



YSGOL ABERCONWY GOVERNING BODY

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS: JULY 2023

The Governing Body consisted of (as of 05.07.23):

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| LEA Representatives*: | Cllr E. Owen (2022), Dr. B. Bignold (2017), Cllr S. Grady (2022). |
| Parent Governors: | Ms C. Ryan (2013), Mr P. Hughes (2014), Mrs K. Bond (2015), Mr M. Teasdale (2022). |
| Teacher Governors: | Ms J. Hughes (2012) and Mr R. Burrows (2012). |
| Staff Representative: | Mrs J. Meredydd (2015). |
| Co-opted Members: | Mrs P. Hart (2015), Mrs H. Roberts (2016), Mr T. James (2012). |

All governors can be contacted by writing to the clerk to the governors, Miss Lynn Jones at the school.

The Governing Body met as a Full Governing Body on 4 occasions. Committees for Personnel & Finance met on 3 occasions.

The Governing Body determined the budget, the curriculum and the staffing establishment of the school in the light of the budget allocation made by Conwy LA. The budget statement is attached. **Appendix A.**

Individual members of the Governing Body have attended Governor Training sessions. These include: GDPR, Modern Slavery, Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk, Violence against Women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The Governing body has reviewed the following policies during the course of the 2022/23, and as such fully endorses the school's practice in these areas : Admissions, Critical Incidents, Complaints Procedure, Personnel, Bomb Threats Arrangements & Responsibilities, Blended Learning, Assessment, Peer Review, Pay, Staff Development and Training, Dealing with Persistent and Vexatious Clients, Tailored Schooling, Special Consideration, Relationship and Sexual Education, Conflict of Interest, Mobile Phones, Exclusions, Anti-Smoking, Redundancy, Lesson Observation, Instrument of Government, Examinations Controlled Assessment, Exams, Qualification Withdrawal, Recognition of Prior Learning, Registration and Certification Procedures, CRB (DBS) Vetting, Child Protection, Control and Restraint, ALN, Word Processing, Numeracy, ARR, Staff Disciplinary, Grievance, Cover for Absent Teachers, Capability, Gifted and Talented Pupils, Gender Identity, Attendance, Recruitment and Retention, Curriculum, Language Communication and Literacy, Initial Teacher Training, Drug and alcohol education, and Exams Contingency Plan.

Exam Summary

A summary of the school examination results for 2022 is attached as **Appendix B.**

The School Curriculum

The School's Curriculum meets the requirements of the National Curriculum; Curriculum for Wales and incorporates policies of the Governing Body and the Conwy Education Authority. Copies of National Curriculum orders, school policies, and the curriculum statement of Conwy County Borough Education Authority are available for inspection at the school. There are 25 lessons in the week; 5 lessons per day, each of 60 minutes' duration

Year 7

The Curriculum for Wales is new to schools and has been implemented this year in Year 7. It is driven by the pursuit of 'Four Purposes' which are common to all schools in Wales. The Four Purposes are our vision for every child; that they become ambitious, healthy, creative and ethically informed citizens. The curriculum builds on learning undertaken in partner primary schools and develops further students' knowledge and skills.

INSPIRE | SUPPORT | SUCCEED

YSBRYDOLI | CEFNOGI | LLWYDDO

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BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Subjects are grouped into AOEs – *areas of learning and experience*. There are six AOEs – *Languages, Literacy and Communication; Maths and Numeracy; Humanities; Expressive Arts; Health and Wellbeing and Science and Technology*. In Year 7, pupils have weekly lessons in Languages, Literacy and Communication (*English, International Languages and Welsh*) ; Maths, PE and PSHE. The other AOEs deliver their curriculum through a project-based approach. Pupils will study two projects concurrently for 10 weeks before moving onto the next two projects. This means through Year 7 they will have completed eight projects across the areas of learning experience (AOE).

Year 8 and 9

In Years 8 and 9 the curriculum is built around the requirements of the National Curriculum. All pupils study: English, Maths, Science, Welsh, Design Technology, a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Music, Physical Education, History, Geography, Religious Education, ICT and Personal Social and Health Education.

Years 10 to 11

All pupils continue to follow the core National Curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Welsh, Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal Social and Health Education and the Welsh Baccalaureate. Pupils also have the opportunity to continue to choose courses to be followed in Years 10 and 11.

