



GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

YSGOL Y WERN 2024 - 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a real pleasure to write to you this year on behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol y Wern, following another busy and successful year under the leadership of our Acting Headteacher, Mrs Nia Jones.

I am delighted to present this report, which captures the wide range of activities and experiences enjoyed over the past year and reflects the vision, commitment and teamwork that runs throughout Ysgol y Wern. As a Governing Body, we have been inspired by the many opportunities provided for our pupils and would like to thank everyone within the school community for their continued dedication, hard work and enthusiasm.

There have been many occasions over the years that filled us with pride. The Christmas Concert, successes at the Urdd Eisteddfod and sporting achievements were all uplifting moments that showcased the diverse talents of our pupils. These achievements highlight not only their abilities, but also their resilience, determination and strength of character.

None of this would be possible without the dedication, care and leadership of the staff at Ysgol y Wern. We would like to commend them once again for their outstanding work and for the support they have given to Mrs Jones throughout the year. We would also like to sincerely thank those familiar faces who have played such an important role in shaping the warmth and character of the school and who moved on to new roles at the end of the summer term.

As a Governing Body, we are encouraged by the continued improvements to facilities across the site and were pleased to see further investment in resources across several departments. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Parents Teacher Association. Their hard work and dedication over the past year has raised fantastic funds for the school, and their ongoing support is truly appreciated. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Our visits to the school throughout the year have provided valuable opportunities to gain insight into the rich and varied learning experiences offered across the curriculum. A particular highlight has been spending time speaking with pupils themselves, who should be commended for their confidence and enthusiasm when sharing their experiences at Ysgol y Wern.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Governing Body would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Mrs Nia Jones for stepping into the role of Acting Headteacher, a position she undertook with great commitment and pride. We now look forward to welcoming Mr Aled ap Iwan and entering an exciting new chapter in the life of Ysgol y Wern.

With Thanks,

Hannah Fernandez

Chair

AUTUMN TERM 2024

- 86 in the Nursery Class
- 68 have been accepted into three reception classes
- 90 Year 1
- 70 Year 2
- 89 Year 3
- 91 Year 4
- 86 Year 5
- 85 Year 6

Total Pupils on roll: Reception - Year 6: 579
Nursery 62

Total: **665**

There were 665 pupils attending the school in September 2024 with the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher and 19 full-time teachers and 8 part-time teachers, alongside the Additional Learning Needs teacher. The school has an effective team of Teacher Assistants who help in the Foundation Learning and support pupils with Additional Learning Needs. The supporting team includes a full-time finance bursar and two part-time secretaries, a caretaker, lunchtime supervisors and kitchen staff.

Staffing

Mrs Nis Jones is Acting Headteacher for the 2024–25 academic year while the process of appointing a permanent Headteacher continues. Mr Aled ap Iwan has been appointed as the school's new Headteacher, beginning in September 2025.

Teaching appointments:

One newly qualified teacher has been appointed: Miss Katie Rees. We said farewell to Miss Abbie Phillips at the end of the year

Governing Body

Name	Type
Hannah Fernandez-Arias (Chairman) LEA	
Nicholas Brown (Vice Chairman)	P
Moira Kellaway	H
Mike Landers	LEA
Cecil James	C
Rhys Evans	C
John Rawnsley	C
Nia Jones	TR
Helen Walker	TR
Angharad Naylor	P
Margaret Kemp	LEA
Nia Griffiths	P
Maxine Chichester	P
Lowri Powell	P
Bethan Proctor	LEA
Hannah Carlson	CLC

LEA: Local Education Authority

H: Headteacher

C: Community

P: Parent

TR: Teachers' Representatives

SNA: Non-Teaching Staff

CLC- Clerk of the Governing Body

Arrangements for the next Governing Body election - The Education Authority and the School will inform parents/carers of the arrangements for any opportunities to be part of the Governing Body and election arrangements.

