



Ysgol Pontrobert **“Ymdrech a Lwydda”** **Governors’ Annual** **Report to Parents** **2019-20**

A word from our Chair of Governors, Denise Jones

This year has been a strange and challenging time for all. We, as Governors, are grateful to everyone who has contributed throughout the lockdown period, pupils, parents and staff, to ensure that the children continued to receive as much education and support as possible. It has not been easy but we truly appreciate the effort that was made by parents to facilitate the communication between pupils and the school wherever possible - thank you.

Despite the lockdown there was a real success. Once again being categorised as a Green school is something that everyone should be immensely proud of as it is an outward recognition of the effort that goes into making Ysgol Pontrobert a great learning environment for our children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the departed Year 6 all the best in their high school careers. It was disappointing not to be able to do this in the usual manner however I’m sure that they will carry with them everything that Ysgol Pontrobert has given them regardless and be great assets to their new schools.

We look forward to, what will hopefully be, a return to as close to normal as possible over the coming months and we thank you for your continued support.

Introduction

This report covers the school year from September 2019-July 2020. This year has been one of the most challenging for schools, pupils and parents in recent history but we have come through it and everyone is pleased to be back to some sort of normality. It is very good for all the pupils and staff to be all back in school together re- building relationships and educational skills. Before the lockdown we did manage to take part in many extracurricular which enriched the pupils’ education.

Once again, we are proud that the school was placed in the green band (highest) by the Welsh Government.

As governors of Ysgol Pontrobert we are aware of the high achievements of our learners and the strong Welsh ethos which prevails. Welsh is the language of our school; it is spoken inside and outside the classroom and the children take a strong ownership in this. The language is used and celebrated through our many sporting, cultural and drama activities. Music is also of paramount importance in our school with all pupils from years 2-6 playing instruments and graduating to the school band. We continue to be indebted to the Friends of the school. Once again excellent fundraising was achieved and the Friends continue to pay for all brass lessons. This is surely a unique situation. All pupils are encouraged to continue their education through the medium of Welsh and once again 100% of our KS2 leavers proceeded to do this. Indeed, one of the successes of the year was when a pupil came to start her Welsh education in year 6 at the beginning of the year and proceeded to carry on her education through the medium of Welsh in

the high school. This year pupils went to Caereinion and Llanfyllin High Schools. Full support is given to parents who are not fluent Welsh speakers.

Due to the lockdown there were no pupil assessment at the end of Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2.

Curriculum Organisation and Teaching Methods

Pupils within the school are part of two key stages.

Foundation Phase (Ages 4-7)

At this stage the main building blocks of learning experiences are laid. The emphasis will be on developing essential skills of communication, literacy and numeracy. By providing a broad rich curriculum using an integrated approach, we aim to develop the children's interests whilst also recognising their level of maturity. These are the important years where children learn how to observe, listen, respond and develop not only as individuals but also as caring members of the community.

Key Stage 2 (Ages 7-11)

The essential skills of communication, literacy and numeracy will still be the central focus of the curriculum. As their understanding of the different disciplines increases, more time will be given to science and the foundation subjects. The curriculum will take place within integrated themes where it is meaningful and relevant. The school plans according to the enquiry approach, as advised by the Powys Educational Support Team.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body of Ysgol Pontrobert is made up entirely of volunteers, who give their time freely to support the school. They ensure that it continues to provide a first class education in a safe, secure and happy environment for your children. The governors have specific responsibilities for subject areas according to their interest and expertise.

The current Governing Body composition is as follows:

Parent Governors	Term of Office
Mrs Denise Jones (Chair)	Ty Mawr Pontrobert Meifod 01691648347 2016-20
Mr Mike Lincoln (vice-chair)	2016-20
Parent governors	
Mr Jim Macdonald	2017-21
Mr Carwyn Davies	2019-23
Mr Geraint Lloyd	2019-23
Local Education Authority Governor	
Mr Gareth Jones	2016-20
Community Council Governor	
Mr Emyr Jones	2017-21
Community Governors	
Mr Alan Broughall	2013-20
Mrs Gwer Davies (minor authority)	2019-23

Staff Governors

Mrs Rhian Robinson

2016-20

Head teacher

Mrs Catherine Parry

N/A

The next election of a parent governor will be held in 2021.

Annual Governors' Meeting for Parents (27/1/20) held in the school.

A meeting was held in the school to discuss the Annual Governors' Report to the parents where year 6 pupils also presented a power-point presentation on their favourite school activities for the year, Governors present-Denise Jones ,Jim Macdonald, Alan Broughall, Mike Lincoln, ,Gareth Jones, Emyr Jones, Carwyn Davies, Geraint Lloyd.

School staff-Rhian Robinson, Catherine Parry

Number of parents present-10. No representatives from the LEA.

Matters discussed-headteacher's report, school budget, School Improvement Plan.

There were no matters arising.

Clerk to the Governing Body

Mrs Ellyw Pickstock, Glascoed, Meifod, Powys O1938 501401

Both the Clerk and the Chairman can be contacted via the school.

