

Ysgol y Foel



Governors Annual Report to Parents 2022 –2023

Headteacher – Mrs. Emma O’Neill

**Chair of Governors – Mrs. Sarah
Kneale**

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Annwyl Rhieni,

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 election 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. This year we have welcomed Mrs. Gwen Hardman to our governing body as our Community Council appointed governor.

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.

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

Letter from Mrs. O'Neill

As I begin my one year secondment at The Bryniau Clwyd Federation I would like to thank you all for your congratulations, well wishes and support. Although I am sad to be leaving you for this year I am excited about the future, and the next chapter.

Since joining Ysgol Y Foel in 2016 I have had the opportunity to work with many children, families, governors and community members and I can safely say that I have had some amazing experiences.

The children are full of compassion and care for each other greatly. They make me extremely proud and I know that they will all go on to achieve great things.

I have also been surrounded by a governing body who shared my vision to make sure Ysgol Y Foel really is a school at the heart of the community and worked with me to make it happen, I know at times its not been easy, but even through the tough times we've always managed to see the humour and keep a smile on our faces.

To all of the Ysgol Y Foel parents I cannot thank you enough, you have supported me through some difficult decisions, the restructure of the school and the Covid Pandemic to name a few but you have continued to support me and made the experience at Ysgol Y Foel a joy. You have engaged and voiced your opinions shared your concerns and worries and I hope that you have found that I have taken the time to listen and take on board what you have said.

I have so many things to be grateful for, not many Headteachers have the experience of having an entire staff team that they love working with. They all work extremely hard to give the best they can to our pupils. They make it a joy to come into work each day and I will miss this extended family. I have every confidence that they will support Mrs. Walker as they have done me and I can take on my next challenge knowing our school will continue to be amazing.

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

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:

Governor Class	Name	Term of Office	
Headteacher	Mrs. Emma O'Neill	01.07.20 - 01.07.24	
Local Ed. Authority	Mrs. Merrill Tanton	01.03.23 - 01.03.27	Safeguarding
Local Ed. Authority	Vacant		
Community (M A)	Mrs. Gwen Hardman	01.05.21 -02.05.24	
Community	Mrs. Sarah Kneale	11.09.20 -12.09.24	
Community	Mrs. Sam Carson ?	01.06.23 - 02.16.27	
Parent	Helen Amor Thomas	13.10.20 - 13.10.24	
Parent	Mr. Richard Ledsham	01.03.20 - 01.03.24	Finance/Numeracy
Parent	Mr. James Skates	01.09.19 - 01.10.23	
Teacher	Mrs. Amanda Walker	01.09.17 - 01.09.23	
Staff	Mrs. Sarah Watts	12.09.19 - 12.09.23	
Clerk	Mrs. Bridget Tidey	2023	

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 For the last academic year we have implemented and worked on our New Curriculum for Wales. (See website for full version)

Our Vision

At Ysgol Y Foel we learn together in a safe, secure and positive family school environment to promote and encourage strong, healthy, independent, forward thinkers ready for their future, to thrive in our area of outstanding natural beauty and beyond.

In creating our vision and values we listened to learners, parents, staff, governors and our local community. These 10 key words occurred most frequently when discussing our vision:

happy, healthy, unique, respecting, small, caring, motivated, inclusive, strong, positive

This will happen through:

<i>Active learning</i>	<i>Problem solving</i>	<i>Outdoor learning</i>	<i>Forest schools</i>	<i>Digital learning</i>	<i>Playing and exploring</i>	<i>Having fun</i>	<i>Pupil led enquiry</i>	<i>Learning for sustainability</i>	<i>Community involvement</i>
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<u>Exciting Opportunities</u>	<u>Learning Outdoors</u>	<u>Classroom Climate</u>
Learners will have the opportunity to visit places and experience visitors to the school. They will have a strong influence on their learning. The views, needs and stages of all learners will be considered by teachers so learners have exciting, challenging and progressive experiences across all AOLES.	Learning experiences will develop and embed the four purposes to provide authentic and fun experiences within our community always encouraging a healthy lifestyle.	Learners will influence their learning environment and have opportunities to work in ways that enhance their learning and they will be able to present their work in their own unique, personal way.

Learners celebrate Welsh Language, Culture and Heritage throughout all of their work.

Our School Motto

<u>F</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>
Fun	Outstanding	Enriched	Learners

The Curriculum for Wales at Ysgol Y Foel – Rationale

<u>We Value Being :</u>	<u>Our Behaviour</u>
Respectful and Kind	Our school community promotes a caring and nurturing environment, supporting The UN Rights of the Child. Our school rules reflect these rights and we treat each other, the school, community and ourselves with respect. We celebrate Welsh language, Culture and Heritage throughout our work.
Happy and Healthy	We support the needs of each individual learner, providing them with skills for life. Fun, exciting opportunities ensure they enjoy their learning which is centered around their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. We

