

Ysgol y Foel



Governors Annual Report to Parents

2020 - 2021

Headteacher – Mrs Emma O'Neill

Chair of Governors – Mrs Sarah Kneale

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Annwyl Rhieni,

As with all schools pupils and staff have had a challenging year as the pandemic of Covid-19 took hold with lockdown, self-isolation and social distancing.

The governing body are dedicated to ensuring staff and pupil well-being, a good working environment and providing the best opportunities and experiences for all children. The reputation of the school and the staff is exemplary and we continually strive to provide opportunities for all to enhance their skills.

Governors continue to ensure staff and pupils have the resources they need and keep the school in good repair. This is done within the reduced budget allocation from Welsh government via the local Authority and we work closely with our Finance Officer. On appointment our elected governors attend induction training, data training and Chair training provided by the Local Authority, as set out in The Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2005/2013. We have had a changing governing body with Mrs Anne Baker, Mr Ian Hobson and Mr Bruce Weston stepping down over the course of the year and we thank them for their support and efforts in helping drive the school forward. New governors have been appointed and will commence in the new school year.

Thanks go to the parents, carers, other family and friends who contribute to all aspects of school life. This ranges from helping in the classroom to supporting events and providing materials and services. Our Ysgol y Foel PTA play an important part in the life of the school by raising money to boost resources in all areas of the school and our thanks and appreciation go to them.

We have a focus on our green energy project and improving the facilities and equipment for the school. We have commenced with developments of the outdoor area to be finalised in the next school year and had fantastic success in digital grants and equipment being provided to the school.

With great sadness we lost one of our teaching assistants Miss Johnson and a memory bench has been purchased to be a focal point of our new reflection area.

I wish all staff and pupils an enjoyable and successful year ahead as they work under Welsh government guidelines to ensure safety for all and look forward to working with you.

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 continued to meet 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@hwbmail.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 (finished June 2021)
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 – These have varied this year due to the staggered start times through the Covid pandemic.

Session Times	Foundation
Session starts	8.50
Morning break	10.30 – 10.45
Lunch	12.00 – 1.00
Afternoon break	2.10-2.20
Session finishes	2.50

Session Times	Key Stage 2
Session starts	8.40
Morning break	10.15 – 10.30
Lunch	11.30 – 12.30
Afternoon break	2.00 – 2.10
Session finishes	3.00

Nursery pupils have a 2 ½ hour morning session which starts at 8:50am.

Term Dates 2020/2021

Term	School Opens	School Closes for Half Term	School Opens for Half Term	School Closes
Autumn	3/9/20	23/10/20	2/11/20	18/12/20
Spring	5/1/21	12/2/21	22/2/21	26/3/21
Summer	13/4/21	28/5/21	7/6/21	16/7/21

Training Days – 1/9/20, 2/9/20, 4/1/21, 12/4/21, 19/7/21, 20/7/21

COVID CLOSURE DATES

School did not reopen after Christmas due to National Lockdown measures. From January 6th school switched to blended learning.

Foundation Phase returned on 22nd February 2021

Key Stage 2 returned on 13th April.

Blended Learning

Staff worked hard to provide detailed blended learning programmes for our children ensuring that the curriculum requirements were met.

Foundation Phase were given a timetable of activities each week which included daily Literacy and Numeracy activities based on the Julia Donaldson book The Highway Rat. They also had a Forest School Activity and spellings for each week. They had one meeting each week with their teacher and their year group.

Key Stage 2 children had a timetable set each week. This included a Maths and English Task for each day plus a Science and Topic for the week. They had online meetings with the teacher and their year group twice a week (one of these included their spelling test.) There was also a daily check up session that was optional.

The level of engagement was fantastic.

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)

Throughout the year staff have been taking part in training on the new Additional Needs Bill ready for The New Curriculum for Wales 2022.

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 2020-21 the focus has been on the continued development of the environmental learning and sustainable development.

