



Governors Report to Parents





A foreword from the Chair of Governors

The governing body at Ysgol Nantgwyn has much pleasure in presenting this report to parents. It includes a record of some of the school's key achievements in its first year as a new 3-16 school in the heart of the Rhondda Valley.

Parents will be aware that, in addition to the full range of academic subjects, the school provides a growing range of opportunities for its pupils to take part in a wide array of activities, including trips, competitions, sport and performance. This varied programme reflects our ethos of developing all pupils to be ambitious, capable learners; enterprising and creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens; and healthy, confident individuals. This report cannot provide a complete picture of the life of the school, or of the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that the pupils, teachers and support staff bring to all its activities, but we hope you will feel that it does provide an informative snapshot of our first successful year as a new school.

The school is beginning to make great strides under the leadership of Mrs Kirsty Retallick and effective senior and middle leadership teams.

The school's close partnership with the primary schools in the Ysgol Nantgwyn cluster goes from strength to strength. Staff visit and work across the region, Wales and other parts of the UK and even further afield to learn from best practice to ensure our pupils have the best learning experiences they can.

Our first year has not been without challenges, but our honesty, openness, dedication and hard work has meant that we have reflected, grown and celebrated experiences where pupils have enjoyed school and grown together.

We have celebrated the achievement of our first set of Year 11 results placing us in the forefront of Rhondda schools and will work hard on momentum and improving on this position this year. This strong set of results underpins the commitment and drive to secure good outcomes for all our learners.

Our relentless drive to improve and build upon the basics and get the fundamentals of oracy, reading, writing and mathematics right will lay the firm foundations for development of highly effective adults of the future and we hope that together we build a strong school moving forward.

Mr Eddie Griffiths
Chair of Governors

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Governing Body of Ysgol Nantgwyn

This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions since the last report was published.

1. Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Nicola Collyer, Governor Support, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

2. Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Mr Eddie Griffiths c/o Ysgol Nantgwyn, Llewellyn Street, Penygraig, Tonypany, CF40 1HQ.

3. Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

| Name | Category of Governor | Appointed By | Retirement Date |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| CBC John Cullwick CBC Joshua Davies Edward Griffiths CB Gareth Hughes Sheila Jones | LEA | Council Members | 31/08/2022 (Applies to all) |
| Kim Davies Dominic Evans Keith Lewis Sarah Phelps Pamela Pritchard | Community Governors | Governing Body | 04/10/2022 (Applies to all) |
| Tony Gallagher Sandra Evans Allyson Pugh Natasha Rees Teresa Ridley- Morgan Katherine Williams | Parent | Parents | 20/06/2023 23/09/2022 (applies to rest) |

| Name | Category of Governor | Appointed By | Retirement Date |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Abby Daley John Davies | Teacher | Teaching Staff | 24/09/2022 23/09/2023 |
| Sarah Parsons | Staff | Non-teaching Staff | 03/10/2022 |
| Kirsty Retallick | Headteacher | | |

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| LEA Representatives | 5 |
| Parent Governors | 6 |
| Staff Representative | 1 |
| Headteacher | 1 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Community Governors | 5 |
| Teacher Governor(s) | 2 |
| Minor Authority (if applicable) | |
| Total | 20 |

4. Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

5. Election of Parent Governors

The next election of parent governors is due to take place in September 2022. If, however, any Parent Governor(s) resign before this date arrangements will be made for an election to be undertaken at the appropriate time.

6. School Performance Data

Welsh Government performance measures have been subject to multiple changes over the past four years. For example, these have included decisions to remove English literature and re-introduce English literature to key performance measure headlines. Changes have been applied to pupils that have already started their two year qualification pathway and therefore schools have needed to be agile and make significant amendments to their provision once pupils have already started courses.

The outcomes for Year 11 are outlined below:

| Measure | Outcome | Target |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Level two inclusive | 51.1% | 46-52 |
| Capped 9 | 356.4 | 370* |
| A/A* | 10.6% | 10 |
| Average points score mathematics | 34.4 | |
| Average points score English | 37.7 | |
| Average points score science | 31.3 | |
| Level 1 threshold (60% GCSE) | 93.6% | |
| Level 2 threshold (60% GCSE) | 55.3% | |

In the academic year 2018/19, the performance of Year 11 exceeded targets and expectations.

Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 outcomes exceeded expectations.