The Sixth Form Years 12 and 13

A large proportion of Year 11 pupils return to the Ysgol Aberconwy Sixth Form to undertake one- or two-year courses. The majority undertake courses which lead to three A level or Btec subjects plus the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. An extensive range of courses are offered including courses in collaboration with other providers. Conwy LINC provides an extensive range of vocational and non vocational courses in addition to this.

Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

The Learning Support policy aims to build upon an ‘Inclusive’ approach to meeting the needs of students. Current structures in place to do this include:

- Learning Support intervention programme.
- Catchup programme for development of literacy and Numeracy skills
- Social Inclusion – Student Support Centre (Hafan)
- Designated in-class support across the curriculum
- Aberconwy Centre for Dyslexia (ABCD)
- ASD Hub ‘Pontio’ offering tool box, registration and break/lunch clubs.
- 1:1 and small group support.
- County provision for pupils with ASD (Tegfan)
- Nurture registration group in year 7 – Morfa Bach.

The school is in the process of transferring to the new ALN system and are currently on track in transferring the mandated years (Years 8, 10, 11) to the new system where learners with additional learning needs that requires additional provision to that which is available to all via universal provision will move to an IDP (Individual development plan). The remaining year group will move on to the new system by the end of the summer term 2025.

The ALN register has totals as indicated in the table below for the year 2022-2023:

| Year | Old SEN System | | | | New ALN System | | Totals |
|---------------|----------------|----|----------|----|----------------|--------|--------|
| | A | P | Contract | St | School IDP | LA IDP | |
| 7 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 34 |
| 8 | New ALN System | | | | 12 | 10 | 22 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 24 |
| 10 | New ALN System | | | | 7 | 10 | 17 |
| 11 | New ALN System | | | | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 12 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 13 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Totals | 24 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 27 | 27 | 117 |

The school uses Eclipse which is the software designed to ensure accurate recording and evidencing of ALN documentation that feed into the new IDPs (Individual development plans) which will replace the old IEPs (individual education plans).

The new ALN system emphasises increased collaboration, and the importance of providing support and information to ensure that children, and their families participate as fully as possible in decisions that affect them.

The Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator is Mrs Medwen Brookes and the named Governor for Special Educational Needs is Ms C. Ryan.

Pupils with Disabilities

The needs of pupils with a particular learning need or disability are taken into account in organising and managing the environment for learning at Ysgol Aberconwy. Differentiation in the content and method of curriculum delivery for identified pupils is utilised as appropriate.

All areas of the school are accessible to disabled students with disabled access points in place. The building is fully DDA compatible. A full accessibility plan is available from the school.

Statement on Welsh Language Provision

Ysgol Aberconwy is an English medium secondary school, with Welsh taught as a second language across all ages and ability ranges. The school conforms with the requirements of the National Curriculum in Wales and delivers a programme to study Welsh as a Second Language (Full Course) up to the end of KS4.

Outside formal Welsh lessons, Ysgol Aberconwy aims to ensure an ethos which realises the communicative potential of both spoken and written Welsh and creates opportunities to emphasize Wales' heritage. As such, developing a bilingual school community is a priority.

Pupils have the opportunity to continue to study Welsh as a 1st language up to GCSE level. Lists of good/fluent learners identified are circulated to encourage all staff to communicate in Welsh in informal situations and staff are encouraged to greet pupils in Welsh. All assemblies contain some Welsh language content and the annual Christmas service and musical events are bilingual. The Welsh language and culture have a particular whole school focus during the annual St David's Celebration week with assemblies, activities and competitions.

The school website has a Welsh language option and all parental letters, newsletters and the school promotional material are bilingual.

Bilingual signs and posters are displayed prominently around the school, e.g. canteen, main entrance, hall, library etc. and the Welsh Phrase of the Week is promoted on the pupils' information screen. Visitors to the school are greeted in Welsh by office staff.

All pupils that have followed a Welsh medium education in the primary are placed in LLC form groups and are assigned a Welsh speaking form tutor giving them the opportunity to use the language on a daily basis. A 'Cic i'r bore' resource has been developed for year 7 and 8 registration periods raising awareness of important dates and events on the Welsh calendar and increasing the use of Welsh using a variety of engaging strategies. 'Clwb y Caban' takes place every lunchtime, with regular visits from the Urdd giving pupils the opportunity to socialise using the Welsh language.

