



Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn

Hand in Hand - together we can



Annual Governors' Report to Parents

September 2024 - July 2025

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn



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Liz Jones
Acting Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Governors Report for 2024 / 2025. It has been a busy, successful and momentous year for our school.

In September 2024, the consultation process was initiated to change the status of the school. In August 2025, Ysgol Caer Gwenyn officially became a designated Special School for children with additional learning needs, up to the age of 7. We can now look forward to a stable and bright future.

In April we sadly said goodbye to our wonderful and inspirational headteacher Mrs Rhian Hughes as she took her retirement. Rhian became headteacher of Caia Park Nursery in September 2007, overseeing the transition into Wrexham Early Years Centre in April 2012 and finally Ysgol Caer Gwenyn in December 2020. Under her leadership the school gained its reputation for excellence and became the warm, welcoming and exceptional school that it is today. Our staff will nurture her legacy and continue to strive and maintain our standard of excellence. We all want to say a huge thank you to her and wish her every happiness in her retirement years. The Governing Body are delighted that Mrs Liz Jones agreed to take on the role of Acting Headteacher in the interim, until a permanent Head can be appointed.

Just as last year was a busy year, there is much to do in the year to come. Our staff continue to provide the best opportunities for all our children and the Governing Body are forever grateful to them. We all look forward to continued growth and development and as always hugely appreciate your continued support. "Hand in Hand, together we can".

With kind regards

Jane Howells

(Chair of Governors)



COMPOSITION OF CURRENT GOVERNING BODY 2025 - 2026

Name	Type of Governor
Jane Howells – Chair	Community
Martine Richards – Vice Chair	Local Authority
Liz Jones	Acting Headteacher
Sara Williams	Staff
Toni Gwilliam	Teacher
Louise Ball	Parent
Adam Baxter	Parent
Dee Prydderch	Parent
Kelsey Davies	Local Authority
Rebecca Williams	Community
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Additional Community</i>

Chairperson and Clerk to the Governors for 2025 / 2026

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 of Governors or Liz Jones, Acting Headteacher.



Current Staff 2025 – 2026

Aimee Colley	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Becky Griffiths	Teaching Practitioner Level 4
David Griffiths	Class Teacher – Dosbarth Grug
Edona Veliu	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Erin Walker	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Hayley Whitfield	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Jackie Whalley	Teaching Practitioner Level 4
Jessica Smith	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Julie Miller	School Caretaker
Katie Judd	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Laura Rowlands	Class Teacher – Dosbarth Gwyddfifid
Liz Jones	Acting Headteacher / ALNCo
Mel Jones	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Nina Pryce	School Administrator / Clerk to the Governors
Rachel Samuels	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Robyn Rehbock	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Sara Williams	Teaching Practitioner Level 4
Sophie Gillett	Teaching Practitioner Level 2
Toni Gwilliam	Class Teacher – Dosbarth Lafant
Yvonne Rowley	Teaching Practitioner Level 4

Visit by Governors

Throughout the school year, the Governors are 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

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 became 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.

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 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 face to face and online courses throughout the year on themes such as Well-Being and Trauma Informed Practice. Staff 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.

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

Occasionally, the school receives donations from various organisations. In February we received a total of £87.82 from Tempest Photography.

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, Wrexham.

Summary of Transactions – School Fund Account

Year Ended 31st March 2025

Receipts

Balances brought forward

Bank Current Account £1,856.63

Receipts

Income £3,465.32

—————
£5,321.95

Payments

Expenditure

Bank Current Account £3,153.05

Balance carried forward £2,168.90

—————
£5,321.95

School Prospectus

The school prospectus was updated with new term dates and personnel. The prospectus is available on our school website. A copy is made available on request, to all our parents. Parents give permission for their child to appear in the new prospectus.



School Development Plan

The School Development 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 full School Development Plan is available on request to the Headteacher.

Key Improvement Priorities for 2025 - 2026

1. To further develop a whole school 'Total Communication' approach in order to enhance children's communication and learning skills.
2. To further develop therapeutic approaches and targeted interventions, in order to support the behavioural, social and emotional wellbeing of our pupils.
3. To develop classroom curriculum, resourcing and practise effectively promotes independent learning and making choices, both indoors and outdoors in line with Curriculum for Wales.
4. To improve pupils' real-life experiences and learning through local visits and community visitors.

Nursery – The school welcomed 13 children into their Nursery year in September 2024.

Reception – Twenty six children returned in September 2024 for the year.

Year 1 – 8 children

Year 2 – 4 children

Community Links

'The school works in close partnership with external agencies, such as speech and language therapists, health visitors, the educational psychology service and social care professionals. This multi-agency approach is highly effective and has a positive impact on pupil development.'

Estyn Inspection Report 2023

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.

School maintains its strong links with the community e.g. St Anne's Church and the Caia Park Partnership.

We continue to have students from Coleg Cambria on placement.