The school is driven to improving standards of literacy in oracy and reading across all aspects of school life. During the academic year 2018/19, in its first year of opening, the school has made a 20% improvement in ensuring that pupils are reading at least at their chronological age and this will continue to be our main driver for improvement over the next year.

7. Financial Statement – Period Covered **2018 – 2019**

Enclosed, as appendix A is a copy of the school's financial statement for the Financial Year 2018/19 (7/12ths only). Information on the 2019/20 budget allocation was agreed by the Governing Body in May 2019.

8. School Prospectus

The School Prospectus is updated annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Assembly Government or other related bodies. A copy of the prospectus is generally issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from another school. A copy of this prospectus can be found on the school website.

Parents are informed if any amendments are made to the existing prospectus.

There have been no changes to the school prospectus.

9. School Development Plan

The Headteacher and leadership team in conjunction with the governing body are responsible for drawing up the School Development Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take, over a three year period, 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 three-year plan is supported by a specific year annual plan.

The Annual School Development Plan for the 2019/20 academic year has been considered and approved by Governors and is currently being implemented by the staff. The targets drive school improvement and are based upon the priorities the school has identified within the three-year plan and from thorough self evaluation. Targets are regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we have embraced the development of the new curriculum and pupils are organised into three schools; Lower School, Middle School and Upper School.

10. Use of the Welsh Language - Communication

We are an English medium school, lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of English. The use of the Welsh language is promoted by the use of incidental Welsh with all pupils throughout the school day. From Lower School, the school has adopted a triple literacy approach to language acquisition from English, Spanish and Welsh. This sees pupils using commonalities across all three languages to strengthen their development in each. Pupils have focused lessons on languages from nursery through to year 9 where they take their options for qualification subjects.

Should parents request that their child is taught at this school in a language other than English this request will be given due consideration.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are catered for according to their needs with input from appropriate personnel.

11. Term Dates and Holidays 2019/2020 Academic Year

| | Terms Begins | Half Term Starts | Half Term Ends | Term Ends |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Autumn 2019 | Monday 2nd September | Monday 28th October | Friday 1st November | Friday 20th December |
| | 75 days | | | |
| Spring 2020 | Monday 6th January | Monday 17th February | Friday 21st February | Friday 3rd April |
| | 60 days | | | |
| Summer 2020 | Monday 20th April | Monday 25th May | Friday 29th May | Monday 20th July |
| | 60 days | | | |
| | TOTAL 195 days | | | |

Any closure(s) for election purposes are to be balanced during the academic year.

INSET Days

- Monday 2nd September 2019
- Tuesday 3rd September 2019
- Friday 25th October 2019
- Friday 14th February 2020
- Monday 20th April 2020
- Monday 20th July 2020

Significant Dates:

- Christmas - Wednesday 25th December 2019

- Easter
 - Good Friday 10th April 2020
 - Easter Monday 13th April 2020
- May Bank Holidays
 - Friday 8th May 2020
 - Monday 25th May 2020

The Welsh Assembly Government may decide to allocate additional INSET days, schools will be informed of these at the appropriate time.

The school day is organised as follows;

| Lower school | Start Time |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Breakfast Club | 8.00am |
| Lesson 1 | 8.55am |
| Lesson 2 | 9.45am |
| Break 1 | 10.35am |
| Lesson 3 | 10.55am |
| Lunch | 11.45am |
| Lesson 4 | 12.35pm |
| Assembly and break | 1.25pm |
| Lesson 6 | 2.15pm |
| End of the Day | 3.10pm |

| Middle and upper school | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Registration | 8.40am |
| Lesson 1 | 8.55am |
| Lesson 2 | 9.45am |
| Break 1 | 10.35am |
| Lesson 3 | 10.55am |
| Lesson 4 | 11.45am |
| Lunch | 12.35pm |
| Lesson 5 | 1.25pm |
| Lesson 6 | 2.15pm |
| End of the Day | 3.05pm |

12. Community Focused Schools

A community-focused school is one that: ‘provides a range of services and activities’, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. Across Wales many schools already provide some community services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes’.

The development of community-focused schools is not just a short-term project or initiative, but a real opportunity for schools and communities to work together in new ways for the future benefit of children, young people and adults.

We are committed to the development of Ysgol Nantgwyn as a community school and offer a range of activities, events and clubs for pupils and the community to be included in.

We work with a number of community partners including the local supermarkets, fire service, police and health services to support the development of relationships and progress local objectives.

