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn



Ffordd Tywysog Siarl / Prince Charles Road
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Rhian Hughes
Headteacher

Spring Term 2023

Dear Friends

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Governors Report 2021 / 2022. It has been another busy and successful year. The school has largely emerged from all the restrictions and necessary precautions imposed through Covid, although staff remain vigilant and cautious. Our thanks go to Mrs Hughes and her staff for allowing the school to remain open through their diligence in ensuring that all guidelines were strictly followed. Also, our thanks must go to you for your continued understanding and support.

Last year, our school was renamed, becoming Ysgol Caer Gwenyn. In June of this year, we were delighted to welcome Iolo Williams (renowned broadcaster and naturalist) to officially launch our new name and open our wild garden area. We were pleased to have the opportunity to thank all those who had played a part in refurbishing the new building and facilitating the expansion of the school. Our school continues to grow and we have been able to welcome new children and their families along with new members of staff. After many years of uncertainty our school can now look forward to continued growth and development, providing the very best opportunities for all our children.

It is a privilege to be involved with this very special school. Mrs Hughes and her staff are truly exceptional in the level of care and expertise given to the children, and the support that they extend to the families. It is the Governing Body's role to provide support for them. Being a governor is rewarding but also demands a level of commitment in that some short training courses are statutory. We have vacancies for parent governors so if you feel you would like to be involved in the running of the school then please contact Mrs Hughes to find out more information. Together we can look forward to more and greater success in the future.

Kind regards

Jane Howells

Chair of Governors

COMPOSITION OF CURRENT GOVERNING BODY 2022 - 2023

Name	Type of Governor	End Date
Jane Howells – Chair	Community	2025
Sara Williams	Staff	2024
Rhian Hughes	Headteacher	Continuous
Toni Gwilliam	Teacher	2026
Laurina Smith	Community	2023
Emily Parry	Local Authority	2025
Rebecca Williams	Parent	2023
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Parent</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Parent</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Additional Community</i>	

Chairperson and Clerk to the Governors for 2022 / 2023

The Chair (Jane Howells) and the Clerk to the Governors (Nina Pryce) can be contacted through the school:

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, Prince Charles Road, Wrexham, LL13 8TH
01978 356177, mailbox@ysgolcaergwenyn.wrexham.sch.uk

Information is also available at www.ysgolcaergwenyn.co.uk

If you are interested in becoming a governor and would like more information about the role please contact Jane Howells, Chair, or Rhian Hughes, Headteacher.



Current Staff 2022 – 2023

Becky Blakeley	Teaching Practitioner Level 4 / School Transport Coordinator / Outdoor Play Coordinator
Beth Griffiths	Teacher / Physio Coordinator / Eco Coordinator / Student Coordinator
Courtney Roberts	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / Educational Resources Coordinator
Elizabeth Jones	Teacher / ALNco / Additional Learning Needs Coordinator / Curriculum & Assessment
Emma Dransfield	Teaching Practitioner Level 4 / Parent Coordinator / Attendance
Hayley Whitfield	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / Supply Staff Coordinator
Jackie Whalley	Teaching Practitioner Level 4 / School Uniform / SMILE Coordinator
Julie Miller	School Caretaker
Katie Judd	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / Outreach / First Steps Coordinator
Mel Jones	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / Well Being Coordinator / ELSA Coordinator
Nina Pryce	Administration (School Secretary) / Clerk to the Governors / Website Coordinator
Rachel Samuels	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / Expressive Arts Coordinator / Eco Coordinator
Rhian Hughes	Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Person / Curriculum & Assessment
Ryleigh Blakeley	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / Physical Development Coordinator
Sara Williams	Teaching Practitioner Level 4 / Home School Links Coordinator / Primary Steps Coordinator
Sophie Gillett	Teaching Practitioner Level 2 / School Meals Coordinator / Visual Resources Coordinator
Toni Gwilliam	Teacher with ALN Responsibilities / Health & Safety Coordinator / IT Coordinator
Yvonne Rowley	Teaching Practitioner Level 4 / Hygiene Coordinator / ELKLAN Coordinator

Visit by Governors

Throughout the school year, the Governors are frequent and welcomed visitors to the school. Full governing body meetings are held each half term with various sub-committee meetings in the interim. All governors have specific areas of responsibility, determined at the start of each academic year. Governors attend training sessions on a range of subjects, and seek to evaluate and improve their own performance. Governors receive no monies for expenses incurred as all duties are carried out on a voluntary basis.

