

Give the best, expect the best. Rhoi'r gorau, disgwyl y gorau



ANNUAL GOVERNORS REPORT TO PARENTS
September 2017–July 2018



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Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers and Staff of Ysgol Licswm,

We have come to the end of another busy year with many developments to the overall learning experience of the children.

The teaching and support staff have worked hard to encourage the children to achieve greater independence and confidence in their learning, whilst also preparing for the curriculum changes expected in the next few years.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Save Ysgol Licswm Campaign and how delighted and relieved we were to be able to announce that our school will remain in the community for years to come.

Finally can I encourage you all as parents carers and members of the community to keep supporting the school and utilise the school hall, it's a great venue for parties and events.

The Yoga and Pilates classes continue to run on a weekly basis and the library van visits our playground every two weeks – let's make the school a hub of the community.

Diolch yn fawr iawn

Ann Rowlands
On Behalf of the Governing body

1. Introduction

Report Format

This report has been compiled in accordance with the Welsh Statutory Instruments 2011 No. 1939 (W.207), which sets out the required content of Governors' Annual Reports to Parents for all Local Authority and Grant Maintained Schools in Wales.

The report covers the September 2017 to July 2018 academic year and should provide both a summary of the school's performance and reports on developments and changes within the school.

2. Ysgol Licswm Governors

The Governing Body meets regularly throughout the academic year and is responsible for the conduct of the school, promoting high standards of educational achievement, and safeguarding the welfare of pupils. The governing body is made up of members representing parents, local community and the Local Education Authority (LEA). We are guided by the Welsh Government (WG), with these guidelines being available on <http://www.governorswales.org.uk/>.

a). The Governing Body

The governors often attend the school in order to experience at first-hand the practical application of the national curriculum thus supporting their own responsibilities as "Lead Governor" in a particular area. There have been some very positive comments on these experiences, as each governor feeds back to the governing body at the next meeting.

List of Governors & Their Individual Responsibilities as of July 2018

Name	Governor type	Appointed	Term ends	Committees	Curriculum	Other
Mrs Ann Rowlands Chair	LEA	Sept 2014	Sept 2018	Finance	Literacy (Cymraeg)	Child Protection ALN
Mr Mark Cockburn Vice Chair	Parent Governor	June 2016	June 2020		Numeracy Digital learning	
Mrs C Howarth	Head Teacher			Finance Premises		
Mrs A Spooner	Staff Governor	Nov 2014	Nov 2018	Finance	Digital learning	Basic Skills H & S Eco
Mrs R Henri-Joy	Teacher Governor	Sept 2016	Sept 2020		Digital learning FP	
Mrs D Wilce <i>Succeeded by</i>	Parent Governor	June 2017	June 2021		Literacy, Digital learning	
Mrs Polly Ainsworth	"	June 2018	June 2022			
Mrs Lisa Miller	Parent Governor	Sept 2014	Sept 2018		Literacy	
Mr Ian Allen-Banks	Co-opted governor	Nov 2016	Nov 2020	Premises		H&S building
Mr G. Williams	Community	June 2016	June 2017			
Mrs Beryl McLaren	Community council	Sept 2017	Sept 2021			ALN

Changes in the Governing Body

At the first meeting of the new academic year Mrs Ann Rowlands was re-elected Chair and Mr Mark Cockburn was re-elected Vice Chair. In September 2017 Mrs Beryl McLaren joined us from the Community Council. During the summer term Mrs Dawn Wilce emigrated to New Zealand and was replaced by Mrs Polly Ainsworth.

b). Clerk details

The clerk is Mrs Nia Cockburn (from September 2016). She can be contacted through school.

3. Elections

During the summer term Mrs Dawn Wilce emigrated to New Zealand and was replaced by Mrs Polly Ainsworth. She was the only candidate so there was no election.

4. Finance

a). Finance Statement 2017/18

BUDGET HEADING	BUDGET 2016/2017	EXPENDITURE 2017/2018	DIFF + OR (-)
BALANCE FROM 2016/2017	37,578		37,578
EMPLOYEES	288,622	279,904	8,718
PREMISES	11,420	13,304	-1,884
TRANSPORT	-	86	-86
SUPPLIES	9,487	17,377	-7,890
ADULT MEALS/LINK COURSES	-	-	-
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	14,296	14,680	-384
CAPITAL FINANCING		-	-
INCOME	-55,038	-50,558	-4,480
TOTAL 2017/2017	306,365	274,794	31,571

b). Use of Budget

The full budget is used to maintain the staff and building, and resource the school sufficiently. The PDG (Pupils Deprivation Grant) was used to part pay for a Teaching Assistant to work with children who were struggling with literacy.

c). Gifts

No gifts were received this year.

d).Governor allowances

There was no Governor allowances paid.

