



## **FULL ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS Autumn 2020**

**Dear Parent / Guardian,**

I am delighted as Chair of the Governing Body to present Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth's annual report.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, all teachers, learning assistants, auxiliary staff, parents/guardians and of course the pupils for their hard work during the year, and for playing their part in the school's continued success.

It would of course be impossible to present this report without acknowledging the exceptional situation the school, like all others, has faced this year. But there is also an opportunity to express pride in the way the school has succeeded in coping with these unusual circumstances, overcoming the challenges that have arisen in a professional and effective way.

I was especially proud of the way the team communicated regularly with pupils, parents and guardians, at the start of the lockdown, trying to alleviate concerns as much as possible on the one hand, and distributing useful educational materials for working at home on the other. As the lockdown continued, an effective system of communication and work-sharing was developed through Teams, ensuring that no pressure was put on the children and parents/guardians, whilst also offering the opportunity to ensure the pupils' education continued, along with the necessary support.

As the lockdown started to ease, eventually leading to the partial re-opening of the school during the summer term, it was obvious to me that the staff's preparations were incredibly thorough, with everyone striving to ensure as natural an atmosphere as possible, under the circumstances, for the pupils as they returned. Once again, communication was critical when welcoming the children back to school – one of the best examples of the effective way in which this was achieved, in my opinion, was the film showing the school sporting its new look, illustrating clearly how the new procedure would work on their return. I would like to thank the staff for their efforts in this respect and for trying to ensure that the return to school was as pleasant an experience as possible for the children.

It is also worth taking the opportunity to thank the school for organising a special day to say good-bye to year 6 at the end of the summer term. Because they were leaving primary school and moving on to secondary school during such an unusual time, it was important that they left Ysgol Gymraeg with fond memories. Another excellent example of the careful consideration the staff have given to pupil welfare throughout the recent period.

As the school prepared to fully re-open in September, a considerable amount of planning was needed to ensure the safest possible environment for pupils and staff. The team had obviously put a lot of thought into this, and established a very efficient system for receiving pupils in the morning, ensuring a happy but safe atmosphere during the day, and saying good-bye in the afternoon – thereby protecting the school community and the wider community to the utmost of their ability. A number of parents have mentioned the effectiveness of the system, and indeed it appears to have had a positive effect on some of the school’s long-term challenges, including traffic flow.

I’m sure I speak on behalf of the whole Governing Body in expressing my thanks to the Headteacher and all the staff for their hard work and dedication to the school, and above all for their commitment in ensuring all pupils get the best possible experiences, even during as challenging a period as the one we have experienced this year.

We take every opportunity to emphasise the school’s goals – Welshness, Respecting each other and Doing our very best – and it is obvious that these continue to be a positive influence on the pupils and have an effect on everyone associated with this unique establishment.

Due to the current high level of teaching and learning standards the school has been categorised as a green school by Welsh Government and acts as a Pioneer School.

The number of pupils attending the school remains constant, with the number being consistently high. There were 433 pupils on the school register in July 2020 with a Headteacher, Deputy Head, 15 full-time teachers and 6 part-time teachers. Three members of staff act as Departmental Heads at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Additional Learning Needs. The school has an effective team of Assistants that assist at Foundation Phase and support pupils with Additional Learning Needs.

The school has a diligent crew of auxiliary staff that support the work of providing the best opportunities for pupils. The team includes a secretary, caretaker, three cleaners, five dinner assistants and five kitchen staff.

Time and venue of the Meeting - The requirements regarding the need to hold a Governors’ Annual Meeting have changed (see details below). However we will provide an opportunity to discuss matters pertaining to the school, the work of the governors and the Local Authority as part of the PTA Annual Meeting held digitally on Wednesday, October 21st at 6.30.

There was no call to hold a meeting of Governors and Parents in accordance with section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 during the last educational year.

See details below that outline the requirements of holding an annual meeting.