Finance

The school governors have an increasingly important role to play in determining that school finances are spent effectively for the welfare of the pupils.

Funding

As a school we are very lucky to have support of generous and hard-working friends and parents. Through events such as the annual promise auction and duck race funds raised have greatly enriched pupils' experiences. The money raised has been spent on activities and sundries such as-

◆	Transport costs for educational visits	£1,140.00
◆	Brass lessons	£2,160.00
◆	Urdd membership	£232.00
◆	Grass Cutting	£901.00
◆	Nets to hold ducks	£85.50
◆	Christmas presents for the pupils	£165.00
◆	Sports safe (Parc Eifion)	£640.80
◆	School leavers' tops	£114.00

Expenditure

Expenditure summary at Ysgol Pontrobert- available in school

Grants/Donations

No payments of travelling and subsistence expenses were paid to members of the governing body during 2019-2020.

During 2019/20 the school was awarded £1,150 Pupil Deprivation Grant which was spent on both Welsh and English reading books.

The school was award £1,257 for professional development and £3,196 on EIG (Education Improvement Grant) which was us to develop science and technology in school.

Training and Development

There were a number of INSET (In Service Education & Training) days during the past year, which were dedicated to develop teachers' roles as coordinators and to develop the self-evaluation process in every subject across the curriculum. Greater focus in the academic year was placed upon moderating work at the end of KS2 and Foundation Phase within the cluster and the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales.

The governors and clerk also attended various training courses on matters relating to child protection, budget management, data, inclusion and pupil support.

School Development Plan

The main areas to be developed within the Development Plan were as follows with significant progress made in each of them as detailed:

Target	Progress
Planning towards the changes for the new Curriculum for Wales	This area was developing very well in the pupils' work and during the lockdown the pupils built on this by doing such work as the theme work within the 6 areas of the curriculum.
Ensure that mathematics and numeracy skills remain high across the curriculum	Most of the targets were achieved by the lockdown but there were no official end of stage assessments at the end of the year.
Continue to preserve the high standards of Welsh and aim for the Gold status in the Welsh charter.	The Criw Cymraeg were working towards the gold status but once again, due to the lock down, their work could not be assessed externally.
Ensure that the emotional and physical wellbeing of the pupils is at the fore front of the pupils' everyday life.	Many activities were done in this area and staff prepared tasks in the blended learning that would strengthen their wellbeing.

Additional Learning Needs

Excellent support is given to pupils with special educational needs as well as the More Able and Talented. The needs of pupils with additional learning needs are recognised early and this intervention helps pupils participate fully in lessons. Pupils have shown progress and have gained confidence in their academic performance as a result of this additional support. We have an excellent staff:pupil ratio enabling us to cater for all learning needs.

Sport Provision

Sport is covered in the curriculum as well as in many extra-curricular activities. We regularly use the community hall and community park for our sporting activities (see also "School Clubs" and "Successes"). The school provides 10 swimming lessons a term in the Autumn and Summer terms in the Flash, Welshpool. KS2 pupils have an hour a week of Physical Education and the Foundation Phase have two sessions of half an hour.

Access

As a school we welcome all pupils. All pupils are treated equally whatever their ability, disability, race or gender. In consultation with governors, parents, staff and past pupils an accessibility plan has been published, which is available for anyone who wishes to read the document.

Under the Strategic Equality Plan a disability access plan is available at the school along with the objectives set under this plan. A new door has been installed which enables access for wheel chairs.

Security

Security is of utmost importance for the governing body and is always under review to identify where improvements can be made. Every visitor signs in and out of the visitor book and is asked to wear visitor badges. The school is locked at all times and the main entrance is controlled with a key pad. The fire alarm is tested to conform to statutory requirements, a drill is undertaken every half term so that all staff and pupils would know exactly what to do in an emergency and the system is checked weekly. School gates are always closed and there are signs to remind everyone of this.

Sites & Buildings

An annual health and safety review is undertaken that highlights areas of concern/need for improvement. The governing body is grateful for the support of the Friends of the School in holding an annual clean up event. This saves the school a great deal in maintenance costs.

Estyn

Ysgol Pontrobert was last inspected in December 2014. The governors are proud of the findings of the inspection that reflects the outstanding work that takes place at Ysgol Pontrobert. We are particularly proud of the children, their efforts and successes in all aspects of the schools life and work.

We are delighted that the school's particular care, industrious and friendly ethos is recognized together with the pupils' outstanding behaviour. We delight in pupils' ability to work together confidently in a variety of situations and of their very positive attitudes towards learning.

The school is proud of the praise given to the quality of teaching, the curricular provision and the broad experiences presented to the pupils.

The skills of the teachers and learning assistants and the commitment of the governors were recognised by the inspection team. The very good progress seen in pupils' literacy, ICT, numeracy and bilingual skills throughout the curriculum were acknowledged. www.estyn.gov.uk

Good Practice

Ysgol Pontrobert is viewed by Powys County Council as been using good practice in many areas. Our work on the Welsh Charter is an example of this with Mrs Parry advising other schools in the authority on how to develop their use of Welsh.