School Improvement Plan 2024 - 2025 reviewed and agreed:

- 1. Ensure that children make good progress in their writing.
Use *Talk for Writing* strategies to raise writing standards.**
- 2. Create a shared understanding of what “independent learning” looks like for the school’s learning community.**

3. Reflect on our practice and learning environment through the lens of diversity, anti-racism and *cynefin*, ensuring breadth within our curriculum.
4. Develop a whole-school approach to wellbeing in order to ensure full access to the curriculum for every learner.
5. Continue to develop the school's leadership roles effectively.

INSET Training Days 24-25

2/9/24 - Curriculum for Wales and Safeguarding Arrangements

25/9/24 - Glantaf Cluster Schools - ALN (Additional Learning Needs) workshops

25/11/24 - Teaching and Independence - Training by a CSC leader

6/1/25 - *Show Racism the Red Card* workshop and Cardiff as a Multicultural City

21/2/25 - School Improvement Plan

21/7/25 - End-of-year Parent Forums

Safeguarding

- Staff have received safeguarding training
- The school's Designated Senior Person for Child Protection was the Headteacher Mrs Nia Jones and Miss Elen Walker and Mrs Helen Walker as deputies
- The school planned activities for Anti-Bullying Week
- Regular visits by the Health and Safety Officer

INSET - Full details of courses attended by staff between September 2024 - July 2025 were presented at Governing Body meetings.

2024-2025 Term Dates

	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Finishes	Term Ends
Autumn	02/09/24	28/10/24	01/11/24	20/12/24
Spring	06/01/25	24/02/25	28/02/25	11/04/25
Summer	28/04/25	26/05/25	30/05/25	21/07/25

Teaching and Learning

Several aspects of the School Improvement Plan were presented to the Governing Body during the year by the school staff.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to ensuring equality. The Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and pupils strongly believe in promoting the concept of equal opportunities for all individuals. All forms of prejudice and discrimination based on race, gender, belief, language, sexual orientation, disability or age are opposed.

Additional Learning Needs

The school follows the ALN Act and understands that high quality teaching and learning meets the needs of all learners and supports inclusive education. Mrs Elin Kate Confrey is the ALN Coordinator. The ALN Coordinator identifies learners who need additional support and plans and advises other members of staff on what interventions are needed. This is done during progress discussions with the teacher when discussing if the learner has made suitable progress from their initial starting point. The school works closely with external agencies e.g. the Educational Psychologist and the Inclusion Service. Mrs Confrey works closely with parents and holds regular meetings with parents. All the staff have received ALN training.

Disabled Pupils

- There are two disabled toilets and handrails to assist children with moderate physical disabilities.
- Equality of opportunity is a priority
- Improving the information collected about disabled pupils, disabled parents/carers, disabled employers and disabled service users is a priority

School Language Category - a specific Welsh-medium school

Use of the Welsh language in the school

- Welsh is used across the school as the main language in all areas of the school's work and the extracurricular activities.
 - Pupils receive an introduction to English in Year 3.
- Welsh is the school's natural language of communication. Communication between parents/carers and the school is bilingual.
- The Welsh language is promoted in all aspects of Ysgol y Wern's life and work.
- The school ensures that there is continuity and progression through careful planning and development in terms of the use of the Welsh language in all aspects of curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Pupils who begin Welsh medium education at a later stage can take advantage of the provisions of the Language Immersion Centre organized by the Education Authority.
- The pupils transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf where they continue with the Welsh education. During Year 6, pupils have opportunities to take part in transition activities.

Community Relations

- **£419 was raised** for Macmillan Cancer Care.
- **£1,263 was raised** for Children in Need.
- **£525 was raised** towards Tafwyl during the 'non-school-uniform day'.
- **£594 was raised** for Velindre Hospital during Wear Red for Wales and Velindre.
- **£1,000 was raised** for Save the Children.
- **Children's awareness of Down Syndrome was raised** on World Down Syndrome Day. The children enjoyed taking part in '21' activities during the day. **£505 was raised.**
- Following the Battery Recycling Competition for Cardiff schools, **Ysgol Y Wern came third and won £50 in Amazon vouchers.**
- After our Harvest Service, **the children's donations were presented to Cardiff Food Bank.**
- **Year 2 children enjoyed performing at the Tafwyl festival** this year.
- Following the work of the Anti-Racism Taskforce, **a new logo was created**, and it was decided to place the logo on all school sports shirts — showing that we stand against racism as the children go out into the local and wider community.
- **A service was held by Carole Morgan from the RNIB and her guide dog**, sharing about her life and how Jason the dog helps her day to day