### ***Changes to annual Meetings of Parents/Governors***

*Section 94 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ) (the Act) makes important changes to the previous legislative arrangements which related to Annual meetings of Parents/Governors. It provides new arrangements where parents can ask for a meeting with a governing body.*

*However, parents will have to satisfy four (4) statutory requirements when calling a meeting namely:-*

- (i) the parents of 10% of registered pupils, or the parents of 30 registered pupils (whichever is lower) have to sign a petition asking for the meeting;*
- (ii) the purpose of the meeting has to be the discussion of matters relating to the school;*

(iii) *the maximum number of meetings parents can ask for within any school year is three (3)*

(iv) *there have to be enough school days left during the school year to allow a meeting.*

Moreover:-

(a) *the meetings must be held before the end of a 25 day period;*

(b) *the 25 day period begins on the first day after the day on which the petition is received, but does not include any day that is not a school day;*

(c) *if another meeting is required as a result of a different petition, the 25 day period will not begin until the day after the other meeting is held;*

(ch) *there have to be enough days of the school year left to hold a meeting before the end of the 25 day period;*

(d) *meetings will be open to parents of all registered pupils at the school, the Headteacher, and anyone else invited by the governing body;*

(dd) *the notification of the meeting to parents has to include the date, time and location of the meeting as well as the matter or matters to be discussed.*

A copy of this report is available in the Governors Section of the school website - [www.ysgolgymraeg.ceredigion.sch.uk](http://www.ysgolgymraeg.ceredigion.sch.uk)

Clerk to the Governors – Ceredigion County Council Education Department, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE.

Chair of Governors – Kate Woodward [Katewoodward123@gmail.com](mailto:Katewoodward123@gmail.com)

Arrangements of the Governing Body's next election – the Education Authority and the school will notify parents/guardians of arrangements regarding any opportunities to be part of the Governing Body, and election arrangements.

INSET Training – full details of courses attended by staff between September 2019 and July 2020 can be obtained from the school. (see examples of courses below) We would like to thank staff for attending these courses.

Here is a taste of the INSET training attended;

Visit 2 of the Education Authority	
Preparing for Cohort 2 training with the Academy	
Expressive Arts presentation as part of the New Curriculum roadshow.	
Ehedlin Workshop	
National Leadership Academy	
Aber Teach+ Mentor Training	
Pupil Voice Training	
Healthy Schools Assessment	

Health & Safety, Safeguarding Children, First Aid, Pupil Progression, target group arrangements	
Update on the principles of the New Curriculum	
Leadership Academy – course recommendations	
Aberystwyth Headteachers meeting	
Academy Training	
Ceredigion Headteachers Conference	
Digital Learning via Teams	

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## Opportunities to share good practice with schools and organisations

### The school's role within the wider education system at a local, regional and national level:

#### Draft Curriculum for Wales 2022



- During June ? made presentations in meetings for headteachers, teachers and assistants at Llety Parc Aberystwyth.
- The school was part of a research project with Cardiff Met University to cascade information about the New Curriculum to schools that are not part of the innovation network
- Meetings held to share information with local schools in the Aberystwyth area



- The school is in the process of adapting ALN arrangements to meet with the demands of the New ALN code
- Last year the School gave particular attention to:
  - One page profiles of all pupils on the ALN register (SA, SAP, SAPRA) including Pupil Voice
  - Person-centred Reviews
  - Following the person-centred process at every ALN meeting
  - Meetings to train staff on changes that are on the horizon
- This year the focus will be on continuing to prepare for the New Code.
- Cathryn James, the school's ALN co-ordinator has been seconded to work 2 days a week at Ceredigion Education Authority's ALN Department

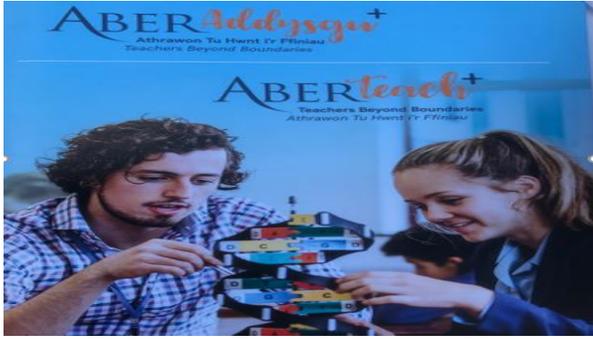
#### Academi Genedlaethol ar gyfer Arweinyddiaeth Addysgol



Academi Genedlaethol ar gyfer  
Arweinyddiaeth Addysgol Cymru  
National Academy for  
Educational Leadership Wales

- The Headteacher is part of the first cohort of Heads that have helped to establish the vision and develop the work programme of the Academy
- The Head is now an acting instructor/facilitator for the training and teaching experiences of the 12 heads that are part of the Academy.
- The school receives the sum of £12,000 in the first year, £10,000 during the second (this year) and £8,000 during the third year.

## Student-Teacher Training Partnership - Aber Teach+



- Ysgol Gymraeg is a lead school in the new partnership with Aberystwyth University and has been involved in the process of creating the course.
- The course has been active since September 2019.
- Students will gain experiences in the primary and secondary sector
- The school receives £5,000 for being a lead school and a payment of £2000 for every student.