Also our pupils' books have been shared with other schools as examples of good practice.

One of the highlights of the Autumn term was when year 5 and 6 pupils took part in an ERW "digimeet" event at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd where the showcased their digital work to teaching staff all around the county.

School Clubs

The School boasts a number of after school and lunchtime activities for pupils.

The clubs on offer in the academic year 2019-20 included;

- Urdd
- Dragon Sport (netball, hockey,)
- Eco Club
- Coding Club

All pupils are offered brass and woodwind lessons with the brass lessons being paid for by the Friends of the School.

Unfortunately this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, Key Stage 2 pupils were unable to attend the residential courses in Glan Llyn, Llangrannog and Cardiff.

Successes

Due to the short year in school, the pupils did lose many extra-curricular activities but in the short time they were here, we did succeed to carry on with some activities

Pupils enjoyed taking part in a Tag rugby event at Cobra, Meifod in September.

Our netball and football teams competed in the Urdd area league.

Pupils took part in football and netball games at Ysgol Dyffryn Banw

We held a successful school Eisteddfod

Attendance

We are very proud of our pupils' excellent attendance and we have proved that there is a very close connection between high attendance and high educational standards. The school has been in the highest quartile for half day attendance achieved by the pupils for the last five years. This is exceptional. The school continues to place great emphasis on the importance of regular and punctual attendance at school and we are grateful to all parents and carers for their support in this area. In order to reduce the level of unauthorized absences a letter has been sent to all families stressing the importance of full attendance which has been reiterated in the School Prospectus.

For the last year our attendance figures were as follows:

Attendance This year we were not requested to report our attendance, due to Covid-19.

School Policies

All school policies are reviewed by the governing body over a three year programme. During the year the following policies were reviewed /adopted:-

Additional Learning Needs	Safeguarding
Child Protection	Whistleblowing
Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)	School Keyholder policy
Rarely cover policy	Foundation Phase
Collective Worship	Equality Plan
Redeployment	Assessment
Sickness	Curriculum
Health and Safety	Finance
Medical	Inclement weather
Redundancy (teaching and non-teaching)	Redeployment (all school staff)
Management of change	

Results of National Curriculum Assessment

Due to the long absence of the pupils in school, there were no end of year assessments for the year 2 and 6 pupils.

Prospectus

Some details have been changed since the prospectus was last published. These include:

- Staffing changes
- Governor changes

- Results of end of key stage results.
- Attendance data

The prospectus is continually updated.

The Community

As a Governing Body the steps we have taken to develop and strengthen our school's link with the community include:

- Our Harvest Festival Service raised money for Cardiac Risk in the Young this year and many members of the community joined us
- The school council attended the Community Council meeting to organise the Christmas tree
- KS2 pupils were honoured to be invited and entertain in the prestigious Gregynog Music Festival.
- At Christmas our school band led carol singing around the tree in the village followed by a successful school fair in the village hall. Most KS2 children ran their own stalls as part of their Business and Enterprise project. This year local Menter a Busnes employee, Mrs Sioned Best sponsored and adjudicated the competition of the best looking stall/business.
- Members of the community joined us at our Christmas Concert and school Eisteddfod.
- We regularly visit and perform for the elderly citizens in the village.
- We have close links with the Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi (our pre school children)
- Once again we were well supported at the annual Promise Auction by friends and parents.
- Regular contact with the Police continues.
- The pupils worked closely with pupils of Dyffryn Banw on our Owain Glyndŵr project.
- Pupils regularly have services by the local vicar and Impact team

The school was active in raising money for charities e.g

Cardiac Risk in the YOUNG	£206.00
Children in Need	£139.00
Business and Enterprise	£545.00

The Eco Council

The school Eco Council meets regularly and is responsible for encouraging and recording items that are recycled within school. Clothes, toner and plastics are recycled. Waste water is stored in the garden. Fruit and vegetables were grown and harvested in the garden.

The Welsh Charter

Members of The Criw Cymraeg have worked tirelessly to work towards our Gold award but because of the Covid-19, our assessment had to be cancelled.

The School Council

A hard working committee was elected in September 2019. Councillors regularly meet and organise events within the school and communicate with the wider community.

Healthy Eating

A great emphasis is given on healthy eating in the school. A selection of fruit is on offer for every child during morning break; healthy snacks and drinks are promoted in the pupils' packed lunches and cold drinking water is always available for the pupils.

Toilet Facilities

Provision for separate boys and girls toilets is in place at the school and are cleaned several times daily by the school cleaner.

Appendices

The following are available as appendices for your information from school-

1. Budget report
2. Term dates for current academic year 2020-21

School Session Times

Registration	08:55
Morning	09:00 - 10:40
	10:55 - 12:00
Afternoon	13:00 - 14:15
	14:30 - 15:30