	<p>play an active part in the community developing confidence, resilience and empathy.</p> <p>We celebrate Welsh language, Culture and Heritage throughout our work.</p>
Curious and Challenged	<p>Our learners are encouraged to ask questions about what they want to learn so we can facilitate and encourage whilst providing a challenging learning environment.</p> <p>We celebrate Welsh language, Culture and Heritage throughout our work.</p>
Creative and Innovative	<p>Through a wide range of experiences and opportunities our learners are encouraged and empowered to be creative, innovative and entrepreneurial.</p> <p>We celebrate Welsh language, Culture and Heritage throughout our work.</p>

School Session Times –

<u>Session Times</u>	<u>Foundation</u>
Session starts	8:55am
Morning break	10:30am – 10:45am (nursery finish at 11:30am)
Lunch	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Afternoon break	2:00pm to 2:10pm
Session finishes	3:20pm

<u>Session Times</u>	<u>Key Stage 2</u>
Session starts	8:55am
Morning break	10:15am – 10:30am
Lunch	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Afternoon break	2:00pm to 2:10pm
Session finishes	3:20pm

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

Term Dates 2023/2024

Term for	School Opens	School Closes Half Term	School Opens for Half Term	School Closes
Autumn	01/09/2022	28/10/2022	07/11/2022	23/12/2022
Spring	09/01/2023	17/02/2023	27/02/2023	31/03/2023
Summer	17/04/2023	26/05/2023	05/06/2023	20/07/2023

Training Days: 01/09/2022, 02/09/2022, 07/11/2022, 23/12/2022, 09/01/2023, 20/07/2023

Attendance

Attendance was 93.77 % which shows a significant decrease over the last year. This is due to families taking holidays after the pandemic plus the usual winter sickness and flu bugs. This will need to be a focus on next years SIP.

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)

In the school year 2023-2024 the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator will be Mrs. Walker, supported by Miss Taylor and our Governor Mrs. Tanton.

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 2022 – 2023 the focus has been on the continued development of environmental learning and sustainable development. The grounds have been developed with Bodfari Environmental to include a sensory garden. Through the summer there will be a dipping platform installed so Environmental Science can take on a more practical element.

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.

Everyone in the school community is encouraged to take responsibility for the maintenance of the schools appearance and cleanliness. This is supported by the work of Mrs H Jones our caretaker. The grounds maintenance is contracted out by the Local Education Authority to Bodfari Environmental

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.

Our Breakfast Club service provides 30min free breakfast club from 8:15am to 8:45am. Additional child care is available from 7:45am to 8:15am at the cost of £1.50 per session.

After School Club is provided from 3.20 to 5.20 at :

1st child (1st hour) £5.50
 (2nd hour) £5.00
2nd child (1st Hour) £5.20
 (2nd hour) £5.00
Ad Hoc £6.00 per hour

Running critical services such as After School Club can be challenging in small schools with budgetary challenges, pupil numbers and the current economic climate. The members of the after-school club staff have sought opportunities for funding and the

support of the parents in attending fundraising events such as school parties has been warmly received. The governors commend the staff in generating fun events and opportunities for the whole school and their flexibility and willingness. We also extend our thanks to the parents for continuing to support this vital service to your wider school community.

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. 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 and their menu can be found on twitter and shared online on the school website. They follow the Welsh Assembly Government Action Plan "Appetite for Life" which seeks to raise and maintain nutritional standards. A varied menu is provided including theme days and has been well received by the pupils. There is a current roll out of free school meals from Reception.

Sporting Activities and Enrichment Activities

Sporting activities have begun to recommence after the pandemic. This year the children have taken part in The Small and Rural Schools Sports Tournaments. This has focused on re-engaging the children using a variety of sports. We have competed in Dodgeball, Netball and Basketball.

The children have attended 3 residential activities. Year 3 spend 1 night in Kingswood, Year 4 and 5 spend 2 nights in Plas Menai and Year 6 spend 2 nights in Cardiff.

Children in Year 2-6 attended Holywell Leisure Centre for 3 x 1 hour sessions of swimming.

Children in Year 3 and 4 had Cornett lessons provided by Theatre Clwyd.

The whole school took part in Ensemble Cymru project and performed to parents.

Careers Days took place to inspire children in the world of work.

Mark Waters worked with the children on a space project.

The reading dog visited.

LouNur provided sessions on mindfulness.

Symphonic Sounds also provided sessions on relaxation using music.

The whole school benefited from community involvement in the shop project.

2. Financial Statement FY22/23

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	Actual
Employees	£216,176	£277,055
Training	Nil	£355
Premises	£34,573	£26,280
Transport	Nil	Nil
Supplies & Services	£38,633	£11,079
Third Party Payment	Nil	£5,515
LEA Support	£14,014	£14,470
Income	Nil	£35,048
C/F Balance	Nil	£3,691
Transitional Funding	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	£303,396	£303,396

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 22/23 school year.

d) No travelling or subsistence expenses were paid to any Governors during the year ended 31st March 2023. Governors are volunteers who provide their time, skills and knowledge to support the school.