Curriculum

- Curriculum evenings were held in every year group at the start of September.
- Four pupils are members of the city's Welsh-medium Schools' Parliament.
- Residential visits – Year 4 (Urdd Centre, Cardiff), Year 5 and Year 6 (Urdd Centre, Llangrannog).
- Workshop with author Chantelle Moore for Year 6 – a workshop on the contribution of the Windrush Generation.
- The Health and Wellbeing Committee led an assembly during Children's Mental Health Week.

- Cluster collaboration during after-school sessions focused on the Areas of Learning and Experience.
- Following meetings of the Anti-Racism Taskforce, new art equipment was ordered to reflect diversity within our classrooms.
- The school Eisteddfod was held, with the houses competing against each other in the school hall.
- Many pupils took part in the Cluster Orchestra Concert at Glantaf.
- Year 3 received PBuzz lessons as part of County Music Service provision. All pupils performed in a concert at the 'All Nations'.
- Year 6 received weekly German sessions from Glantaf, and Year 5 received French sessions.
- The Schools Police Officer held safety workshops.
- World Book Day was celebrated with a range of fun reading activities enjoyed by all.
- Year 6 took part in an enterprise project – selling bird-food bundles to parents.
- The school planned activities for Anti-Bullying Week, with the School Council/Wellbeing Committee reviewing the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Years 5 and 6 performed *The Lion King* musical at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.
- Performance of *The Selfish Giant* by the Theatre in Education company 'Image Theatre'.
- Members of *Keep Wales Tidy* visited the school to assess for renewal of the Platinum Eco Flag. The Eco Committee presented their achievements — and the flag was successfully renewed once again.
- The Eco Committee led assemblies on energy saving and began an energy-saving campaign for each class to compete for the Lego 'Bobi Bwlb' trophy.
- Former pupil Rose Datta (winner of "Llais") inspired pupils with a Q&A session.
- The Year 4 team won the county Book Quiz competition and went on to the national round in Aberystwyth.
- The Year 6 football team reached the Urdd National Sports Festival in Aberystwyth after their success at county level.

- The Year 4 mixed Tag Rugby team were crowned National Champions in Aberystwyth.
- Many pupils competed in the Urdd Eisteddfod this year. A Year 5 composer won the Composition Competition for Years 6 and under.
- RNLI ran workshops with Years 5 and 6.
- *Headway Cardiff* campaign – Mrs Sowden-Taylor held a workshop with Year 4 about the importance of wearing helmets.
- Our Digital Leaders received accreditation from HWB and Welsh Government for creating resources for Safer Internet Day.
- Robin Sowden-Taylor visited Year 4 to discuss the importance of healthy eating and physical exercise.
- *Coetir Bach Project* – tree-planting workshops with Trees for Cities.
- **Children’s Rights Day** – Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in an e-school service celebrating Children’s Rights alongside the Children’s Commissioner for Wales, Rocío Cifuentes.
- Two pupils were successful in the competition to design a logo for Llanishen Eco Club.
- Celebrated **Hen Galan** with the *Mari Lwyd*.
- The school anthem was launched on Dydd Miwsig Cymru – composed by Year 6 pupils.
- The School Choir sang at the University Hospital before Christmas.
- Magistrates led workshops in Year 6.
- Welsh Language Ambassadors collaborated with the Criw Campus of Birchgrove School in the community.
- Eric Ngalle, member of the Literature Department at King’s College, inspired our pupils with powerful stories during a workshop in Year 5.
- Mrs Sabbah held an engaging session on Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr for Year 2 pupils.
- Disability Sport Wales delivered a physical activity session with Year 5.
- The 10-a-side rugby team competed in the Welsh Schools National Round in Llandovery, reaching the Plate final — finishing as one of the top twenty schools in Wales.
- The school took part in many Urdd Eisteddfod competitions — recitation party, unison party, choir, action song, folk dancing, disco dancing, instrumental ensemble, orchestra. Pupils and staff were very busy

preparing. These are the competitions going on to the National Eisteddfod (all competing on the Monday):

