

YSGOL ABERCONWY GOVERNING BODY

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS: JULY 2025



The Governing Body consisted of (as of 30.06.25):

LEA Representatives*:	Dr. B. Bignold (2017), Cllr S. Grady (2022), Mr M. Neale (2023), Ms S. Mcilvogue (2024).
Parent Governors:	Mr P. Hughes (2014), Mrs K. Bond (2015), Mr M. Teasdale (2022), Mrs R. Jones (2024), Dr R. Walker (2024) and Ms S. Baldwin (2024).
Teacher Governors:	Mr R. Burrows (2012).
Staff Representative:	Vacancy
Co-opted Members:	Mrs H. Roberts (2016), Ms E. Leighton-Jones (2023), Mrs S. Lesiter-Burgess (2024).

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 3 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.

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 2024/25, and as such fully endorses the school's practice in the following areas: Admissions, Critical Incidents, Assessment, Dignity at Work, Child Protection, Differentiation, Recruitment and Retention, Pupil Behaviour, Drug and Alcohol, Health and Safety, Home Learning, Redundancy, Personnel, Educational Visits, Examinations and Controlled Assessments, Gifted and Talented, Special Leave, Professional Development Review, Strategic Equality, Control and Restraint, Pay, Learning Walks, Flexible Working, Data Protection, Family Leave, Special Consideration, Conflict of Interest, Freedom of Information, Information Security, Subject Access, Malpractice, Site Access Security and E-Safety.

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 to 9

The Curriculum for Wales has now been embedded across Years 7 - 9. 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 pupils' knowledge and skills.

Subjects are grouped into AOLEs – *areas of learning and experience*. There are six AOLEs – *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 AOLEs 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 (AOLE).

Year 8 and 9

In Years 8 and 9, learning is guided by whole-school themes that bring subjects together in meaningful and exciting ways. Each theme sets the stage for a 10-week learning journey, providing a rich context that connects lessons across the curriculum. At the end of each 10-week block, a new theme begins—offering fresh opportunities for exploration, creativity, and cross-curricular connections. This approach not only enriches learning but also helps pupils see the bigger picture and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

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.

Confucius Classroom

The school's programme funded by the Confucius Classrooms, Cardiff 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.

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 and emotional literacy 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 has completed the process of transferring to the new ALN system within the stipulated timeframes where learners with additional learning needs, that require additional provision to that which is available to all via universal provision, have moved to an IDP (Individual development plan).

The ALN register has totals as indicated in the table below for the year 2024-2025:

Year	School IDP	LA IDP	Totals
7	11	10	21
8	17	16	33
9	14	12	26
10	13	11	24
11	11	9	20
12	1	2	3
13	0	1	1
Totals	67	61	128

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).

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 E. Leighton-Jones.

Pupils with Disabilities

The needs of pupils with a particular learning need or disability are considered 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 in category 1, 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.

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.

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 at lunchtime, with regular visits from the Urdd giving pupils the opportunity to socialise using the Welsh language.

The school has been working on the 'Siarter Iaith' scheme and has become the first secondary school in the North Wales GwE region to achieve the silver award. 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. We are now working towards the gold award.

Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2025 – Successes for Ysgol Aberconwy:

We are incredibly proud to share the achievements of our talented pupils who recently competed at the Urdd Eisteddfod 2025, both at regional and national levels. Their dedication, creativity, and passion for the arts have shone through in a range of competitions. Below is a summary of their outstanding accomplishments:

Arts and Crafts – Conwy Region

- Chyna Roberts (Years 7–9) – 3rd place in Photography
- Moli Owen (Years 10–Under 19) – 2nd place for a 2D Creative Piece
- Connor Brookshaw (Years 7–9) – 2nd place for a 2D Picture
- Annabella Wise (Years 7–9) –
 - 1st place for Designing a T-shirt
 - 1st place for a 2D Picture
 - 1st place in Ceramics
 - 1st place for a 3D Creative Piece

Arts and Crafts – National Level

- Annabella Wise (Years 7–9) –
 - 3rd place for a 2D Picture
 - 1st place in Ceramics

Annabella's exceptional success across multiple categories is a testament to her skill and commitment.