Progress with Key Priorities from 2022/23

1. Continue to embed Ysgol Y Foel's New Curriculum for Wales, ensuring consistency in standards in LLC, MN and DCF and including:
 - a. Ensuring all stakeholders are familiar with and use the new vision, values and assessment arrangements
 - b. Developing ALN
 - c. Increasing the use of spoken Welsh inside and outside the classroom
 - d. Continue to embed the range of opportunities in the outdoors

Priority 1

1. Continue to embed Ysgol Y Foel's New Curriculum for Wales, ensuring consistency in standards in LLC, MN and DCF and including:

Progress

- Staff are becoming more confident at using the PS and WMs
- Specific learners are targeted with appropriate provision
- Progression Step work for consortium shows coverage is good and has allowed us to plan for the next year
- Progress in reading and spelling scores for nearly all children

Impact

- Gwe meeting pupils and book scrutiny showed consistency in standards across KS2 for marking and presentation
- Assessment provided an excellent overview of the progress of all pupils
Improved communication with parents about children's progress

Next Steps

- Extended writing in FP – to continue with Autumn planning
- Self and peer assessment in KS2 – to continue with Autumn planning
- **Monitoring of planning in the Spring Term to ensure coverage of skills through topic work**
- Training and advice on how to develop some DCF skills across the curriculum
- Actions from Literacy and Numeracy Learning walks
- Update of relevant policies

Priority 1a

Ensuring all stakeholders are familiar with and use the new vision, values and assessment arrangements

Progress

- **The stake holders of Ysgol Y Foel are all aware of our new vision and values**

Impact

- **Moving forward inline with the WAG**
- **Consistent assessment across the school**
- **Improved communication with parents about children's progress**
- **Professional dialogue**

Next Steps

- **Update website to share the vision in the wider community**
- **Daily reference to the values and 4 purposes**

Priority 1b

Continue to develop ALN

Progress

- **All children have specific planned universal provision to develop their individual skills**
-

Impact

- **Increased parental engagement in pupils progress**

Next Steps

- **Questionnaire to parents about the new system**
- **New ALNCo to develop IDPs in September review**
- **Pupils to be added to the Eclipse system inline with roll out time table**

Priority 1c

Increase pupils' use of spoken Welsh in and outside lessons

Progress

- **Since September progress with this target has been good.**
- **CC have met regularly**
- **KT has met with Campus Cymraeg advisor and targets set**
- **A lamb, sheep and dragon are sent home with children over the duration of a week. These books contain language patterns for the children to complete their written diaries. This has proved to be a popular initiative and has increased parental engagement in the language**
- **Harvest and Christmas services included Welsh songs and prayers**

- **WE GAINED OUR CRIW CYMRAEG BRONZE AWARD!!!**

Impact

- **Increased use of Welsh language in and outside of the classroom**

Next Steps

- **To develop Welsh reading across the school**
- **To begin targets for Silver Award**

Priority 1d

Continue to embed the range of opportunities in the outdoors

Progress

- **Outdoor Learning is planned for at KS2 to include 2 sessions per week at the least for Maths and English.**
- **For Topic it is planned as and when it is relevant and will have an impact**
- **Forest School Friday continues to be a success. – we have used the community much more**

Impact

- **Pupils engagement, resilience and teamwork including skills in the 4 purposes have had an opportunity to develop**

Next Steps

- **Embed outdoor learning across the curriculum and in FL**
- **New teacher to take over the lead of outdoor provision**
- **Outdoor learning to continue in KS2 in Maths and English**

Priority 1e

Further develop the role of pupil voice

Progress

- **School leaders are our house captains and there are both FP and KS2**
- **Our review and pupil influence is done as a whole school through house meetings, circle time or class discussions**

Impact

- **Learners have a clear knowledge that they are the important part of this school and they have a say in what their learning and their school should be like.**

Next Steps

- **Continue with timetabled opportunities and meetings with House Captains and the whole school**
- **Questioning will be a focus on next years SIP**

The priorities on this year SIP will be :

1	Continue to embed Ysgol Y Foel's New Curriculum for Wales ensuring consistency in standards in LLC, MN and DCF and including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Raising standards in reading and spellingb. Welsh reading across the schoolc. Developing independent learningd. Developing the email side of the DCF
2	To further develop assessment arrangements by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Developing higher order questioningb. Developing pupil participation in assessmentc. Developing staff feedback and marking
3	Effective planning of The New Statutory Requirements for RSE and RVE across the curriculum including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Regular mental health monitoringb. Deepening spiritual and ethical beliefsc. Diversity

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.

School Shop

We have been so lucky to be able to visit the shop every Tuesday. The children have developed their communication skills, money skills, learnt about where our food comes from, costed the price of meals, looked at and compared the weight of items and enjoyed meeting local residents. Their development in these communication skills has been evident on our recent residential where our children were so confident conversing with instructors, members of staff from other schools and children from other schools. A big thank you to Sam (for the initial start up) and our local residents who have made the visits such an enjoyable experience. We look forward to hopefully returning in September.
(The rent for the village hall has been paid for by two members of the local community.)

Church

As part of Forest Schools the children have joined up with St Marys Church and helped them to tidy the church grounds.

Ensemble Cymru

Working with Ensemble Cymru funded by Gwyl Cilcain the children had the opportunity to listen to classical instruments, play some classical instruments and work with a composer creating a piece of music to perform in front of members of the community and parents.