

Ysgol y Foel



Governors Annual Report to Parents 2019 - 2020

Headteacher – Mrs Emma O’Neill

Chair of Governors – Mrs Sarah Kneale

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Annwyl Rhieni,

This report has been produced to meet the statutory obligation of the Governors to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Ysgol Y Foel pupils and staff have had a challenging year as the pandemic of Covid 19 took hold with lock down, self isolation and social distancing which meant that schools had to close from March to July. The Head teacher and staff continued to work from The Caerwys Hub ensuring that children of key workers could attend school, this was also open during the school holidays. Since then there has been further work ensuring the safe return to school for all.

The School Development Plan and Self Evaluation Report continue to provide strategic direction for the school and provide the Governing Body with a real opportunity to challenge and support all members of the school leadership. Our Governing Body meetings have taken place via Microsoft Teams this year and we have had challenging and productive conversations on how we can deliver education during this period within the guidelines proved by Flintshire County council and the Welsh Government.

We had a highly successful school inspection in this period and its down to all in our school community and the hard efforts of our staff and pupils that made this so successful. The results and feedback received gave clear direction for the future and recognition of how far we have come and how well the school has done.

I and my fellow governors would like to thank you as parents for your support over the past twelve months. I would also like to thank my fellow governors for their dedication and time for the benefit of all the pupils and staff of our school.

Yours sincerely
Yn gywir

Sarah Kneale
Chair of Governors

1. Our Governing Body

The Governing body is made up of members representing parents, the community and the Local Education Authority (LEA). The Welsh Assembly Government provides guidelines for governors (available on <http://www.governorswales.org.uk>) who also undertake training provided by the LEA.

The Governing Body and the Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic management of the school and are responsible for the conduct of the school, the promotion of high standards of educational achievement, and the welfare and safeguarding of pupils. They operate within the framework set by national legislation and the policies of the Local Authority (LEA).

While the LEA is the employer of staff, the Governing Body and Headteacher have separate and particular responsibilities for their selection and management. The internal management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

The Governing Body meets regularly throughout the academic year and designates sub-committees to discuss specific issues. Sub committees advise and proposals inform decisions that are ratified by the full Governing Body. **During the Covid Pandemic governors have met over TEAMS.**

Individual Governors undertake specified roles and visit the school regularly to work alongside teachers in their delegated responsibility or subject area. This enables Governors to develop a clearer idea of how our school works, forge stronger links with teachers and provide insight and feedback to the Governing body.

The minutes of Governing Body meetings are available by contacting yfmail@hwbbmail.net or by requesting from school office.

The Governing Body for our school for the forthcoming year is shown below:

Type of Governor	Name	Term of Office	Link Governor Role
Headteacher	Mrs Emma O'Neill	N/A	
Local Authority	Mrs Merrill Tanton (Vice Chair)	2018-22	Child Protection Additional Learning Needs (ALN) More Able and Talented (MAT)
Local Authority	Mr Bruce Weston	2018-22	Welsh Bilingualism
Community	Mrs Sarah Kneale (Chair)	2014-18	Foundation Phase
Parent	Mr James Skates (Vice Chair)	2017-21	Science
Parent	Mr Richard Ledsham		Finance/Numeracy
Teacher	Mrs Amanda Walker	2017-21	
Staff	Mrs Sarah Watts	2019- 2023	Finance/ICT
Clerk to Governors	vacant	N/A	

The Chair and Clerk can be contacted via Ysgol y Foel on 01352 740197 or by writing to: Ysgol y Foel, Ffordd y Llan, Cilcain, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5NW.

Ysgol y Foel Overview

'Happy, United, Inspired Achievers' 'Dysgwr Hapus, Unedig a Ysbrydoledig'

School Aims

- To provide the optimum in quality of learning and teaching to ensure lifelong learning skills
- To establish a happy atmosphere with pupils well-being a priority, where children are eager to learn and are thoughtful, caring and respectful towards others.
- To ensure children are active global citizens and understand the need for sustainable development
- To foster a friendly open relationship with parents ensuring teachers and parents work together for the benefit of the children
- To promote and encourage links with the wider community (class, school, local, national and global)

School Session Times

Session Times	Foundation and Juniors
Session starts	8.55
Morning break	10.30 – 10.45
Lunch	12.00 – 1.00
Afternoon break	2.00 – 2.10
Session finishes	3.20

Nursery pupils have a 2 ½ hour morning session which starts at 8:55am.

During the return to school in July, start and finish times were staggered.

Term Dates 2019-2020

Term	School Opens	School Closes for Half Term	School Opens for Half Term	School Closes
Autumn	3/9/2019	25/10/19	5/11/19	20/12/19
Spring	6/1/20	14/2/20	24/2/20	3/4/20
Summer	20/4/20	22/5/20	2/6/20	17/7/20

Training Days – 2/9/19, 4/11/19, 6/1/20, 1/6/20, 20/7/20

Attendance

Not reported on due to Covid

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The governing body & staff are committed to ensuring ALN Pupil's receives equal opportunities, support and attention so that they can achieve their full potential. The school ALN policy is reviewed annually and is a document which provides full information regarding procedures and is available on the school website.

The governing body spends an appropriate amount of its budget and has a number of supportive strategies for children on the ALN register. In conjunction with the Local Authority (LA) the school actively promotes and & facilitates the inclusion of pupils with Additional needs into mainstream classes.

Pupils receiving additional help and support are reviewed on a termly basis and, if a need for further support is identified, the school contacts outside agencies; Speech & Language Therapy, (SALT) educational psychologist, (EP) CAHMS, for further guidance.