Visitors to School

The children's choir from St Anne's School have visited YCG to sing to our children. Make Some Noise visited school in the Autumn Term and the band entertained and chatted to our children about all their instruments.

Curriculum and Organisation

'The school's curriculum has suitable breadth and enables pupils to develop their skills and knowledge at an appropriate level.' Estyn Inspection 2023

The emphasis is very much on active experiential 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 (ALNCo). 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.

Estyn Inspection

The school had an Interim Inspection from Estyn in April 2025. In the interim letter the school's progress in supporting communication through the 'Total Communication,' approach was commended as was the collaborative working between school and the Speech and Language Therapy Service. The interim letter can be accessed on the Estyn Website and on the school's website.

Attendance

The attendance figures for 2024 / 2025 were:

Overall – 89%

Absence – 11%

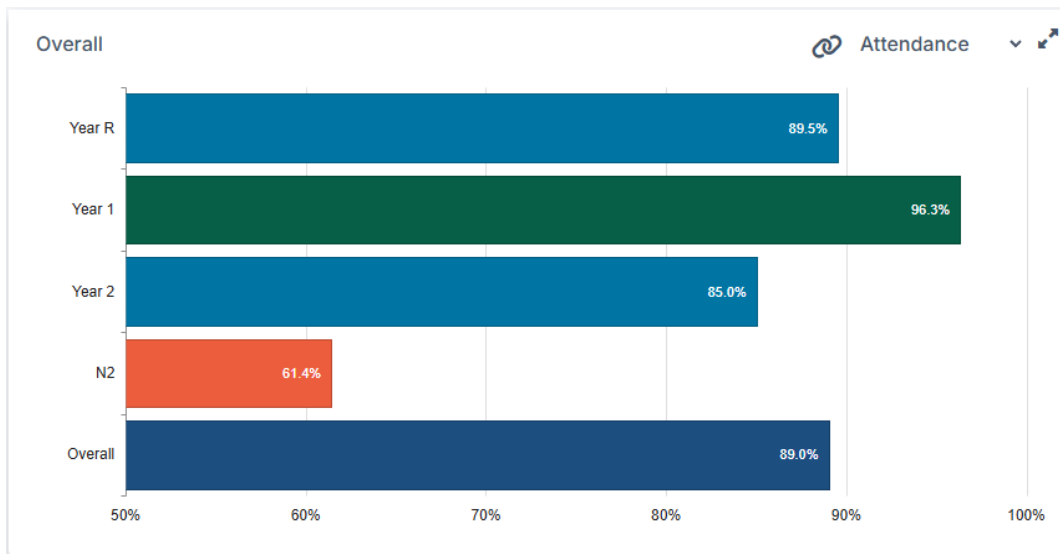
Persistent Absence – 44.8%

Authorised – 9.1%

Unauthorised – 1.9%

Lates – 1.1%

The Management Information System changed in March 2025 from SIMS to Bromcom.



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 Home School Link Coordinator, Sara Williams makes first day absence phone calls. School offers 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 wellbeing 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. In June 2025 school underwent a Health and Safety Audit gaining an excellent 'Green,' classification.



We continue to be concerned about the road issues outside school and are liaising with the Council's health and safety officer to try and find more solutions to the traffic problem.

School has had new fencing around the perimeter, new tarmac near Dosbarth Grug and we have also added to the outdoor play equipment.

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.

Healthy Food

Our children are provided with healthy snacks in the morning and have a choice of milk or water to drink. Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are 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 Toni Gwilliam 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 staff 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.

Class teachers and Sara Williams make weekly phone calls to parents / carers. The Headteacher is available at the school gate to meet with parents, answer any questions they may have and to offer advice and support.

The school produces regular updates on the Seesaw app informing parents of weekly activities and topics and to post pictures of the children engaging in their activities. Our website and Instagram page are continually updated to provide information and support for parents.

AGM for Parents

Annual General Meetings are no longer a statutory requirement. 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 - 2025 / 2026

Autumn Term 2025 – September 1st – December 19th

Half Term – 27/10/25 – 31/10/25

Spring Term 2026 – January 5th – March 26th

Half Term – 16/02/26 – 20/02/26

Summer Term 2026 – April 13th – July 17th

Half Term – 25/5/26 – 29/05/26

Training Days

1st September 2025

24th October 2025

5th January 2026

27th March 2026

22nd May 2026

20th July 2026

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

*Jane Howells
Chair of the Governing Body*

Ysgol Cae'r Gwenyn

Summary Financial Expenditure Statement 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

<u>Budget Heading</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Staffing	891,354.00	820,509.00	70,845.00
Premises	24,678.00	21,572.00	3,106.00
Travel Costs	409.00	52.00	357.00
Supplies & Services	9,409.00	8,137.00	1,272.00
3 rd Party Payment	-135,334.00	1,280.00	-136,614.00
Support Services	9,454.00	9,052.00	402.00
Total Income	<u>-383,900.00</u>	<u>-172,877.00</u>	<u>-211,023.00</u>
Totals	416,070.00	687,726.00	-271,656.00