PobUrdd Cooking Competition

- Carter Tawhai proudly represented the school at the national Eisteddfod in Port Talbot with his culinary talents. While he did not place in the top three on the day, Carter impressed the judges and had the opportunity to cook live on stage — a fantastic achievement and valuable experience.

Stage Competitions – Recitation

- Faith Annabele and Anabelle Eden (Year 7) competed in the regional Recitation Competition, securing 1st and 2nd places respectively.
- Faith Annabele then went on to represent Ysgol Aberconwy on the main stage at the national Eisteddfod in Port Talbot — a proud moment for the school.

We would like to congratulate all our pupils who took part in the Eisteddfod this year. Their hard work, creativity, and confidence are an inspiration to the whole school community. Diolch yn fawr to all staff and families who supported their journeys.

Llwyddiant mawr i bawb – huge congratulations to all!

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

- During this academic year, we have widened the sports that students have access to, with pickleball being a part of the curriculum in the summer. We have widened our extra-curricular programme via student voice activities to provide a wider range of sports, such as Golf and Darts.
- We held our first Football experience trip this year, with a trip of a lifetime for Year 8 students to visit Madrid. During this amazing cultural experience, they visited the home of Galacticos, Real Madrid – whilst having expert coaching at the training base Valdebebas; Attended a live LaLiga fixture at the Atletico Madrid Metropolitano stadium and faced off against 3 different local opposition. A once in a lifetime experience for the students, which they would never forget.
- There have been some outstanding successes for our school teams this year at Ysgol Aberconwy:
 - We entered all sides into the Welsh Cup Football, and all boys teams progressed into the second round of the cup.
 - U13 Girls Cricket side won the Eryri Schools Outdoor Cricket Competition and Qualified in 2nd place from the North Wales finals, for a place to compete in the Regional Finals in Sale in July 2025.
 - U13 Boys Rugby Sevens Squad lost in the Semi Final of the North Wales Urdd 7s.
 - U14 Boys Athletics team were crowned Conwy County Champions in June and Represent the County in the Eryri Championships
 - U16 Girls Athletics team placed 3rd in the Conwy Championships.
 - Netball Teams continued their dominance across the county with our U16 Conwy Champions. Our U16 qualified for the Eryri Ann Smart Championships, finishing 2nd.
 - Middle Boys Cross Country side were dominant and were the team champions in the competition for a second year running with 5 top 10 finishes in the team.

Individual Successes

- Lacey Williams – Wales u17 Netball – Vice Captain European Championships in Belfast March 2025; Netball U17 Regional Academy
- Olivia Jones - Netball U17 Regional Academy
- Annie Clarke – Netball U17 Regional Academy
- Amalie Jones - Netball U17 Regional Academy
- Betty Davies – Netball U15 Regional Academy
- Macie Williams – Welsh U16 Champion in Karate (2nd consecutive year)
- Jaxen Winmill – Football Welsh Regional Squad (2011)
- Harry Walker - Football Welsh Regional Squad (2012)
- Jaxen Winmill, Harry Walker, Jacob Brewer, Caleb Williams & Bobby Lavender – All part of the Conwy Schools County football side who won the Inter-Counties Welsh Cup.
- Zach Jones - Welsh Weightlifting Gold Medal
- Shana Kelly - Glamorgan U18 Pathway/Welsh National Pathway
- Lucas Thomas – Eryri Schools Cross Country Team
- Alfie Shiland – Eryri Schools Cross Country Team & 3000m Middle Boys
- Luca Williams – Ping Junior Tour Event Winner (Pwllheli)
- Nell Shannon – Eryri Hockey Squad and Regional Performance Centre
- Finlay Shannon – Eryri Hockey Squad and Regional Performance Centre
- Spencer Parry - Tri-Nations Boxing Champs – Cardiff, Lost in Final - 48Kg - junior category; Welsh Championships – Cardiff, 1st Position - 48kg - junior category, Box Cups tournaments: Denmark - 1st position; UK - 1st position
- **Swim Wales summer Nationals 2025**
 - Lucas Thomas - 1st - 50m, 100m, 200m Breaststroke, 2nd - 200 free, 200IM, 50 Fly
 - Ewan Leonard - 2nd 200fly, 1500m, 400 free, 3rd - 50 fly, 400IM, 100 fly
 - Martha Jones - qualified for 3 finals
 - Enzo Shiland-Griffiths - qualified for 2 finals
 - Kiera Williams - qualified for event
 - Lyla Williams - qualified for event
- **Swim Wales Winter Open championships.**
 - Lucas Thomas - 3rd 100 Breaststroke - plus Finals
 - Ewan Leonard qualified for 2 finals