The Governor's Curricular Aims

As part of the new Curriculum which became statutory in September 2022, all members of the school were consulted about our vision and values.

Our values and aims for our children are -

Warm, caring and friendly ethos	All who step in to the building are warmly welcomed. Visitors to Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, often remark on the lovely atmosphere within the school. We work hard to make sure that the school is bright, clean, colourful and attractive with fairy lights and fresh flowers helping to enhance the environment. We strive to make all visitors and members of the school community feel comfortable, relaxed and at ease.
Fun and laughter	We believe in the power of humour! Staff in Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn are not afraid to have fun and at times, tell jokes, act in a silly way etc, to generally bring smiles and laughter in to the classroom. We believe that children model their mood, behaviour and their attitude on the adults around them. Here in school, our staff show joy, smiles and enthusiasm and act as positive role models to the children around them.
Inclusive education	In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, all our children are valued, respected and their individual needs met by dedicated and experienced practitioners. We ensure that all our children are treated fairly and that regardless of their needs or barriers to learning, we create supportive classroom environments where all achievements are celebrated no matter how small or large.
Family feel/positive relationships and partnerships	Here in school, we strive to build positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Parents / carers are welcomed into the school and are encouraged to have an input into the many different aspects of school life. Staff recognise the skills and talents of parents and help nurture their talents. Parents and family members are made to feel that their opinions and ideas matter and that they feel a genuine sense of ownership. School believes that its relationship with parents is of paramount importance and that a solid Home / School partnership provides the best opportunity for the holistic development of the child.
Dedicated team of staff	Our staff work hard to ensure that every child succeeds in every way possible. They are committed, passionate and dedicated staff who are constantly looking at ways to raise standards because they want each and every child to do their very best.
Environmentally aware	In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we are taking active steps to make our school a greener and more eco friendly place. We are working hard to cultivate and promote an awareness of environmental issues within the school. Our wildlife garden is enjoyed by all members of the school community as well as the local wildlife!

Our Curriculum Rationale can be obtained from the school's Reception office

Our shared school vision

Hand in Hand Together we can

Law yn Llaw, gyda'n gilydd mi allwn

Curriculum for Wales

The Welsh Curriculum becomes statutory in September 2022.

In Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, we are delivering a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum, allowing all our children to have fun whilst learning. We have been preparing for the full implementation of the curriculum for a number of years.

Activities are pitched at the children's level of development enabling them to learn and succeed at a rate suitable to each individual. There are six new areas of Learning and Experience namely: • Languages, Literacy and Communication • Mathematics and Numeracy • Science and Technology • Humanities • Health and Well being • Expressive Arts.

The four purposes of the curriculum are the shared vision and aspiration for every child and young person. They are at the heart of our new curriculum and guide and direct everything we do at Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn. In supporting the development of the four purposes, we set high expectations for all – to raise standards, tackle the attainment gap, and ensure that our curriculum supports lifelong learning.

All teaching and learning is underpinned by these four core purposes. The four purposes are the starting point for all decisions on the content and experiences developed as part of the curriculum to support our children and young people to become: • ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives • enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work • ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world • healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Further information for parents / carers can be obtained from <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/a-new-curriculum-in-wales-a-guide-for-parents>

Staff Professional Development

Staff accessed online courses throughout the year. The pandemic meant that we utilised, in the main, online training. In 2021 - 22 the planned focus for all our training was on preparing for the new ALN Code of Practice and the Welsh Curriculum. Although the pandemic initially continued to impact on face to face training, we were able to adapt and utilise online training where possible. Our staff are highly experienced and undergo annual performance reviews to ensure the highest standards of achievement are maintained.

Environmental Awareness

The school continues to work towards becoming a greener and more environmentally aware establishment. The wildflower meadow has been further developed through the planting of new trees and shrubs. In July, Iolo Williams the BBC Presenter and Naturalist, officially launched the new building and wildflower area. We were extremely fortunate to have the support and advice of Jacinta Challinor Wrexham Council and Iwan Edwards of the North Wales Wildlife Trust to help develop our grounds.

Financial Statements

The budget is based on a formula allocation.

The Finance Committee meets regularly to monitor income and expenditure.

Summary of the LA statement – attached



School Fund Account

Usually the school receives donations from various organisations eg Tempest Photography. Due to the pandemic, the children did not have their photographs taken this year.