Over the summer holidays the installation of our decarbonisation project took place. On their return to school the children undertook a project sharing the news with local politicians. Below is the information about the project:

'We are writing to share with you our new renewable energy project that will make a difference to not only our school but the environment as a whole. Ysgol Y Foel is a small, village primary school situated at the foot of Moel Famau and near to the market town of Mold, Flintshire, North Wales We are the first school in Flintshire, and we believe in Wales, to complete a decarbonisation project of this scale to make our school sustainable for future generations.

Firstly, we all know about non-renewable energy and how bad it is for our environment. The use of fossil fuels as an energy source is a concern for all countries across the world. The use of these fuels causes the production of a lot of greenhouse gases which are damaging the ozone layer and we're paying the price. Using fossil fuels for energy has exacted an enormous toll on humanity and the environment—from air and water pollution to global warming and climate change.

Secondly our school was contributing to this pollution. (Our school was built in 1963, so it is not a 21st Century modern school built with sustainability in mind.) The heating was powered using oil and our electricity from the national grid using a non-renewable source of energy. Whilst this provided us with the energy we needed it was completely unsustainable. It was essential that we come up with a way to power our school using renewable technologies. One of our school governors sought the advice of a local company JM Renewables and Flintshire County Council's Sustainable Energy Team for some advice. The solution was a complete refit of our energy source and heating system.

So our decarbonisation project began. We have installed solar panels on two of our roofs (84 in total) these solar panels take in U-V light and convert it using usable electricity via the big inverter so we now make our own electricity to power our lights and charge our computers. As for the Heating system, we have replaced the very old oil powered system and installed Air Source Pumps on our roof, in very simple terms, the pumps take heat out of the air, even when it's freezing outside there is always something called LATENT HEAT in the air which is always there to be sucked in, the heat pump then uses an electricity booster to increase the temperature of the air it's just drawn in to then heat the school up. We have replaced the radiators to accommodate this new heating system as the others were too small to heat the building. As a result we have gone from using all non-renewable sources

of energy to power our school to using renewable sources of energy, thus helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

A project of this size has of course cost a lot of money. We are very lucky that one of our school governors was able to source most of the refit from a substantial grant from the AONB in which our school sits in.

In addition to the decarbonisation project the grant also allowed us to erect an outdoor classroom. This will be used for other local schools to come and visit our site to study the wide variety of flora and fauna we have (when restrictions allow of course) and to show them how Ysgol Y Foel has become a sustainable school for future generations.

It is important to publicise this project and our efforts in protecting our planet. We have also received recognition from the AONB.

'The AONB Partnership have decided to award this year's AONB Landscape Award to Ysgol y Foel in recognition of the huge achievement of the Decarbonisation Project.'

The AONB make an award every year to a community, individual or business that has made an outstanding contribution to the landscape of the AONB and I am delighted that this year the award is recognising the work at Ysgol y Foel.'

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. (**After School Club 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 provided to encourage them to drink water throughout the day

School dinners are provided by Newydd Catering Services.

Sporting Activities and Extra Curricular Activities

These have been postponed all year due to the pandemic.

2. Financial Statement FY20/21

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

Element	Budget	Actuals
EMPLOYEES	£196,406	£250,710
TRAINING	Nil	£90
PREMISES	£34,695	£23,045
TRANSPORT	Nil	Nil
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	£11,935	£7,196
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	Nil	£2,299
LEA SUPPORT	£14,499	£14,926
INCOME	Nil	-£82,756
C/F BALANCE	N/A	N/A
TRANSITIONAL FUNDING	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	£257,535	£215,510

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 20/21 school year.

d) No travelling or subsistence expenses were paid to any Governors during the year ended 31st March 2021. 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. 2020/21 School Development Plan

Following our successful inspection in 2019 and then the Covid pandemic it was agreed that our targets from last year would continue through this academic year.

The schools priorities for 2020/21

- Increase pupils' use of spoken Welsh in and outside lessons
- Provide greater opportunity for pupils to make choices about the direction of the own learning
- Strengthen the decision-making of pupil leadership groups
- Extend the range of opportunities for outdoor learning
- to continue to develop the new curriculum including ALN.

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.