## Education Authority Challenge Adviser



- The Headteacher has been acting as a Challenge Adviser with the Education Authority for 6 years.
- The work includes supporting schools that are in the process of improving and raising their standards
- Ysgol Gymraeg receives £12,000 a year in recognition of its role.
- Being part of Erw's Challenge Adviser network expands horizons and provides a good insight into self-appraisal and quality improvement processes.

## Annual Meeting (Autumn 2019)

There was no call for a meeting during Autumn 2019. However there was an opportunity to discuss developments at the school during the PTA Annual Meeting - a presentation was given on specific teaching and learning areas and the School Development Plan.

Action taken following any decisions made at the meeting – No decisions were made at the Autumn 2019 meeting.

**The attachment provides a list of school governors, who appoints them and the date their term of duty ends.**

## Financial details -

- See appendix outlining a full statement of the school budget.

## How the school uses the money it receives

- In general, school budgets have been a very challenging area over the last few years and we are working very closely with the Education Authority to make the best use of the money available. The school budget was used to ensure the best educational experiences and suitable resources for pupils.
- The school uses additional funds to target literacy and numeracy.

**Social Deprivation Fund-** The Social Deprivation Fund is used to meet the needs of specific pupils, additional resources and staff were arranged to support and raise standards in these areas.

## Donations received

- Generous donations were received from the PTA including support from local businesses, who sponsored Christmas and Summer concerts. The school greatly appreciates the support.

## Governing Body allowances and subsistence payments

- Governors' travel costs – No costs were paid to governors during the 2019-20 year. I would like to thank my fellow governors for providing their service completely voluntarily for the benefit and welfare of the school.

## The school's performance in end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 assessments

## Comparative information on pupils' assessments at the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 – (see results table)

We want to see all pupils fulfilling their potential and the school is very pleased with pupil assessments in both Key Stages (See attachments for pupil assessments), the positive results reflect the hard work of pupils, staff and the co-operation of parents/guardians. The school is performing very well compared to similar schools in the county and nationally.

## Pupil attendance

Period	Attendance	Absence with permission	Absence without permission
Autumn	97.07	2.27	0.66
Spring	96.48	2.75	0.75
Summer	Covid 19 Lockdown period		

## Commentary on school attendance

We are pleased with the school's attendance average. Governors have set targets for the next three years to continue to improve attendance. The school focused on punctuality during the year, I would like to thank parents and guardians for responding positively to the campaign.

## Improving attendance and decreasing unauthorised absence

The school takes clear action to decrease absence without permission. Children arriving late can have an impact on unauthorised absence. The school sends a letter to parents emphasising punctuality and drawing attention to holidays taken by some parents during the school term. The school contacts parents/guardians where attendance levels are low or inconsistent.

## **Attendance Targets**

Attendance targets for academic year 2020 -21 - 96.7%

Attendance targets for academic year 2021-2022 - 96.7%

Attendance targets for academic year 2022-2023 - 96.7%

Children leaving the school at the end of Year 6 – pupils at the end of Year 6 usually transfer to the town's secondary schools, namely Penweddig and Penglais. This year 41 went to Penweddig and 5 to Penglais. The school has a positive partnership with the secondary schools and has effective transition plans in place. Our best wishes go to this year's leavers group.

### Forging links between the School and the Community

The school is one of the town's main institutions and is an integral part of the local community. The school makes excellent use of local resources including The National Library, The University, Leisure Centre, Arts Centre and local secondary school. The school has been on a number of educational visits, including Castell Henllys, and local farms etc. The school has performed for local organizations and there is very good support for the annual Christmas concert at the Arts Centre.

Activities were held to promote the pupils' understanding of fundraising during the year. A generous sum was collected for Children In Need.

### PTA / Friends of the School

I would like to thank the PTA and all friends of the school for their support during the year. The PTA is very industrious and enthusiastic and succeeds in holding a variety of activities to raise money for resources, as well as social events with a Welsh ambience and family atmosphere.

Activities were held throughout the year including a Book Fair, Christmas Concert and Dwynwen Disco.

Parent/Guardian meetings - an excellent partnership exists between the school and parents.

