



YSGOL ABERCONWY GOVERNING BODY

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS: July 2026

The Governing Body consisted of (as of 08.07.26):

LEA Representatives*:	Dr. B. Bignold (2017), Cllr S. Grady (2022), Mr M. Neale (2023), Ms S. Mcilvogue (2024).
Parent Governors:	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) and Mr J. Moran (2025)
Staff Representative:	Ms H. Roberts (2025)
Co-opted Members:	Mrs H. Roberts (2016), Ms E. Leighton-Jones (2023), Mr P. Hughes (2024) and 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 2 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 2025/26, and as such fully endorses the school's practice in the following areas: ALN, Anti-Smoking, Staff Disciplinary, Professional Development Review, More Able & Talented, Pay, Admissions, Exams, Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation, Gender Identity, Blended Learning, Dealing with Persistent and Vexatious Clients, Tailored Schooling, Registration of Certification Procedures, Recognition of Prior Learning, Qualification Withdrawal, Mobile Phones, Information Security, Malpractice and Site Access & Security.

School Improvement following the school's Estyn Inspection

Following an inspection by Estyn in October 2025, Ysgol Aberconwy was placed in the statutory category of special measures. The inspection identified six recommendations for improvement, which have formed the basis of the school's Post-Inspection Action Plan (PIAP).

The governing body has worked closely with school leaders and the Local Authority to develop and agree the PIAP, which was agreed in March 2026. The school has begun implementing a programme of improvement focused on the following priorities:

Recommendation	Key improvement actions
R1 : Leadership	Strengthening leadership and accountability at all levels, including the role of governors and middle leaders in driving and monitoring school improvement.
R2 : Self-evaluation	Developing more rigorous and consistent self-evaluation and improvement planning, supported by systematic monitoring of teaching, learning and pupil progress.
R3: Teaching and feedback	Establishing a shared approach to effective teaching through the school's <i>Our Classroom Culture</i> framework and the introduction of the +1 professional learning model.
R4: Attendance	Strengthening attendance monitoring, early intervention and targeted support for pupils whose attendance is a cause for concern.
R5: Skills	Developing a more consistent whole-school approach to the progressive development of pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills.
R6: Curriculum	Strengthening curriculum planning and teaching to secure pupils' acquisition, retention and application of knowledge and understanding.

Monitoring and Reporting Progress

The governing body is committed to working closely with school leaders, the Local Authority and Estyn to secure sustained improvement and deliver the actions set out in the PIAP.

Progress will be monitored throughout the year through regular reports to governors, the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning processes, and the formal monitoring arrangements established with the Local Authority and Estyn.

The governing body will continue to keep parents and carers informed of the school's progress, including the outcomes of Estyn monitoring visits, through school communications and subsequent annual reports.

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 is designed to strengthen an inclusive approach to meeting the needs of all learners. A range of structures and provisions are in place to support pupils requiring additional learning provision (ALP), including:

- Learning Support interventions — targeted literacy, numeracy and emotional literacy programmes
- Catch-up provision for literacy and numeracy development
- Hafan — our Social Inclusion / Student Support Centre
- In-class support deployed across the curriculum
- ABCD — Aberconwy Centre for Dyslexia
- Pontio ASD Hub — toolbox sessions, registration, break/lunch clubs
- 1:1 and small-group support
- Tegfan — county provision for pupils with ASD
- Morfa Bach — Year 7 nurture registration group

The ALN register has totals as indicated in the table below for the year 2025-2026:

Year	C IDP	L IDP	
7	15	12	27
8	15	11	26
9	14	18	32
10	14	14	28
11	16	13	29
12	3	1	4
13	1	2	3
Totals	78	71	149

The school uses Eclipse, the software system designed to ensure accurate recording, monitoring and evidencing of ALN documentation. Eclipse supports the statutory requirements of the new ALN system and feeds directly into the development and maintenance of Individual Development Plans (IDPs).

The new ALN system places a strong emphasis on collaboration with learners and families, ensuring that children, young people and their parents/carers participate as fully as possible in decisions that affect them. This includes transparent communication, shared planning and co-produced targets within IDPs.

The Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) is Mrs Medwen Brookes, and the named Governor for Special Educational Needs is Ms E. Leighton-Jones. A new ALNCo has been appointed and is due to start in October 2026, supporting continuity and further development of ALN systems.

Pupils with Disabilities

The needs of pupils with disabilities or specific learning needs are considered carefully when organising and managing the learning environment at Ysgol Aberconwy. Provision includes:

- Differentiated curriculum delivery, both in content and teaching method
- Accessible learning environments across all areas of the school
- Full compliance with DDA requirements, with disabled access points throughout the building
- A comprehensive Accessibility Plan, available from the school on request

These arrangements ensure that pupils with disabilities can access all aspects of school life and participate fully in learning.

