

# YSGOL CYNFRAN



## ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

2023-2024

## **Work of the Governing Body**

The Governors have continued to meet regularly to oversee the work of the school. There are a combination of full governing body meetings and subcommittee meetings. Reports and presentations have been received on Additional Educational Needs Reform, Curriculum for Wales, curriculum developments, attendance, financial matters, as well as proposed developments in the school.

## **School Policies**

School policies are constantly being reviewed and updated in line with Welsh Government, the local authority and the Consortium. All policies are reviewed and approved annually or every three years depending on the nature of the policy.

Governors regularly review school policies and procedures.

## **School Development Plan**

The School Development Plan (SDP) is an essential part of our School Improvement Cycle, setting out the priorities for school improvement. The plan this year was to work on 2 main targets and 3 additional priorities. The Headteacher and staff in conjunction with the governing body are responsible for drawing up the School Development Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take in delivering the curriculum and raising standards across the school. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements. The following shows each target and a summary of progress from 2023-2024.

Priority 1: To raise standards in Languages, Literacy and Communication with a focus on extended writing skills.

- Pupils can now identify text features and plan their writing more effectively across genres.
- Pupils in Year 3/4 have shown improved handwriting.
- Pupils benefit from movement in class, with early signs of improved behaviour.
- The school is showing increased Welsh language promotion and is close to applying for the award.
- Regular Welsh assemblies and cultural events have enhanced pupil engagement.
- Pupils gained a deeper understanding of French through French Week.
- Staff are developing their understanding of progression through effective AOLE monitoring.

Priority 2: To improve the standards of numerical reasoning across the school

- Pupils benefit from improved cross-curricular numeracy, and better integration in foundation phase provision areas.
- Older pupils practice numerical reasoning consistently, enhancing their skills.
- Pupils apply mathematical concepts in real-life contexts.
- Pupils experienced meaningful cross-curricular numeracy through Olympic-themed lessons.
- Pupils use Numicon to learn number concepts and support those with ALN.
- Pupils improve their skills in data collection, analysis, and interpretation through the ICT data handling project.
- Older pupils showed improved national test scores.

Additional Priority 1: To develop CFW planning to ensure that the 4 purposes are underpinned.

- Collaborative planning sessions have enhanced staff understanding and integration of the 4 purposes, contributing to the school ethos that is underpinned by these purposes.
- The 4 purposes are becoming part of the school's ethos, guiding daily activities and interactions, and fostering a shared vision among staff and pupils.
- Pupils participated in enterprise projects, making and selling items during the Christmas concerts. This encouraged independence and practical skills. Pupils were able to work out profit and use this to purchase items for their class.
- Regular updates to planning and collaborative planning has improved staff understanding and application of the 4 purposes, ensuring these principles are increasingly embedded in the curriculum.

Additional Priority 2: To develop standards of health and wellbeing

- Pupils in every class report that they complete the calm me sessions regularly and they report that they enjoy these sessions. Calm me sessions have positively impacted on pupil behaviour. They have learned strategies to help develop better emotional regulation skills.
- Staff communication improved using various methods.
- Regular TA meetings ensure that staff are informed and included in whole school initiatives and decisions. This contributes to better team work.
- Nearly all staff Participated in the "5 Ways to Wellbeing" session with CAHMS. The session equipped staff with practical strategies to manage their wellbeing, leading to a more positive and supportive work environment despite the difficult circumstances they were all working under.
- The performance management process has allowed staff to develop their chosen targets based on their individual assessments against the teaching and TA standards.

Additional Priority 3: To ensure the school has fully addressed all aspects of ALN Reform.

- Various training sessions on topics such as Positive Approaches to Behaviour, Understanding Behaviour, Working Memory, and Sensory Processing have equipped staff with the knowledge to understand child development and manage behaviour effectively.
- The consistent implementation of strategies such as visual timetables, now and next charts, target plans, and plans for a good day has created a structured and supportive environment for pupils.
- Pupils requiring targeted intervention receive regular support through programs like Nessy, Reading Eggs, Athletics, Maths Seeds, daily diaries, and regular reading, leading to improved academic outcomes.
- Timetables for classes without a TA have been developed to ensure that all pupils receive ongoing interventions, maintaining continuity and support for those who need it.
- Regular support through targeted interventions has led to noticeable improvements in pupils' learning and confidence.
- Staff understanding of child development and behaviour expectations has resulted in more proactive and effective behaviour management across the school.
- The use of visual and structured support strategies has created a more predictable and supportive learning environment for all students, particularly those with additional needs.
- Continuous professional development through various training sessions has ensured that staff are well-prepared to meet the diverse needs of students, enhancing overall educational quality.
- A combination of targeted interventions, consistent support strategies, and informed staff practices has contributed to the holistic development and well-being of students.

## **Prospectus Changes**

The prospectus is changed every year if necessary to reflect any alterations in staff. It also reflects any other significant changes to the school that may affect pupils. A supplement is published with the prospectus, giving details of important dates and other information as needed.