- Enzo Shiland - Griffiths - qualified for 2 finals
 - **Swim Wales Easter nationals**
 - Lucas Thomas 1st - 50m,100m,200m Breast. 100m Fly
 - Enzo Shiland Griffiths - qualified for 2 finals
 - **British Summer Nationals 2026**
 - Lucas Thomas has qualified for the 100m fly this summer.
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Health and Well-being

Ysgol Aberconwy's iACh Health and Well-being provisions are 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 looked to cater for the well-being needs of our entire student and staff body. We adopt 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, student leadership team and Tîm Chwaraeon Aberconwy inform and lead strategic health campaigns that address specific health needs of specific year or social groups.

The Youth Sport Trust has re-accredited Ysgol Aberconwy as a 'Well School' ([Appendix I](#)) with us being selected as one of only 9 schools across the whole of the United Kingdom meeting the standard required to be a 'Well School'. We are extremely proud to be the only secondary (or primary) school in Wales to be awarded this prestigious status. In the Welsh Government's 'Whole School Approach to Mental and Emotional Health' report 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 full-time teacher to be trained by MHFA Wales as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor. He has since trained and accredited over 100 Conwy council and Ysgol Aberconwy staff members as Mental Health First Aiders. GwE invited Ysgol Aberconwy to present our work on staff wellbeing across the entire region and were extremely complimentary of the work that led to our staff 'Corporate Health Standard' reaccreditation and how our iACh support was focal to our school priorities and was apparent in the 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. Our Key Stage 3 new curriculum focuses on the importance of a holistic approach to wellbeing and how equally important it is to look after 'My Body' (Physical Health), 'My Life' (Social Health) and 'My Mind' (Mental Health).

Ysgol Aberconwy has most recently been featured as an 'International School Health Research Network' (SHRN) Case Study in how we encourage positive sleep hygiene and habits ([Appendix II](#)). The new curriculum allows us the opportunity to further develop our iACh, PSHE and RSE provisions and we are extremely excited about the prospect of continuing to offer personal survival swimming, trampolining, Kinball, Pickleball and Bod-silin cottage visits as curriculum and extra-curricular provisions.

Community Fundraising

Ysgol Aberconwy's fundraising appeals continue to go from strength to strength. Last year we raised an incredible £5243 towards our national charity Children in Need appeal. We have recently launched our 'Arwyr Aberconwy' award in recognition of that year's top school fundraisers. This year's winner was Anelise Pierce (year 8 student) who raised an incredible £1085 by cycling 220miles over 44 days (in recognition of this year's 44th Children in Need appeal). Previous winners have been Joshua Page (year 10 student) that raised £375 by cycling to the top of Snowdon and Mr Chris Kitchen who raised over £500 by completing the Conwy Half Marathon.