The school continues to introduce Welsh names for key areas of the school ensuring that Welsh words become a normal part of the language used on a daily basis at the school. We have most recently introduced Welsh mountain names to the different classes in Tegfan including Aran, Arennig, Tryfan and Siabod, and have named the two main yards 'Y Sgwar' and 'Glanrafon'. We have commissioned the work of a local Welsh artist to design and paint murals for key areas of the school such as 'Y Porth'. Luned Davies Parry, one of the Welsh teachers, has written a poem that highlights the significance of each key area and these feature on the murals.

The school has been working on the 'Siarter Iaith' scheme as the pilot secondary school in Conwy and are ready for the first assessment hoping to achieve the bronze award in the next few weeks. This is designed to further develop the use of the Welsh language across the school by both pupils and staff as well as in the local community.

Details of arrangements for pupils to participate in sport and extra-curricular sports activities.

- Once again, in Ysgol Aberconwy there was a wide range of diverse activities available during the curriculum and extra curricular. We have expanded and reviewed our programme to offer a wide range of sports every term.
- During 2022/23 we have expanded the range of activities we have to offer for all, but especially girls. We have established successful links with Conwy Cricket and Golf clubs to provide opportunities for students to try their hand to these sports. Our girls cricket team flourished from this and won the North Wales Championships.
- Nationally recognised leadership qualifications and opportunities are offered during [curriculum](#) time (1st4Sport Level 2 in Activity Leadership) These are beginning to be delivered in conjunction with Achieve More Training. This provides students with the exceptional skills required to be successful in leading activities that support our PE department, such as sports day.
- As a part of our developments for our implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, our aim has been to provide a wide range of diverse opportunities, developing confidence & motivation to participate in lifelong sport. From this all Year 7 students have had sessions in Water safety and lifesaving at Llandudno Swimming Pool; Experienced use of the Olympic Trampolines we have to offer at school and tried new emerging sports such as KinBall.
- Some outstanding successes across the school continued via the extracurricular competitions that Ysgol Aberconwy attended:
 - All year groups entered to compete in the Welsh Cup football competition in 2022-23
 - All teams progressed to the second round; with Year 11 competing in the Welsh League for the first time.
 - Girls U15 Cricket side were crowned North Wales Champions in June 2023 and had a chance to compete in the North West Thunder Girls U15 Regional Finals.
 - U16 Boys Athletics team were crowned County Champions in June 2023.
 - Sophie Rawling was selected and represented Wales U17s Football in the European Qualifiers on 4 separate occasions in Croatia, The Netherlands, Portugal and Israel. Sophie started in a vast majority of games for Wales, putting in some excellent performances at left full back throughout the campaign. Sophie has 15 Welsh caps at under 15,16 and 17 age groups. She has now moved up to the Under 19's.
 - 10 students competed in the Eryri Cross Country Championships in January 2022. Alfie Shiland & Ewan Leonard finished 1st and 2nd respectively qualifying to compete in the National Championship in Brecon.
 - Jacob Edghill was crowned Welsh U20 Indoor Long Jump Champion & finished 2nd in the Welsh Senior Championships Long Jump
 - Jacob Edghill, Rocco Castellanos and Alfie Shiland were all crowned Eryri Champions in the U20 Long Jump, U17 100m and U15 1500m respectively. All will compete for the Region in the Welsh Schools Athletics Championship on July 1st in Cardiff.
 - Alfie Shiland achieved a silver medal in the Welsh U15 Indoor 3000m.
 - Ewan Leonard was selected for the Welsh Triathlon team and placed 15th in British Nationals.
 - Ewan Leonard was also selected for the Welsh Swimming team for the British Inter Counties in Sheffield following success in the Welsh Championships.
 - Luke Corcoran has become the Welsh champion at 71kg light middleweight having won the final in Cardiff. He then represented Wales Boxing, and won gold competing in the GB Boxing finals in Motherwell. Luke is the first British Youth champion to come out of North Wales.
 - Lucian Barnett was selected for the U18 Wales boys' team, and has played several friendly matches against teams such as British Colleges and Wessex. Lucian is a non-travelling reserve for the upcoming European championships, and will play in the EHTA festival and Erasmus tour of Netherlands this summer.