Pupils on the ALN register are monitored & cared for by a team of staff, Ancillary Support Workers & class teachers directed by Mrs O'Neill the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCO)

Buildings and Resources

Governors work to ensure that the school premises and outdoor areas are maintained to the highest level, regularly evaluating and prioritising actions.

In 2019-20 the focus has been on the continued development of the environmental learning and sustainable development.

Governors have an aspiration for Ysgol y Foel to be a leader in outdoor and environmental education and in the sustainable management of the school. Governors are also exploring the potential to establish Ysgol y Foel as a pioneer school in renewable energy.

Small schools share common challenges and Ysgol y Foel Governors are being proactive and taking a lead in identifying and establishing collaboration across small schools in the local area. The focus for collaborative working will be in areas that improve sustainability of the school, the wellbeing of pupils and educational opportunities.

Facilities for the Disabled

The Schools' Admission Policy seeks to ensure that there will be no discrimination against any pupil on the grounds of disability provided that the school is able to meet their needs. The school has an accessibility plan and a disability scheme to promote equal opportunities.

Toilet Facilities

The school provides well maintained and readily accessible toilet facilities that are available throughout the school day.

School Services

The school offers two primary extensions to the core provision of care in the form of

Breakfast Club and After School Club. (These services were suspended and staff placed on the Furlough scheme during lockdown and the return to school)

School Prospectus

The school prospectus is reviewed annually and is published on the school website or available from the school office on request. The school prospectus has recently been changed to acknowledge staffing changes within the school.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

All children are encouraged to make healthy eating choices each day. All infant pupils have milk and healthy snacks each morning. Chilled water is available for all pupils and water bottles were provide to encourage them to drink water throughout the day

School dinners are provided by Newydd Catering Services.

Sporting Activities and Extra Curricular Activities

Despite the time in school being brief the children took part in a range of sporting and extra curricular activities.

- Aura sport held lunch time club and covered PPA
- Rugby after school club took place and the children competed in the Mold Consortium competition. We also competed against Ysgol Licswm in an after school competition
- We competed in hockey, dodgeball and netball as part of the small schools league
- Polly Snape continued to develop the outdoor areas
- PC Mark visited with all year groups
- Harvest Service took place in the chapel
- PTA held a Halloween Café
- Children visited Cilcain Shop weekly using money to buy and find change and to see where products come from
- KS2 went to The Homefront Museum in Llandudno
- Year2-6 went to see the BBC Orchestra of Wales
- FP went to see Fflic and Fflac at Ysgol Nannerch and the whole school went to see Jack and The Beanstalk panto
- The children wrote the Christmas Carol Concert in Welsh and we held it at St. Marys church
- The whole community met to go Carol Singing around the village
- Year 6 children had some opportunities to visit Mold Alun for MAT activities
- Work began on a collaborative project with other small, rural schools and Theatre Clwyd (this was not completed due to Covid)
- Children took part in the school Eisteddfod
- FP attended a Jambori to sing welsh songs

The children have been offered the opportunity to take music lessons across a range of instruments.

Residential Trips were cancelled for this year

2. Financial Statement FY19/20

The Finance Committee met on a regular basis throughout the year to monitor the school's financial performance and reported appropriately to the Governors.

a) Financial statement

	Budget	Actuals
C/Forward	(1968)	
EMPLOYEES	219292	234767
TRAINING		
PREMISES	26099	23943
TRANSPORT	0	0
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	7380	20542
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	0	8139
LEA SUPPORT	12583	14412
CAPITAL FINANCING		
INCOME	(27000)	(63778)
OVERALL TOTAL	236386	238026

b) Further cuts to Foundation Phase grants have affected school finances as predicted, and small reductions in pupil numbers have a big impact on a small school such as ours. The school continues to be well supported by the PTA which has raised funds to buy additional support materials and teaching aids as well as exploring options for grants to fund larger projects.

c) No financial gifts were received during 19/20 school year.

d) No travelling or subsistence expenses were paid to any Governors during the year ended 31st March 2019. Governors are volunteers who provide their time, skills and knowledge to support and run the school.

3. Ysgol y Foel Pupil Performance

There was no performance data published due the COVID pandemic

4. 2019/20 School Development Plan

The School had a very successful inspection in June 2019 but we were unable to comment on the findings until Autumn 2019.

The main findings were:

Ysgol Y Foel is a welcoming community that provides a nurturing environment for its pupils. Nearly all pupils enjoy their learning and participate enthusiastically in lessons. Most make strong progress in developing a good range of skills that they use in activities across the areas of learning effectively.

The positive relationships between pupils and between pupils and adults are a strength of the school. All pupils behave very well. They show fairness, tolerance and respect to others. Teachers use a variety of stimulating activities to capture the interest of pupils successfully. They monitor pupils' progress closely and provide valuable additional support to pupils when needed.

The headteacher provides a firm strategic direction for the school. Staff, parents and governors share a common purpose and work well together. Leaders provide a clear focus for improvement and review progress robustly. The school makes worthwhile use of partnerships with other schools to develop the expertise of staff and enrich its curriculum.

Inspection Area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

The recommendations are as follows and these will be the schools priorities for 2019/2020

- R1. Increase pupils' use of spoken Welsh in and outside lessons
- R2. Provide greater opportunity for pupils to make choices about the direction of the own learning
- R3. Strengthen the decision-making of pupil leadership groups
- R4. Extend the range of opportunities for outdoor learning

The school has drawn up an action plan to include these recommendations.

5. Community and External Links

Our links with the local & school community are always growing and the school is involved in a range of local events. We are extremely lucky to have a supportive & very active PTA, who support the school through fund raising and school improvements.

There was a reduction in our community events due to Lockdown restrictions. Details can be found in the Sports and extra curricular section of this report.