The prospectus has been updated in line with statutory guidelines. The main changes relate to the changes to the curriculum that are statutory from September 2022. Copies are available on the school's website and paper copies are available on request.

## **Curriculum**

The school follows the statutory Curriculum for Wales.

We will be supporting our pupils to be:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their life
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens, ready to take part in Wales and the world, and
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

These are the 'four purposes' of the curriculum

## **Areas of Learning and Experience**

As well as literacy, numeracy, digital skills and sex and relationship education, there are six areas of learning and experience. Everything our pupils learn will be connected to these areas.

- Humanities
- Health and well-being
- Expressive Arts
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Science and technology
- Mathematics and Numeracy

Further information regarding the Curriculum for Wales is available at the school office and on the school website.

The curriculum is delivered making use of a full range of pedagogical principles, and making use of the indoor and outdoor space wherever it is determined to be most beneficial to children and their ways of learning. It includes making use of the outdoor space in school, in the local area, and at settings such as Llechwedd, local museums, Bodnant Gardens and local beaches. Learning is pupil led where possible, taking into account the interests of the children. It is also delivered in topics and through the use of role play and drama.

## **Welsh**

Ysgol Cynfran is an English Medium Primary School and is committed to the promotion of Welsh language and culture. Pupils have regular and frequent instruction in Welsh as a second language and incidental Welsh is encouraged at all times. The school is working towards the bronze Cymraeg Campus award.

Whilst children are taught through the medium of English, every effort is made to deliver as much possible through the medium of Welsh, including incidental use, and focussed use in lessons. This begins with colours, weather, age, name at Nursery and Reception. By Year 6, we expect children to speak with confidence in the present and past tense and occasional use of the future tense.

## **International Languages**

As part of the Curriculum for Wales, progression in international language(s) is shown in descriptions of learning for Progression step 3, 4 and 5. In addition to Welsh and English, all pupils should have the opportunity to learn at least one international language at school and to use other home languages and community languages they may speak. Pupils in Year 5 and 6 have experience of French language and culture.

## **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**

We have an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator who works with staff and pupils from all year groups, principally by withdrawal, using a range of appropriate resources. We also have the benefit of teaching assistants (TAs) who are able to provide support within school.

Consultation is made whenever appropriate with agencies such as the Educational Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapy etc.

Children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) are fully catered for. This takes place in small group sessions with Teaching Assistants, and in mainstream lessons where work is differentiated according to ability. The school is accredited for its approach to meeting the needs of children with Autism. There is also a focus on more able and talented children who are undertaking activities during the week to match their abilities, in lessons, undertaking specific activities.

The school makes use of specialist external providers to support children with ALN, including education psychologist, school nurse, CAMHS, school-based counselling, Speech & Language, Learning Support (dyslexia support), Sensory Support, Autism Outreach Support, Outreach Support, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Childhood Development Support. In consultation with these agencies, resources, appropriate strategies and intervention are provided to children who qualify.

## **Annual Meeting With Parents**

Until 2012, the governing body held or offered to hold an annual meeting for parents with governors. There is no longer a requirement for us to do this, and due to the very small number of parents who have attended these meetings in the past, we do not intend to hold one this year. However, parents are entitled to request up to three meetings per year with the governing body via petition, as summarised here:

The governing body must hold a meeting within 25 days of receiving the petition, providing that:

1. The petition contains the signatures of the required minimum number of parents of registered pupils at the school, which is the lower of the following:
  - i. the parents of 10% of registered pupils, or

- ii, the parents of 30 registered pupils;
- 2. The meeting requested by parents must be to discuss a matter relating to the school;
- 3. There will be no more than three meetings held during the year in which the first petition is received;
- 4. There are sufficient school days left in the school year for the meeting to be held.

*(School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013)*

### **Financial position April 2024:**

Total Budget - £914,515

Total expenditure - £1,183,696

Income received - £293,855

Carryover - £24,711

% as carryover - 2.7%

### **Pupil Information For 2023-24**

Pupils on roll – Total 173

Free school Meal entitlement – Calculated weekly average 61

Additional Learning Needs. Pupils on:

School maintained IDP – 12

LA Maintained IDP – 17

School Action + – 2

Number of permanent exclusions in the 2023-2024 school year = 0

Number of fixed term exclusions in the 2023-2024 school year = 0

### **General Information**

All year groups are based in bright and functional classrooms within the main school building. Outdoor learning areas continue to be developed in line with our desire to provide all children with exciting, interesting and innovative opportunities to learn outside as well as indoors.

The school prides itself on promoting an active lifestyle for all learners. Physical Education is provided to all children through the year. Children in Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 visit the Leisure Centre each year for a programme of swimming lessons. The school now has a 'pump track' used during lesson times to develop physical skills. We are working with Ffit Conwy to look at ways to develop pupils' bike skills as they progress through the school. Year 5 and 6 took part in Swim Safe sessions in the sea at Porth Eirias and many classes used the local MUGA facilities and play park to deliver Physical education. Pupils in KS2 took part in Cricket lessons and the school competed in a local Cricket competition. In addition to this, MW sports run frequent sessions after school throughout the year.