The following are organised during the year;

- PTA Annual Meeting.
- Open evenings every term and parents/guardians invited to visit the school after receiving their children's reports in July.
- Parents/guardians invited to attend an open afternoon at the school.
- Invitation to the school sports.
- Two large-scale concerts held every year (with about 800 attending each one).
- Meeting for parents/guardians of nursery children who want to start at the school.
- Meeting between parents/guardians of children who receive support and their specialist teachers.
- The Headteacher notes on every letter "if you have any concerns about your child's education please contact me at once".

Use of building/campus – Ysgol Gymraeg PTA meetings, some football teams, Yr Angor (Aberystwyth community newspaper), the Urdd Aberystwyth Town Area and National Meetings, Urdd Eisteddfodau and the Bridge Club.

Links with the police – Police officers work closely with the school and contribute positively to PSE activities. The police hold discussions with the School Council and assist with traffic by the school entrance.

### School Action Plan Progress (post inspection)

The school operates the Action Plan following Estyn's 2016 report. Here is a summary of developments.

Description/activity/progress	Progress
A1 – Ensure the provision for developing pupils' Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills builds up more systematically for those who have already acquired them	We have now <b>planned elements 1, 2 and 3</b> of the DCF across the school and identified opportunities for pupils to develop their skills more systematically. A new iPad timetable has been created that allows better use of them across KS2. In response to the new demands of the DCF, teachers have been using j2e to share homework and important messages. <b>Response to Estyn's Post Inspection recommendation</b> We are in the process of creating assessment handouts to be placed in pupils' books to ensure that all pupils are aware of the ICT skills they require. The aim of the handouts is to give pupils the chance to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and to identify the ICT skills they acquire during lessons and across the curriculum.

## Self-appraisal and School Action Plan

The school's main priorities

1. Raise the literacy standards of specific groups of pupils across the school.
2. Raise the numeracy standards of specific groups of pupils across the school.
3. (Estyn 2016) Ensure the provision for developing pupils' Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills build up more systematically for those who have already acquired them
4. Enhance the skills and knowledge of all staff to act in accordance with the new ALN measure
5. Build on the good work already done to develop SMT roles

The school has made good progress in developing aspects of the School Development Plan during the previous year – a full copy of the SDP can be obtained from the headteacher.

## Improvements set by the Governing Body with regard to pupil performance

### Targets for the next three years

See targets for the number of pupils attaining outcome 5 or higher in the Foundation Phase, and level 4 or higher in Key Stage 2 for the next three years. The school sets these targets based on current information about pupils according to annual teacher assessments. In addition we set a challenge level for the future to raise standards continuously.

	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022
Foundation Phase	98% (FPI average)	98%	98%
Key Stage 2	98% (CSI average)	98%	98%

## Commentary

- The school has made good progress with regard to pupil assessments in both Key Stages.
- The results reflect positively on the challenging targets set every year.
- Following regular assessments and a number of tests the level/outcome attained by each child by the end of the year is noted. There is close contact between teachers to moderate levels and identify the way forward for the individual child.
- Children are given regular targets in Mathematics, Science and English in Key Stage 2.
- As a school we aim to ensure that 98% of Foundation Phase pupils and 98% of Key Stage 2 pupils attain the expected level/outcome (outcome 5 or higher for Foundation Phase and level 4 or higher for Key Stage 2).
- A detailed report is given to every parent at the end of the year and regular open evenings held to provide an opportunity to discuss end of year reports.

## Pupil Exclusion

No exclusions

Review of school Policies and Strategies – the school reviews its policies regularly to ensure the best provision for pupils. During 2019-20 all school policies were reviewed, and specifically those dealing with health and safety, safeguarding children, bullying, and some aspects of the curriculum. Copies of the policies are available from the school or on the website. The list of reviewed policies can be found in the governors records by the main entrance.

Action taken following the review of policies - Developments are monitored regularly during termly meetings. School staff have received further training on safeguarding children and implementing autism-friendly school procedures. The school has improved safety by improving the fences between the school and the Rugby Club.

#### Sports and Extra-curricular Activities

The school provides a variety of sports activities for all aspects of Physical Education. The pupils develop skills and experiences from Nursery up to Year 6.

There is an extensive extra-curricular programme that aims to satisfy the interests of all school pupils. The Urdd Club is held every week, where school staff volunteer to provide a variety of activities for pupils. The activities at Key Stage 2 include sports, the ‘chwys trabŵd’ weekly running club, art club, gymnastics club and various activity clubs for the Foundation Phase. The school supports hockey activities with the mini Minor league every Friday night.

A strong link exists between the school and the Urdd movement and pupils get valuable experiences by following the year’s activity programme.

The Urdd Eisteddfod – It was wonderful to see the school’s pupils taking part in Eisteddfod T on S4C this year.