5. School's Performance Data / School targets on the School Development Plan

National Curriculum Assessments Results 2018

Child achievement is measured by Teacher Assessment through work and observation in class. The results are given in Outcomes in Foundation Phase and in Levels in Key Stage 2. They should be interpreted bearing in mind as we have small cohorts of 4-10 children each pupil can be from 25% which can make a huge difference when comparing our school with larger schools or the whole nation.

End of Foundation Phase results

Assessed when the children are in Year 2.

Percentage of pupils attaining Outcome 5 or higher

	Licswm 2018	Wales 2017
Language, literacy and communication	100%	88%
Mathematical development	100%	90.3%
Personal and Social Development	100%	94.7%

Foundation Phase Indicator <i>% of pupils who gained_05+ in all 3 areas</i>	100%	87%
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Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment

Assessed when children are in Year 6.

Percentage of pupils attaining Level 4 or higher

	Licswm 2018	Wales 2017
English	100%	91.1%
Mathematics	100%	91.6%
Science	100%	92.2%
Core subject Indicator <i>% of pupils who gained level 4+ in all 3 areas</i>	100%	89.5%

Foundation Phase (2018)

- ✓ A typical Year 2 pupil will be at Outcome 5
- ✓ A Outcome 6 is an exceptionally good result

LLC	School 2018	Wales 2017
Outcome 5+	100	88.1
Outcome 6	37.5	38.1

Maths	School 2018	Wales 2017
Outcome 5+	100	90.3
Outcome 6	37.5	38.7

PSD	School 2018	Wales 2017
Outcome 5+	100	94.7
Outcome 6	75	61.3

Key Stage 2 (2018)

- ✓ A typical Year6 pupil will be at Level 4
- ✓ A Level 5 is an exceptionally good result

ENGLISH	School 2018	Wales 2017
Level 4+	100	91.1
Level 5	50	44.7

Maths	School 2018	Wales 2017
Level 4+	100	91.6
Level 5	66	47

Science	School 2018	Wales 2017
Level 4+	100	92.2
Level 5	50	46.6

School Development Plan targets for 2017-18

The school development plan for 2017-18 was determined by the Estyn recommendations.

Raise standards achieved by more able pupils, including their ability to apply their skills independently

Lesson observations June 2018 – all classes showing far greater levels of independence and pupils comfortable in this new way of working.

Pupils now regularly talk about their challenges and all pupils spoken to have a positive attitude to challenge and know it makes their brain grow stronger. They are understanding how they feel when choosing to have a 'red hot' or a 'green' challenge and why they choose different levels at different times or subject areas. There are many opportunities across the school, increasing the higher you go for pupils to show independence and solve problems or be in charge of improving their own work.

Proof of editing, spelling and punctuation improvements - Pink and Green marking being used regularly and pupils are more engaged in improving their own work. Brain, Book, Buddy, Boss has reminded pupils how to help themselves when they get stuck and therefore to be more independent. Growth mind-set class assemblies have got pupils valuing mistakes as opportunities to learn not as problems which has made them less afraid to make a mistake and more willing to try.

Improve attendance

As of December 2017 data showed we had moved up into 3rd quartile (95.7%) which was huge success. Pupil Voice questionnaire showed that pupils have very positive opinion about attendance and knew absence had a detrimental effect on their learning. Sadly by July 2018 we had dropped to 95%. Parents continue to cite cost of holidays as main reason for taking them out of school during term time. We will continue to offer two days before next May half term (2019) to encourage holidays to be taken then.