We are now in our third year leading a year 7 Local Charity FirstGive appeal where every year 7 form class select their own local charity to support and are invited to plan a social action and a range of awareness and fundraising activities. This year we are looking to build on the incredible £3000 raised in conjunction with our whole school sponsored walk during the Summer term. We cannot wait to see what social awareness raising and fundraising activities our current year 7 have planned in support of St David's Hospice, Ty Gobaith, Hope Restored, Alder Hey and Blind Veterans this year!

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.

Term Dates 2025 – 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

*Staff Training Days	*01/09/2025 *02/09/2025 *27/11/2025
Term Start	03/09/2025
Half Term Close	24/10/2025
Half Term Open	03/11/2025
End of Term	19/12/2025
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	

SPRING TERM 2026

*Staff Training Day	*27/02/2026
Term Start	05/01/2026
Half Term Close	13/02/2026
Half Term Open	23/02/2026
End of Term	27/03/2026
EASTER HOLIDAYS	

SUMMER TERM 2026

*Staff Training Days	*29/06/2026
Term Start	13/04/2026
May Day	04/05/2026
Half Term Close	22/05/2026
Half Term Open	01/06/2026
End of Term	17/07/2026
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

Outturn

2023-24

2024-25

Staff Costs	6,338,564	6,982,447
Premises	793,151	906,665
Transport	14,079	26,259
Supplies & Services	663,651	568,576
Total Net Expenditure	7,809,445	8,483,947
Total Resources available	7,976,093	8,463,672
Reserves carried forward	166,648	(20,275)

Resources

2023-24

2024-25

Reserves brought forward	386,835	166,648
Pre 16 Allocation	6,199,346	6,729,611
Post 16 Allocation	695,612	612,298
EIG Allocation	63,075	132,831
Professional Learning Grant	27,854	28,809
Other Grants	603,371	793,475
Total Resources available	7,976,093	8,463,672
Total Net Expenditure	7,809,445	8,483,947
Reserves carried forward	166,648	(20,275)

Destinations Information

Destination of Years 11 & 13 (2024 – 25)

	Y11		Y13	
	Number	%	Number	%
Continuing in full-time education - Same School Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - Yr un ysgol	59	41.84%	0	0.00%
Continuing in full-time education - School Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - Ysgol	1	0.71%	0	0.00%
Continuing in full-time education - College Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - Coleg	63	44.68%	2	3.57%
Continuing in full-time education - HE Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - AU	0	0.00%	35	62.50%
Continuing in Part time Education Parhau mewn addysg ran-amser	2	1.42%	0	0.00%
Entering employment outside WBYP Dechrau cyflogaeth tu allan i Hyfforddiant Seiliedig ar Waith i Bobl Ifanc	2	1.42%	15	26.79%
Entering WBYP (employed status) Dechrau Hyfforddiant Seiliedig ar Waith i Bobl Ifanc (statws cyflogedig)	4	2.84%	2	3.57%
Entering WBYP - (without employed status) Dechrau Hyfforddiant Seiliedig ar Waith i Bobl Ifanc (heb statws cyflogedig)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Able to Enter Emp, Ed or WBYP (Unemployed) Yn gallu cael mynediad at Gyflogaeth, Addysg neu WBYP (di-waith)	3	2.13%	2	3.57%
Unable OR NOT READY to enter Emp, Ed or WBYP (e.g. due to illness, custodial sentence) Methu NEU DDIM YN BAROD i gael mynediad at Gyflogaeth, Addysg neu WBYP (e.e. salwch, dedfryd o gaethiwd)	5	3.55%	0	0.00%
Known to have left the area Yn hysbys iddynt adael yr ardal	2	1.42%	0	0.00%
Not responding to follow-up and therefore unknown Dim ymateb i'r arolwg, felly'n anhysbys	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total number of 2024 statutory school leavers Cyfanswm y gadawyr ysgol statudol yn 2024	141	100.00%	56	100.00%

Performance Information

A summary of the school's performance information can be found [here](https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/) or through <https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/>