School funds are used in the main to purchase resources and to finance events such as the Christmas party. The full accounts of the School Fund are available for inspection on request. The School Fund Account is audited annually by Mr Robert Godfrey, of Godfrey Edwards Accountants.

Summary of Transactions – School Fund Account

Year Ended 31st March 2022

Receipts

Balances brought forward

Bank Current Account £2,394.51

Cheque written back in £

Receipts

Income £2,367.56

£4,762.07

Payments

Expenditure

Bank Current Account £2,721.00

Balance carried forward £2041.07

£4,762.07

School Prospectus

The school prospectus was updated with new term dates and personnel. The Governors felt that the prospectus was very user friendly and that the format need not be changed. The prospectus is available on our school website. A copy is made available on request, to all our parents. Amendments were made to the new prospectus including more information and guidelines regarding attendance and the Welsh Curriculum. Parents give permission for their child to appear in the new prospectus.

School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan looks at the action required to move the school forward. A copy of this plan is displayed in the school foyer and on the school website. A copy of the plan is available on request to the Headteacher.

Key Development Priorities for 2021 - 2022

- To improve outcomes for all pupils through the implementation of the new Welsh Curriculum.
- To continue to prepare for ALN reform, ensuring effective support is accessible for all ALN learners.
- To reinforce closer links with parents / carers and with the local community.
- To further develop and improve the outdoor classroom.

Governors continually monitor and evaluate progress within the school. The school's Self Evaluation document is constantly reviewed and discussed. School policies are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Following our last Estyn inspection in 2015, a Post Inspection Action Plan was drawn up addressing the report's recommendations -

- To improve children's problem solving skills.
- To develop opportunities for children to use and apply their numeracy skills across all areas of learning and in the outdoor environment.
- To improve monitoring procedures and make better use of data to evaluate the impact of initiatives on children's outcomes.

These recommendations helped to form the basis of our subsequent School Improvement Plan.

Nursery – The school welcomed 23 children into their Nursery year in September 2021.

Reception – Twelve children returned in September 2021 for the year. Due to the pandemic one child returned to start their Year 2 in September 2021 but due to health issues did not attend school.

Early Education – children attend EE in the Spring and Summer terms. Five enrolled in January 2022 and a further 7 enrolled in April 2022. Of which eleven children have returned in September 2022 for their Nursery education.

Flying Start – The Flying Start provision ended here in July 2022.

Community Links

School maintains its strong links with the community.

Due to the pandemic the school was not able to visit St Anne's Church at Christmas or Easter.

Mrs Sara Williams liaised closely with Health Visitors in her role as Home / School Links Coordinator and staff regularly liaised with colleagues in our feeder schools. The school has worked in partnership with local schools as part of the Primary Steps scheme.

Curriculum and Organisation

The school continued to prepare for the full implementation of the Welsh Curriculum. The emphasis is very much on active learning and discovery and seeks to establish routines and behaviours which prepare children for the next phase in their education.

Pupils With Additional Learning Needs

"Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn, values all its pupils equally and aims to cater for their individual needs to give them full access to the curriculum." *Policy statement*

We place great importance in involving and working closely with parents to achieve the best outcomes for children. We ensure that the additional and differing needs of our children are appropriately identified as set out in The Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice.

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn is a truly inclusive school where all children's achievements are shared and celebrated within the whole school community.

Parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress and where appropriate any outside specialist help is obtained. A copy of the school's ALN policy is on the school website and a paper copy is available from the Headteacher.

Liz Jones is the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator. She is responsible to the Head Teacher for the implementation of the School Policy. The ALNCo has responsibility for assessing individual needs and identifying appropriate provision. She monitors the progress and targets for each child and holds regular meetings with parents to review their child's progress. The ALNCo arranges for the transition of children to and from our school.

Throughout the year, the ALNCo liaised closely with outside agencies including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists and Health Visitors. She attended numerous courses and meetings throughout the year.

The Governing Body approve all ALN policies and have appointed a Governor with responsibility for Additional Learning Needs.

Physical access to the school is good. The school possesses specialised toilet facilities including a changing bed.

Attendance

The attendance figures for 2021 / 2022 were:

Reception attendance – **80.25%**, authorised absence – 16.33%, unauthorised absence – 3.42%.

Nursery attendance – **80.68%**, authorised absence – 15.07%, unauthorised absence – 4.25%.