Improve quality of the Foundation Phase provision, particularly in outdoor learning

A large focus had been on the outdoor element of the recommendation and this has been addressed. A new mud kitchen was built by Ian our talented caretaker and the pond area developed with seating circles to make an 'on-site' forest school resource. Regular use of the outdoors by Year 2 is in place and the outdoors is used daily by Mrs Henri-Joy's class. Pupil voice has driven topics and challenges, such as developing role-play areas, adding new resources and enhancements. A learning walk conducted by GwE in June 2018 found that challenges were now planned to apply or consolidate numeracy and literacy skills independently and there is a balance between adult and pupil led challenges. The provision areas and resources provided inside and outside were beneficial to support learning intention and skill development.

Ensure effective performance management arrangements for all staff

To meet this recommendation class teachers (CTs) and teaching assistants (TAs) needed to have formal lesson observation assessments. Lesson observations and end of performance management cycle completed for TAs in April 2018. Lesson observations completed for CTs in June 2018 for cycle that finishes in October 2018. All lessons were at least good but majority were excellent.

Improve self-evaluation and school improvement processes

In order to improve this area a wider variety of measures needed to be used to assess where we are and how well we are doing, for example lesson observations, learning walks, pupil voice sessions and governor visits. These were used throughout 2017 – 2018 sometimes involving GwE (our North Wales education advisory service), so the school Self Evaluation report is based on these findings, making it a more useful document.

6. Attendance

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
%	95.25	95.81	95.0

Percentage attendance for the year 2016-17 was 95.7% which is an improvement on the previous year which was 95.53%. This improvement enabled us to move from bottom quartile to 3rd. Sadly

though, our attendance in 2017-18 has fallen so we can expect to be back in the bottom quartile when figures are released in December 2018.

Unauthorised absences

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
%	0.10	1.03	1.35

There continues to be an increase in unauthorised absences due to holidays taken during term time. In order to reduce absence the Governors' Panel was formed to assess each request for leave of absence on its own merits and to authorise those that fell into 'exceptional circumstances'. Several request have met criteria for this and been authorised. Holidays taken during term time just because it was cheaper or without adequate reason would always be unauthorised.

The absence figures include all absences irrespective of whether they are for illness, holidays in term time or medical appointments. We therefore urge you, in the interests of child welfare and safety, to provide us with the correct and transparent information regarding any absence your child may incur or have planned.

The target for 2018-19 is 96%.

7. Community Links

Minister Bob Jones from Capel Berthen and the vicar Mrs Lorraine Badger-Watts continue to support and take part in school assemblies. They both attend once a month.

The children took part in a mock wedding at St Marys church Ysceifiog earlier this year and it was a great success .It helped them develop an understanding of commitment and relationships.

The children have continued to be involved in the later stages of the Save Ysgol Licswm campaign, it has helped them to understand the importance of speaking out and feel that they have been listened to.

8. Sport review of the year 2017-18

This year Dragon Sports released a new initiative for schools to work towards various awards at different levels as outlined below:

<i>Award Criteria (Bronze – Platinum)</i>	<i>Bronze Award (Minimum 34 Points)</i>	<i>Silver Award (Minimum 52 Points)</i>	<i>Gold Award (Minimum 69 Points)</i>	<i>Platinum Award (Minimum 87 Points)</i>
<i>Dragon Sport County Festivals</i>	Attend 3/4 Dragon Sport Festivals	Attend 5/6 Dragon Sport Festivals	Attend 7/8 Dragon Sport Festivals	Attend 9/10 Dragon Sport Festivals
<i>Playground Leaders Sessions</i>	Deliver 20 Dragon Sport Leader Sessions	Deliver 30 Dragon Sport Leader Sessions	Deliver 40 Dragon Sport Leader Sessions	Deliver 50 Dragon Sport Leader Sessions
<i>Daily Mile E/C Sessions</i>	Deliver 10 Daily Mile Sessions	Deliver 15 Daily Mile Sessions	Deliver 20 Daily Mile Sessions	Deliver 25 Daily Mile Sessions
<i>PE & School Sport Workshops</i>	Staff To Attend 1 PESS Workshop	Staff To Attend 2 PESS Workshops	Staff To Attend 2 PESS Workshops	Staff To Attend 3 PESS Workshops

As a school, we decided to aim to achieve the silver award by the end of the academic year.

After school sports clubs

Each week throughout the year, at least one after school club running sports activities was run which supported either the development of skills for the next sports festival that we were attending or supported the contributions towards the daily mile sessions.

PE & School Sport Workshops

Two members of staff attended 2 workshops throughout the year which developed their skills in the delivery of 4 sports which were delivered in PE lessons.