Healthy Food and Drink – the school promotes the pupils’ health and encourages them to develop healthy eating and drinking patterns. A healthy school lunch is provided daily and pupils are encouraged to eat a healthy packed lunch. The fruit shop is open daily and there is sufficient water available for pupils, with all pupils encouraged to bring an appropriate bottle for re-fills during the day.

Changes to the School Handbook – The handbook is reviewed and updated every term. A copy of the handbook is available on the school website or from the headteacher. Changes were made to the handbook’s content during the current year to improve its format.

Term dates for the year  
(see attachment)

#### INSET Closure days

September 1st, November 2nd (additional dates to be arranged in 2021)

**Session Times** (these have changed temporarily due to the Covid 19 situation – see the headteacher’s letter for more information)

	KS2	Foundation Phase	Nursery
School starts	9.00	9.00	9.00
Morning break	10.30 – 10.45	10.30 – 10.45	10.30 – 10.45
Lunch	12.00 – 1.00	11.45 – 1.00	11.50 – 1.15
Afternoon start	1.00	1.00	1.15
Afternoon break	2.20 – 2.30	2.20 – 2.30	2.20 – 2.30
School ends	3.30	3.30 (Yr 1 and 2 ) 3.20 (Reception)	3.20

### Curriculum and teaching arrangements

The school is one of Wales' pioneering schools and operates as an establishment that shares good practice and innovation in the world of teaching and learning. The quality and variety of learning provided for pupils across the school is very important to us. An extensive and balanced curriculum is offered that meets all statutory requirements. The teachers continuously review the curriculum following new developments. Great emphasis is placed on developing communication skills, numeracy skills, ICT skills and thinking skills. The school has collaborated very closely with Aberystwyth University to develop a programme of rich experiences for student teachers.

### Additional Learning Needs

The school makes every effort to ensure that every child feels they are an integral part of the life and work of the school, and achieve their potential as individuals. The school regularly reviews the Additional Learning Needs policy to ensure appropriate support for pupils.

### Pupils with disabilities

The school campus has been adapted on a regular basis to provide easy access for pupils with disabilities. Ramps have been installed to facilitate access to classes, and through careful planning the school has succeeded in fully integrating children with disabilities into the school curriculum.

### School language category – designated Welsh medium school

#### Use of Welsh in the school

- Welsh is used in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 as the main language of every aspect of the school's curricular and extra-curricular work. English is introduced to pupils in Year 3.
- Welsh is the school's natural communication language.
- There are no constraints on the use of Welsh in the school, Welsh is promoted in every aspect of the life and work of Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.
- The school, through careful planning, ensures there is continuity and consistent development in the pupils' experience of using Welsh in all the school's curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Pupils that are latecomers to the school can take advantage of the Language Centre's provision at Penweddig Secondary School, organised by the Education Authority.
- Pupils go on to attend the town's secondary schools, that provide opportunities for them to develop their use of Welsh. There are extended transition opportunities available during the Summer term for pupils that need to gain more confidence in Welsh.

#### Toilet arrangements and facilities -

The school has the appropriate number of toilets for pupils registered at the school. The facilities are cleaned daily by the Education Authority's cleaning service. The 'Toilet Tackling Committee' is effective, namely a group of pupils that work on behalf of the School Council to improve the toilets with the Senior Management Team.

#### Buildings maintenance

The school has developed an external ALN teaching cabin and a nature garden area during the year. The PTA has made a generous contribution towards these developments.

#### Safety

The school's insurance covers pupils at the school from 8.45 onwards (Breakfast Club 8.15-8.45). In the afternoon Nursery children leave at 3.20 and other pupils at 3.30. Before then parents or guardians are expected to notify the office by the main entrance of their presence.

Vehicles should be parked carefully in front of the school with no parking in disabled/taxi areas nor on the grass. There should be no parking on the Plascrug school road either, because of the risk of traffic congestion. Safety is very important to the governors, the Senior Management Team, the School Council and staff. Care must be taken and respect shown for others.

Developments with regard to the safety of the building – renovating the fence which is part of the play area has improved safety and prevents outsiders from entering.

#### Break-ins

There were no break-ins at the school during this academic year.

I hope you have benefitted from reading about the developments at this busy school. Be sure to contact the headteacher if you would like more information about the school's development.

Thank you again as parents for your commitment to the school, your support is an important part of the learning and social development of your children and the unique culture of Ysgol Gymraeg.

Owain Schiavone, Chair of Governors