- Shana Kelly was once again successfully selected to be part of Wales under 15 squad. She has played in numerous matches over the early season with notable fixtures against Somerset at Chepstow School where she took 4 wickets. She is part of the summer tour to Devon and Cornwall.
- Sam Stewart-Ball has proved and established himself at a Regional and British National level, competing regularly all over the UK. Sam is currently ranked 33rd (9th first year) in the UK on the Road, and 25th (9th first year) on the Track. The highlight results as a first year Under 16 are;
 - 4th in the Welsh Championship Road Race
 - 4th in the Welsh CycloCross Championships
 - 1st in the North Wales CycloCross League
- Bailey Spencer competed in the Welsh Boxing Championships; being eliminated in the last 4 by a former Welsh Champion.
- Martha Jones, Enzo Shiland-Griffiths and Lucas Thomas qualified for Welsh National Swimming Finals.
- Macie Williams was selected to represent Wales again, alongside other members of her karate club Hajime Hiro in Llandudno, at the World and European Shito Ryu Karate Championships in Romania.
- Head Student Libby Rubin, competed in the Women's Under 24, Under 76kg category in the British Junior and Sub Junior National Championships at the Gymshark Lifting Club, Solihull. She broke 3 British records in her efforts. This has made her the strongest female, in her category, in Wales of all time.
- Zach Jones has defended his U12 Welsh Weightlifting championship title, making him a two-time Welsh champion. He is now the current Welsh and British champion in his category and class.



Healthy Eating and Well-being

Ysgol Aberconwy's iAch Health and Well-being provisions are widely regarded as a model of best practice. We were one of the very first schools to employ a health and well-being lead and since then we have responded to the health and well-being needs and behaviours of both our whole school student and staff body. We favour a preventative approach to our work and the 5 ways to well-being is at the heart of everything that we do. Student groups such as the iAch group, school council and Tîm Chwaraeon Aberconwy also lead strategic health campaigns that address specific health needs of specific year or social groups.

The Youth Sport Trust has selected Ysgol Aberconwy as one of only 9 schools across the whole of United Kingdom that represents what they regard to be a 'Well School'. We are extremely proud to be the only primary or secondary school in Wales to be awarded this school status. We currently have researchers from Manchester University working with students and staff to identify how other schools could model our journey towards becoming a 'Well School'.

We were also selected as one of a very small number of schools in North Wales to trial the Welsh Government's 'Whole School Approach to Mental and Emotional Health'. Public Health Wales reported that "Ysgol Aberconwy is an exceptional school that is making a significant impact in the education sector. Their proactive approach to the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Well-being self-assessment and their work in the area of emotional and mental health and wellbeing is a model for other schools to follow."

Mr Rhydian Jones (Health and Well-being lead) is the first teacher to be trained as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor. He has since trained and accredited 72 Conwy council and Ysgol Aberconwy teaching and non-teaching staff members as Mental Health First Aiders. All year 7 students have been trained as mini-mental health first aiders as well as 'Restart a Heart' physical first aiders during their PBL iAch health project.

Ysgol Aberconwy is the first secondary school in Wales to be awarded and reaccredited the 'Corporate Health Standard' for our iAch intervention work with our school staff. The assessors were extremely complimentary about how staff well-being was given

such a priority at Ysgol Aberconwy and how our iACh programme was focal to our school priorities and was apparent in our whole school ethos.

We have presented our iACh work at the Public Health Wales National Conference in Cardiff as well as to all of Conwy's secondary and primary schools' healthy schools' representatives. We share our health and well-being work with our primary feeder schools so that there are consistent messages about what a healthy and balanced lifestyle looks like. The year 7 new curriculum work focuses on the importance of a holistic approach to the equal importance of My Body (Physical Health), My Life (Social Health) and My Mind (Mental Health). Ysgol Aberconwy has also featured as an International School Health Research Network (SHRN) Case study school of best practice in how we incorporate food education and forest school into our iACh work. The new curriculum allows us the opportunity to further develop our IACH, PSHE and RSE provisions and we are very excited about the prospect of continuing to offer personal survival swimming, trampolining, indoor/outdoor cooking and Bod-silin cottage visits in our curriculum provision.