13. Review of School Policies

As all policies were new for the opening of the school, there have been no amendments, with the exception of:

- Staff Handbook (inc. Learning & Teaching Handbook)
- Assessment Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Keeping School Safe

14. Additional Learning Needs

The School's Policy for the Assessment of and Provision for pupils with additional learning needs is summarised as follows:

The School's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs is consistent with the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in January 2002.

The School's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALENCO) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them.

The ALENCO also liaises with all members of staff, to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.

During the current academic year, on the date of the PLASC census:

147 pupils were on School Action/Early Years Action.

97 pupils were on School Action Plus/Early Action Plus (including those with Notes in Lieu).

0 pupils were undergoing Statutory Assessment.

10 pupils had statements of Special Educational Needs.

The new ALN bill is driving the way that we work as a school and, while its implementation may have been delayed, we are making good progress in transitioning our working practices to ensure that they are aligned with new expectations.

15. Access for Disabled Pupils

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in its daily actions and activities.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information are included in the planning process and accessibility plan.

The Authority has in place an Accessibility Strategy and in line with this strategy has had an audit of the school site undertaken, as part of an Authority wide brief, to identify any potential barriers and (ultimately) improve the access to the school.

16. Fabric of the Building & Provision of Toilet Facilities

The building is generally in a good state of repair. Over the past year we have had a full refurbishment in the Nant canteen.

Within the school we have several toilet facilities.

Gwyn Building

Nursery to Year 2 have a block of toilets between each classroom.

Year 3 to Year 6 have dedicated male and female toilets.

Nant Building

Middle school have their own dedicated male and female toilets in the Science corridor.

Upper school have their own dedicated male and female toilets in the Technology corridor.

There are male and female toilets for use by all students located by the Drama Studio and within the PE area.

The toilets are cleaned at least twice every day, there is a team of caretakers available throughout the day if further cleaning is required.

17. Target Setting

The implementation and review of the school's strategies and targets is documented in detail in the School Development Plan.

(Targets detailed on next page)

Whole school targets 2019-2020

| Lower School Targets | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Measure | School based target |
| Reading ages | Target is for pupils reading age to be aligned to their chronological age. |
| Phase outcome | Flying start – Outcome 1/2 Nursery – Outcome 2/3 Reception – Outcome 3/4 Year 1 – Outcome 4/5 Year 2 - Outcome 5/6 Year 3 - Outcome 6/6+ |
| National Reading Test | >115 25% |
| Numeracy Numeracy Tests | 105-114 50% |
| Y2 & Y3 | 96-104 20% |
| | 86-95 5% |
| | <85 0% |

| Middle School Targets | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Measure | School based target |
| Reading ages | Target is for pupils reading age to be aligned to their chronological age. |
| National Reading Test | >115 25% |
| Numeracy Numeracy Tests | 105-114 50% |
| Y4-8 | 96-104 20% |
| | 86-95 5% |
| | <85 0% |

| Upper School Targets | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Measure | School based target |
| L2 including English and mathematics | 46 - 58% |
| Average capped 9 point score | 350 - 370 |
| 5 x A*/A | 15% |
| Literacy Level 2 | 61 - 69% |
| Literacy average points score | 42 |
| Numeracy Level 2 | 56 - 64% |
| Numeracy average point score | 40 |
| Science Level 2 | 56 - 62% |
| Science average point score | 33 |

18. Attendance Information

Listed below are the pupil attendance figures for the last academic year.

Secondary Attendance

| Group | % Attend |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Year 7 | 92.6 |
| Year 8 | 91.6 |
| Year 9 | 90.7 |
| Year 10 | 92.5 |
| Year 11 | 92.6 |
| Totals | 91.9 |

Primary Attendance

| Group | % Attend |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Year 1 | 93.3 |
| Year 2 | 93.8 |
| Year 3 | 93.8 |
| Year 4 | 93.8 |
| Year 5 | 93.6 |
| Year 6 | 93.8 |
| Totals | 93.7 |

Absence from school is a contributing factor in low pupil achievement, so the Welsh Assembly Government is targeting improved attendance. Parents can help this situation by informing the school if they feel that there are any problems that are preventing pupils from attending or causing the pupil to feel that they do not want to attend school. The school is committed to supporting pupils and families in improving attendance.