Early Entitlement attendance – **75%**, authorised absence – 14.85%, unauthorised absence – 10.15%.

We continue to monitor unauthorised absences and employ a variety of strategies to encourage regular attendance. Parents are encouraged to contact the school when their children are unwell or when they are unable to attend school. The Attendance Coordinator, Emma Dransfield and the Home School Link Coordinator, Sara Williams make first day absence phone calls. They offer support to parents if there are difficulties in children attending school.

Safeguarding / Child Protection

The Welsh Office guidance makes it clear that schools have an important role to play in the protection of children from abuse. This is confirmed in Wrexham County Borough Council Policy, which sets out procedures to be followed by staff. The school therefore has a duty to refer any concerns about the well being of pupils to SPOA (Single Point of Access for Children). All staff and governors receive Safeguarding / Child Protection training. Rhian Hughes is the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) in the school. Rebecca Williams is the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding.



Premises

The Health and Safety Coordinator and members of the governing body regularly inspect the premises and make detailed risk assessments. Any issues are promptly addressed. Contractors regularly maintain the outdoor premises.

Equal Opportunity

The school is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. The school's policy is available from the Headteacher.

Healthy Living

The school continues to set targets and to raise standards in this area. We have a Level 5 in the Food Hygiene rating. A member of staff has responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of hygiene are adhered to.

School continues to participate in the Design to Smile scheme. We have achieved the Gold Badge for our commitment and continuing support to the programme for three or more years. The scheme is currently postponed due to the pandemic.

Healthy Food

Our children are provided with healthy snacks in the morning and have a choice of milk or water to drink. Our Reception children are now eligible for a free school meal.

Toilet Facilities

The children's toilets are modern and bright and separate toilet areas for nappy changing are available. These areas have specialised beds and contain various items to hold the children's attention during the process. Strict policies are in place with regard to changing and toileting children.

Mrs Sara Williams offers outreach support and works with parents to help with the toilet training process.

Toilets are cleaned daily and the Health and Safety Coordinator Liz Jones and the Health and Hygiene Coordinator Yvonne Rowley ensure that the highest standards are maintained.

Welsh Language Development

The primary language spoken in the school is English with Welsh being used as an additional language throughout the school day. All signs and displays are labelled bilingually and children are encouraged to use incidental Welsh at every opportunity. Songs and rhymes are enjoyed in Welsh. Every morning the children and staff greet each other in Welsh, English and in a range of languages such as Polish. Makaton Sign Language is used continuously throughout the sessions.

Contact with the School

Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with staff. Parents received their child's annual report in July and were invited to discuss any problems or concerns that arose.

Sara Williams makes weekly phone calls to parents / carers. She is also available every day at the school gate to meet with parents, answer any questions they may have and to offer advice and support. Sara and our Parent Coordinator, Emma Dransfield help to strengthen the home school relationship.

The school produces regular newsletters so that parents are informed of any events / activities that might be taking place. Our website and Instagram page is continually updated to provide information and support for parents.

AGM for Parents

Annual General Meetings are no longer a statutory requirement. New guidelines do not require governors to hold an annual meeting from May 2013. Parents are now able to request up to 3 meetings per year with the Governing Body via petition. Further information is available from the school.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2022 – September 2nd – December 22nd

Half Term – 31/10/22 – 04/11/22

Spring Term 2023 – January 10th – March 31st

Half Term – 20/02/23 – 24/02/23

Summer Term 2023 – April 18th – July 19th

Half Term – 29/5/23 – 02/06/23

Training Days

1st September 2022

28th October 2022

23rd December 2022

9th January 2023

17th April 2023

20th July 2023

The Governing Body wish to thank
the Headteacher and staff of the
school for their sustained
commitment to the school's well
being.

Mrs Jane Howells
Chair of the Governing Body

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn

Summary Financial Expenditure Statement 2021 / 2022

Financial Year 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

<u>Budget Heading</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Employees	476,196.00	461,863.44	14,332.56
Premises	12,975.00	4,781.01	8,193.99
Transport	100.00	145.89	-45.89
Supplies	22,265.00	8,396.67	13,868.33
3 rd Party Payments	19,097.00	3,542.37	15,554.63
Support Services	5,067.00	7,105.67	-2,038.67
Income	-203,068.00	-287,875.19	84,807.19
	332,632.00	197,959.86	134,672.14