- **Eila Loader** – Solo and Recitation (Year 2)
- **Faith Manville-Parry** – Harp and Piano Solo
- **Ensemble and Orchestra**
- *One Planet* workshop in Year 6 — exploring the causes and effects of climate change

Health and Safety

- A Health and Safety Officer visited the school regularly.
- Fire drills conducted
- The School's insurance allows a pupil to be in the School from 8.40 a.m onwards (Breakfast Club 8.20a.m- 8.40 a.m) In the afternoon the Nursery leave at 3p.m and the rest of the school at 3.20p.m. Parents/carers are expected to show their presence on the school site by contacting the Office at the main entrance. You must park carefully around the school and no vehicle will be allowed to park on the school site to drop off or pick up their children at the beginning/end of the day. Parking in disabled/grass parking spaces must be avoided. As we have a number of pedestrians, who reach the site on foot, we ask parents/carers to park further away from school(if using a car). Parents are also encouraged to use Templeton Avenue again, parking further away before walking. No cars should enter Llangrannog Place. We ask this in order to keep our school community safe.
- The external doors are secured using a special fob. All visitors must first go to the School office to sign in and receive a visitor badge.
- There was not a single case of breaking into the School during this academic year.

Policies and Strategies

The School constantly reviews policies in order to ensure the best provision for the learners. During 2024-25 those relating to Health and Safety, Child Protection and some curricular aspects were reviewed. Copies of the policies are available at the school or on the website.

Toilet Arrangements and Facilities

The school has a sufficient number of toilets for the pupils who are registered at the school. The facilities are cleaned every day by the Education Authority's Cleaning Service.

Free School Meals

By the end of the year all classes were offered a free school lunch. It is the choice of the parents to accept the offer or provide their own packed lunch.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

The school provides a variety of sports activities in all aspects of Physical Education. The pupils are given the opportunity to develop a competitive element when competing in various competitions throughout the year.

The school also ensures that it takes every opportunity to compete in every sporting event organized by the Urdd. Our Mixed TAG Rugby Team experienced great success this year in reaching the quarter final at the Urdd National Competition in Aberystwyth. The school takes part in friendly games in order to give our pupils further experiences of competing on the sporting field. Year 6 received cycling lessons from the County. A cycling club was started as an extra extracurricular activity.

As part of the physical education curriculum Year 4 had swimming lessons. It was wonderful to see so many pupils from the School taking part in the Urdd Eisteddfod this year. I would like to thank the staff for coaching and all the children who competed.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school promotes healthy eating and drinking, and is keen to adopt healthy eating patterns throughout the whole school. Pupils are encouraged to eat healthy snacks during break time only. Nuts are not allowed in school due to severe allergies. Nursery to Year 2 pupils receive free milk every day. All pupils are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school daily and are aware of the importance of drinking water.

Changes to the School Prospectus

The prospectus is revised and updated regularly. A copy of the prospectus is available in the school office.

Excluded Pupils

No exclusions.

Transition

Pupils at the end of Year 6 usually transfer to Ysgol Glantaf. The School has an excellent partnership with the secondary school and implements effective transition plans.

The School Budget

The Governing Body approved the School Budget.

The school's budget was used to ensure the best possible educational experiences for pupils and to ensure appropriate resources for them. The current system enables us to keep year groups of the same age with the funding available

Parent Teacher Association

The Governing Body would like to formally note that it appreciates all the hard work of the PTA. The money raised gives invaluable support to the teaching and learning at Ysgol Y Wern. A full report of the activities and the money raised is available from the PTA.

Attendance 2024/25

Attendance - 96.7%

Authorised absences - 3.1%

Unauthorised absences-0.2%

Progress on the School's Action Plan following Estyn Inspection

The school has met the recommendations of the 2018 Estyn Report.

Please contact the Headteacher if you want further information about the school's development.

Thank you again as parents/carers for your commitment to the school; your support is an important part of your children's educational and social development and to the unique culture of Ysgol y Wern.