The strategies that we are currently using include:

- New attendance procedures are in place for September 2019. These include a full graduated response to attendance concerns including a wide range of supportive measures for pupils and families. The procedures also include the submission of FPN referrals and Attendance and Wellbeing referrals for identified pupils.
- A wide range of profile enhancing projects are being formulated and implemented including 'hot-spot' incentives planned during the course of the year.
- KLR /NP are working with the Attendance and Wellbeing Service and the Education Psychology service to implement a plan to tackle persistent absenteeism e.g below 60% attendance throughout the school.

- Attendance target set by the Local Authority at 93.5%. Individual students will be set the challenge 95% target.

19. Admission/Transition Arrangements

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council is the Admissions Authority for all schools (other than Church schools where the schools governing body is the admissions authority) within the Authority's boundary. The schools admission arrangements are, therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication Starting School book. The book is made available to parents at the point of their application for their child's admission to school. The contents of this book can also be accessed online on the Authority's website www.rctcbc.gov.uk.

20. School Leavers

The school has excellent relationships with a range of Post-16 provisions including schools, colleges and Careers Wales.

| Destination | Number of students |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Further Education | 65 |
| Other school/sixth form | 14 |
| Employment | 2 |
| Training | 2 |
| Unemployment | 4 |
| Other/unknown | 11 |

21. Sporting Aims and Achievements

The school takes part in a range of sporting events including netball, football, rugby, athletics and the bi-annual ski trip.

The extra-curricular activities programme allows pupils to expand their interests outside of the classroom. In the main they are practical sessions that are adventurous and reflective, while, mentally and physically challenging.

We offer a variety of activities across all ages here at Ysgol Nantgwyn. Activities will vary from term to term - further information will be published via ParentMail and the schools social media platforms at the start of each term.

Traditionally, sessions are run after school and in some cases involve students being taken off-site for fixtures against other schools. However, some sessions do take place before school and at lunchtime.

We hope that pupils will try new activities and find hidden skills. Activities are run by staff and/or specialist instructors who have expertise, experience and enthusiasm for their activities.

Some examples of the activities include: All Stars, Athletics, Basketball, Bowls, Boxercise, Fit for Sport, Football, Netball, Rugby and a Running Club – for more information on these or other activities offered please contact a member of the physical education department.

22. Healthy Eating

We are pleased to share we are working towards phase four of the Healthy Schools Award. At Ysgol Nantgwyn we promote healthy eating by encouraging children to eat healthy snacks during morning break time, and healthy lunches at dinnertime. The well-being pupil leadership team are currently developing a pupil friendly healthy lunch box policy that will be shared across the school.

Information and advice to parents about healthy lunchboxes is also available on our website, on the healthy schools page, and each month we will send out a healthy eating tip of the month through our social network platform.

We teach children about the importance of a balanced diet through PSE, science, and design and technology lessons, as well as through Caru and Canu Dysgu themes.

23. Agencies

The school is well supported by a range of outside agencies that provide appropriate advice and guidance to both staff and pupils. These include:

- Careers Wales
- Education Psychology
- Youth Offending Team
- Counselling Service
- School Nurse
- Police and Community Police
- Support Officers
- Social Services
- School 21
- Sporting Marvels
- Rhondda Netball
- Principality

YSGOL NANTGWYN

PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2018/2019 (Financial Year, 7/12ths only)

| EMPLOYEE COSTS | Total Spent |
|---|---------------------|
| TEACHERS (including Headteacher/Supply/Reading support) | 1,561,373.83 |
| A.P.T. + C (School Clerks/Nursery Nurses/School Aides). | 253,111.88 |
| TOTAL : | 1,814,485.71 |
| PREMISES RELATED | |
| BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE | 14,407.86 |
| UTILITIES | 39,433.25 |
| RATES | 48,575.00 |
| CLEANING (Including Materials) | 55,516.20 |
| TRANSPORT | 2,590.85 |
| EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE | 1,646.74 |
| TOTAL : | 162,169.90 |
| SUPPLIES, SERVICES AND OTHER EXPENSES | |
| SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS | 112,444.92 |
| ANNUALS | 7,261.15 |
| EXAM FEES | 17,335.67 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 396,645.71 |
| CAPITATION | 29,358.01 |
| TOTAL: | 563,045.46 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE : | 2,539,701.07 |
| INCOME | |
| DELEGATED BUDGET | 2,410,287.00 |
| EIG | 90,847.00 |
| PDG | 173,745.00 |
| PDG EARLY YEARS | 19,191.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 79,533.00 |
| TOTAL: | 2,728,896.37 |