Students and staff have also presented our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Relationship Sexuality Education program at national PIXL (Partners in Excellence) conferences in Cardiff. We have also shared this work at Erasmus conferences where the previous Children Commissioner, Sally Holland praised: "“Young people, parents and employers all recognise that education should be about more than just qualifications ... so it's really encouraging that this programme recognises and develops the talents, interests and rights of all students at Ysgol Aberconwy”"

Community Fundraising

Ysgol Aberconwy's fundraising appeals continue to go from strength to strength. Last year we raised an incredible £3,009 towards Children in Need as part of our national charity appeal. This was our first year leading a year 7 FirstGive appeal where every year 7 form class select their own charity to support. St David's Hospice, Ty Gobaith, Adferiad recovery, Crohns and Colitis, Aberconwy Domestic Abuse, Osbourne Trust and Conwy Foodbank were selected and invited to plan a social action and a range of awareness and fundraising activities. Julie Fallon (Cabinet Member for Education) will be on the adjudicating panel during the FirstGive final celebrating all the student and form class efforts.

In addition to these appeals we have established a strong partnership with Conwy Foodbank with regular appeals and collections. We have also partnered with the Church in Conwy with over 50 of our most in need families benefitting from monthly 'Bags of Love' food hampers being delivered to their door. We have student and staff volunteers that help with the food packing, distribution and who raise funds to ensure the continued success of this invaluable support.

Confucius Classroom

The school's programme funded by the Chinese Government allows pupils in the school to study Mandarin and Chinese culture. A teacher is provided by the Chinese Government. Local Primary Schools also benefit from the facility.

Term Dates 2023 – 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| *Staff Training Days | *04/09/2023 *05/09/2023 |
| Term Start | 06/09/2023 |
| Half Term Close | 27/10/2023 |
| Half Term Open | 06/11/2023 |
| End of Term | 22/12/2023 |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS | |

SPRING TERM 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| *Staff Training Day | *25/01/2024 *22/03/2024 |
| Term Start | 08/01/2024 |
| Half Term Close | 09/02/2024 |
| Half Term Open | 19/02/2024 |
| End of Term | 21/03/2024 |
| EASTER HOLIDAYS | |

SUMMER TERM 2024

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| *Staff Training Days | *01/07/2023 |
| Term Start | 08/04/2024 |
| May Day | 06/05/2024 |
| Half Term Close | 24/05/2024 |
| Half Term Open | 03/06/2024 |
| End of Term | 19/07/2024 |
| SUMMER HOLIDAYS | |

Toilets

The school has extensive toilet facilities maintained to a very high standard by the PFI contractor. Its new block, designed in consultation with the school council, provides a high quality easily supervised, open access toilet facility that has proved very popular with pupils.

Budget Update

A

Outturn

2021-22

2022-23

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Staff Costs | 4,200,544 | 5,724,834 |
| Premises | 654,356 | 774,884 |
| Transport | 13,779 | 10,267 |
| Supplies & Services | 657,376 | 632,127 |
| Total Net Expenditure | 5,526,055 | 7,142,112 |
| Total Resources available | 5,845,505 | 7,516,912 |
| Reserves carried forward | 319,450 | 374,800 |

Resources

2021-22

2022-23

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Reserves brought forward | 177,914.82 | 319,450 |
| Pre 16 Allocation | 4,565,507 | 5,960,183 |
| Post 16 Allocation | 590,489 | 667,019 |
| EIG Allocation | 63,075 | 68,616 |
| Professional Learning Grant | 24,171 | 27,511 |
| Other Grants | 424,348 | 474,133 |
| Total Resources available | 5,845,505 | 7,516,912 |
| Total Net Expenditure | 5,526,055 | 7,142,112 |
| Reserves carried forward | 319,450 | 374,800 |

Destinations Information

Destination of Year 11 (2021 – 22)

| Category | Number | % |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Continued in full time education, training or work based learning | 121 | 90.30% |
| Went on to employment | 9 | 6.72% |
| NEET | 2 | 1.49% |
| Unknown | 2 | 1.49% |

Destination of Year 13 (2021 – 22)

| Category | Number | % |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Continued in full time education, training or work based learning | 49 | 76.57% |
| Went on to employment | 14 | 21.88% |
| NEET | 1 | 1.56% |
| Unknown | 0 | 0% |