The wellbeing garden is being developed. Benches were built for children to use in their free time and donated plants were planted in the area.

All children take part in the Christmas performances if they wish to and Year 6 performed a leavers' assembly for their parents.

Attendance is monitored by the headteacher. All absences are expected to be reported to school. These are recorded and where holidays are requested, authorised for the first ten days of absence. It is expected that requests for holiday absence are minimal.

Ysgol Cynfran is a healthy school and we encourage children to drink water throughout the school day and to eat healthy snacks at breaktimes. The school is also nut free to ensure children with allergies are kept safe. Breakfast and hot dinners conform to the requirements as set out by the County catering team for a balanced, nutritious meal. In September 2023 school meals were free for all children in primary school.

As a statutory requirement in this report, we confirm the school has various toilet facilities through the school for Playgroup and for children in each progression step. All are cleaned on a daily basis, and additionally where appropriate.

The school is very proud of its links with the community. It works with the secondary High School, and cluster primary schools across a number of initiatives. It also works with the Police and Environmental Services. We work closely with the family team. Additionally, all year groups aim to host a celebration open afternoon / parent evening every term. We are also keen to encourage volunteer readers to work with year groups, and have a volunteer working with most year groups.

Term dates, staff training days and school holidays are attached together with a list of Governors.

### **Complaints**

We pride ourselves on our open door policy, and aim to resolve concerns informally and amicably through parent - teacher communication. Any unresolved issues should be brought to the head teacher or the deputy head teacher in the first instance. Parents who remain dissatisfied may then contact the chair of governors via the school asking for their complaint to be considered by the Governors' Complaints Committee. Our complaints policy is available from the school office, or via the website.

### **Term Dates 2024 / 2025**

Term Dates	Begin	Half term		End
		Begin	End	
Autumn	03.09.24	25.10.24	04.11.24	19.12.24
Spring	07.01.25	21.02.25	4.02.25	11.04.25
Summer	28.04.25	23.05.25	02.06.25	17.07.25
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	<b>02.09.24 20.12.24</b>	<b>06.1.25 03.03.25</b>	<b>18.07.25 21.07.25</b>	

## Hours of Attendance

Nursery:	09.00 – 11.30	
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:	08.55 – 11.45	12.40 – 15.00
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6:	08.55 – 12.15	13.10 – 15.15

## The Board of Governors

<b>YSGOL CYNFRAN LLYSFAEN - BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2023- 2024</b>			
	<b>Address</b>	<b>Term of Office Ends</b>	<b>Tel. No.</b>
<b>LA Appointed</b>			
Mr. G. W. Heap	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	10/05/28	01492 517326
Cllr G W Stewart	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	10/05/26	01492 517326
Mr R. Taylor	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	10/05/28	01492 517326
<b>Minor Authority Representative (Community Council)</b>			
Mrs S Davies	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	10/05/26	01492 517326
<b>Parent Governors</b>			
Mrs. S. Stafford	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	02/02/28	01492 517326
Mr. R. McIntyre	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	24/11/24	01492 517326
Mrs S Evans	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	27/10/27	01492 517326
Mrs R Davies	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	27/10/27	01492 517326
<b>Teacher Governor</b>			
Mrs. B. Hughes	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	09/01/26	01492 517326
<b>Staff Governor</b>			
Mrs. L. Heap	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	17/07/27	01492 517326
<b>Community Governors</b>			
Mrs. K. Guise	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	13/09/27	01492 517326
Mr. G.Davies	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	07/07/28	01492 517326
Ms. B. Jones	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen	05/04/26	01492 517326
<b>Headteacher</b>			
Mrs B Hughes Acting Head	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen		01492 517326
Mrs. C. Peter	c/o Ysgol Cynfran Llysfaen		01492 517326
<b>Chairman 2023-24</b>	Mr. G. Davies		
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Mr. G. Heap		
<b>Committees</b>			
Finance and Staffing	G. Davies, G. Heap, Cllr Stewart, B. Hughes		
Buildings	G.Davies, B.Hughes		
<b>A L N Governor</b>	Mrs. L Heap (Safeguarding Governor as well)		

All Governors may be contacted c/o Ysgol Cynfran



As a governing body, we play a strategic role in shaping the school's aims and policies, collaborating closely with the headteacher and staff to bring them to life. Our role as a critical friend involves asking challenging questions while providing the necessary support and resources to achieve the school's objectives.

This year, the school has made significant progress in developing its curriculum in line with the Curriculum for Wales guidelines and has worked hard to ensure the new ALN (Additional Learning Needs) code is implemented effectively. Although budget constraints and a decline in pupil numbers have required a reduction in classes, these structural changes have led to positive outcomes for the children. This proactive approach to change continues to sustain and enhance the quality of education at Ysgol Cynfran.

We acknowledge that this period of change has been challenging for parents, and we are grateful for your understanding and partnership.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Beth Hughes, the dedicated staff at Ysgol Cynfran, and to you, the parents and carers, for your unwavering support.

Mr G Davies,

Chair of Governors, Ysgol Cynfran