Daily Mile Sessions

Children from nursery to year 6 all played a part in contributing to the 26 daily mile sessions we recorded as a school during the Summer Term. They were completed at break and lunch times, as a warm up during PE lessons and with teachers, parents and children during the after school club that run during the Summer Term.

Playground Leader Sessions

Pupils in Years 4,5 and 6 were trained to become Playground Leaders in September. Throughout the year they have lead games during breaks and lunch times with children from all three classes participating. This resulted in us recording a total of 94 sessions throughout the year.

Dragon Sport Festivals

In total we attended 5 Dragon Sports festivals throughout the year. Some were in sports that the children were familiar with, such as football and rugby, whereas others were sports which were new to our current cohort of children, such as hockey and cricket. The focus of the festivals is participation, having a go and developing skills which is in line with the Dragon Sports ethos. All children who attended the festivals this year enjoyed themselves and some children developed an enjoyment for a sport which they wouldn't have otherwise tried.

The silver award

A culmination of all of the above efforts by the children, staff and parents resulted in the school receiving a Dragon Sports silver award in July. We were one of only thirteen schools in Flintshire to gain a Dragon Sports Award this year and one of only three to win the silver award. We were the smallest school by far on the list and so we consider this an even greater achievement.

9. Policies

The following policies were reconfirmed or amended in 2017-18. Individual governors take responsibility for certain policies. Policies that are relevant to parents are published on the school website.

Pay, Safeguarding, Complaints Procedure, Performance management, Health and Safety, Healthcare Needs, Intimate Care, Special Educational Needs, Lettings, Charging, Security Procedures, Behaviour, Child Protection, SRE (Sex and relationships), Data Protection Bilingualism, First Aid, Collective Worship, Uniform, Safer Recruitment, Staff Grievance, Staff Discipline, Staff Dignity at Work.

10. School Holiday/ Term dates (current year) Sept 2018 - July 19

Autumn Term		
Training Day1	Monday	3rd September
School opens	Tuesday	4 th September
School closes	Friday	26 th October
(Half Term Holiday)		
School Opens	Monday	5 th November
School Closes (Christmas)	Friday	21 st December
Spring Term		
Training Day 2	Monday	7th January 2019
School Opens	Tuesday	8 th January
School Closes	Friday	22 nd February
(Half Term Holiday)		
School Opens	Monday	4 th March
School Closes (Easter)	Friday	12 th April

Summer Term		
School Opens	Monday	29 th April
School Closes	Wednesday	22 nd May
Training Day 3	Thursday	23rd May
Training Day 5	Friday	24th May
(Half Term Holiday)		
School Opens	Monday	3 rd June
School Closes	Friday	19 th July
Training Day 5	Monday	22nd July

11. Changes to Prospectus

The prospectus was updated with new governors, uniform amendment and end of key stage data.

12. Curriculum

General

We continue to provide our children with a curriculum which seeks to educate the 'whole person' as well as in academic and practical ways. We strive to make our curriculum appropriate to pupils' needs with teaching styles that develop positive attitude to learning, the understanding of the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

We have a foundation class comprising of Nursery (including early entitlement pupils from January onwards), Reception and Yr1; a cross phase class of Years 2 and 3 which is a wonderful transition from foundation phase to Key Stage 2 style teaching and learning; and a mixed Year 4, 5, 6 class. A variety of organisation and teaching methods are used to deliver this curriculum. In the Foundation Phase children are taught in their year groups and some tasks according to their ability. At Key Stage 2 the children are taught Maths and Basic Skills according to their ability level. The other foundation subjects are taught either in year groups or friendship groups according to the task, however all lessons are differentiated to suit the needs of all pupils. Teachers plan their lessons to suit all learning styles and they range from the practical hands-on tasks to the more formal sit down sessions. Children carry out their learning either individually, in pairs or in groups.

This year we have had a particular focus on developing independence, learning what to do when you get 'stuck' before asking the teacher. Older pupils have been learning how to edit their own work and so have become more involved with improving their own work. There has been a lot more outdoor learning, across all age groups but particularly in the Foundation Phase. We have also been preparing for the changes in curriculum that will come in the next few years, by linking learning under a topic banner rather than separating them into distinct subjects as has been the method since the 1990s. This leads to a more joined up learning experience which the children have enjoyed.

Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency Framework.

The LNF skills are now incorporated into the revised Foundation Phase curriculum. The LNF is firmly embedded across the school as subjects are taught through a topic based approach and children are given further opportunities to practise skills taught in Mathematics and English lessons. The Digital Competency Framework (DCF) is creating a digitally rich learning environment and equipping our children with the skills they need to build upon in preparation for a world at work.

Report from the governor for Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Children who require ALN are identified early and through good organisation of both the timetable and staff expertise, are able to access the help they require. The school recognises that extra support is vital to those pupils who have needs that are not met within the standard curriculum.

These children will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which will identify targets for the child to focus on in order to improve their understanding and standard of work. Parents / carers are involved in helping to work towards the targets at home and encouraged to sign the IEP . The children are encouraged to sign their IEP and so they are involved right from the start of their learning journey.

As with all learning outside the main classroom it is essential to ensure that those pupils do not feel excluded from the mainstream of class activities.

On my visit as a governor, I found that the children were keen to attend the ALN sessions proving that Ysgol Licswm has ensured that they have developed a positive attitude towards the extra learning experiences offered in small groups.

Statemented Pupils

We always strive to offer the full curriculum to all our pupils and currently no pupil is removed from any part of the curriculum due to their Statement of Special Educational Needs. In 2017-18 there were no pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

13. Language of the School

The language spoken at school is English and the pupils are encouraged to speak Welsh both formally and incidentally to expand their knowledge and boost confidence in this as a second language. Children win 'Dojo' points for choosing to use incidental Welsh throughout the school day.

14. Welsh

The children continue to progress well in their use and understanding of the Welsh language and culture.

There are a growing number of children joining the Criw Cymraeg Club, they focus on promoting Welsh throughout the school and have the excellent support of Miss Kelly Cumston. During a recent learning walk attended by the governor responsible for this area, it was noted that the children are achieving recommended targets which include updating recordings of Welsh phrases every two weeks and placing them around the school also encouraging the use of a graffiti board.

15. Buildings

The building is kept in a very good state of repair by our very vigilant caretaker Ian. We are very fortunate to have Ian as he is able to do many jobs that other schools have to buy in outside contractors for, costing them a lot of money from the school budget. The jobs listed below marked with * would be jobs that in the past we had to buy in.

Toilets

There are two toilets for Foundation Phase pupils in their classroom, plus further boys and girls toilets for all pupils off the main cloakroom. There is also a single toilet off the hall used by pupils in Breakfast Club and LAFS. All toilets are cleaned daily

Below is the list of work carried out on the School between 2017 to 2018

Flintshire County Council

No work

Work completed by outside contractors from school budget

1. Repair to second boiler

School Caretaker

1. PAT testing all portable electronic equipment*
2. Tarmac holes in pathway at front and rear of school

3. Repaired broken window frame*
4. Repaired perimeter fence alongside park*
5. Removed old Wendy House
6. Gutter repair and clean*
7. Drains cleaned and rodded twice*
8. Repaired brick work on wall by front entrance*
9. Cut hedges around front of school

General repairs and maintenance including painting to keep the school in fit and tidy state.

16. Healthy eating

At Ysgol Lixswm we follow the Welsh Government guidelines for Healthy Eating in Maintained Schools. Heather ensures these guidelines are followed and a large proportion of children opt for a cooked school meal. We encourage children to consider their food choices and to bring in a balanced healthy lunch from home if they wish. We continue to ask that sweets and chocolate bars are not included in lunch boxes from home. Staff promote healthy eating and drinking water regularly by leading through example. All Foundation Phase children have fruit for snack.

A copy of this report may be seen on-line on our school website (www.lixwmprimary.org).

The Governing Body no longer has to convene an annual meeting with parents, as in the past they were often very poorly, if at all, attended by any parents. However parents are now able to request a meeting, as long as it is for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the school. A meeting must not be viewed as an alternative route to make a personal complaint about the treatment or behaviour of an individual pupil, or to raise a grievance against a specific member of school staff or the governing body. Parents need to have the signatures of 10% of the registered pupils (one registered child with two parents counts as 1 signature, where as a single parent with 3 pupils registered at the school counts as three signatures).

Full details can be found in the guidance document 'Statutory guidance to governing bodies of maintained schools in Wales regarding the duty to hold parent meetings' (207/2016)