Statement on Welsh Language Provision

Prif Lwyddiannau a Charnau Nesaf / Key Achievements and Next Steps

Ysgol Aberconwy continues to promote the Welsh language and Welsh culture effectively through a wide range of curricular and extracurricular experiences. These opportunities help pupils develop confidence in using Welsh, celebrate their cultural identity and engage positively with the wider Welsh community.

Pupils achieved notable success in the Urdd Eisteddfod Arts and Crafts competition, with twelve pupils gaining placings at the Conwy round. Their work was displayed in the school's art corridor and on the Urdd noticeboard, celebrating their creativity within the school community. Two pupils progressed to the National Urdd Eisteddfod, where both achieved second place in Wales. Their work was exhibited in the Arts and Crafts Tent on the Eisteddfod Maes in Anglesey, providing national recognition of their talent.

The school's Creative Dance Group also represented Ysgol Aberconwy at the National Urdd Eisteddfod, performing on the Green Pavilion Stage. Although the group did not receive a placing, pupils benefited from a valuable performance opportunity and proudly showcased Welsh culture through dance. Naomi Lloyd is commended for her commitment to coaching and supporting the group. To support participation in the Eisteddfod, the Urdd Dance Group organised a whole-school raffle, raising £248 towards entry costs and demonstrating strong community support for Welsh cultural activities.

Members of Criw Cymraeg have continued to champion the Welsh language across the school and within the wider community. One pupil represented Ysgol Aberconwy by speaking Welsh during a televised news report on Yondr pouches. During Transition Week, Criw Cymraeg collaborated with the Urdd to deliver Welsh-language silent disco sessions for Year 6 pupils, helping younger learners engage positively with Cymraeg from the outset of their Aberconwy journey.

The school remains committed to increasing the everyday use of Welsh across all aspects of school life. Updated bilingual teacher planners will support staff in embedding Welsh more consistently in classroom practice, and Welsh-language courses will again be offered to staff this year to strengthen confidence, skills and opportunities to use Welsh naturally throughout the school. Moving forward, we will continue to develop opportunities for pupils to use Welsh confidently, strengthen the work and visibility of Criw Cymraeg, encourage wider participation in Welsh-language and cultural activities, and celebrate pupils' achievements. This work will support our continued progress towards achieving the Siarter Iaith Gold Award.

Ysgol Aberconwy is pleased with the continued progress in promoting Cymreictod and remains committed to celebrating and strengthening the Welsh language and culture. We thank pupils, staff and the wider community for their ongoing support and enthusiasm.

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

2025-26 was an excellent year for participation for our school, with a huge amount of individual and team success inside and outside of the curriculum time.

Football

A tremendous year for our teams in the Welsh Schools FA National Cup. After entering all age groups and fielding sides at all levels, we had incredible success with our U12,13, 14B & U13G all reaching the 4th round. The U14s proceeded to advance to the Semi-Final Stage, losing to eventual winners, Whitchurch at Newtown Football Club. Our U12s went one step further and reached the finals, losing in a tightly fought final 2-1 to Glantaff, Cardiff.

On a personal level, many students represented Conwy Schools County side at various age groups. Harry Walker, Year 10, (Academy football for Wrexham AFC) represented North Wales and Team Ampadu, in the Cymru Cup this summer; a Tournament for the highest rated young-stars of Welsh Football, who ply their trade in the English Football Pyramid. Jaxen Winmill, Year 10 (Also of Wrexham AFC), gained incredible honours of representing and captaining the Welsh Schools Boys U14 side on numerous occasions throughout the year. Jaxen contributed with goals, assists and his excellent leadership skills against various opposition. An incredible achievement for Jaxen.

Netball

Like many years before, we continued our strong tradition of success in the Girls Netball Competitions. Our U16 & U18 Girls, were Conwy Champions, and represented the County in the regional tournaments. Our U14 girls finished 3rd in the Conwy Championships.

Lacey Williams in Year 12, had another excellent year individually. She has joined a womens super league academy side in Birmingham, and continues her impressive work with the Welsh Netball squads.

Notable mentions:

Betty Davies – Regional Academy

Amalie Jones – Regional Academy

Olivia Jones – Regional Academy

Cricket

U15 Indoor Cricket Team became the Eryri Indoor Cricket Champions, taking 11 wickets in their last game on March 12th! They also came second in the North Wales Final Indoor competition on 24th March losing narrowly to Ysgol John Bright. Shana Kelly continued her excellent form into the 2026 season, finishing as part of the Welsh Girls Pathway via Glamorgan Cricket as the top wicket taker, and ranking 4th top wicket taker out of all girls in the U18 county pathway in England and Wales.

Cross Country

An incredible team and individual performance at the Conwy Championship saw 18 students place to be selected, and represented Conwy County in the Eryri Championships at Treborth. Eve Baker (Y12); Riley Keating (Y11) & Gwilym Everley (Y7) all qualified and represented Eryri at the Welsh Schools Finals at Brecon.

Athletics

Our U14G Athletics side, had outstanding achievement, in Qualifying for the NASUWT Welsh Finals. This is the first time in recent history that a team from Aberconwy has qualified for the team event. The girls represented the school in the Cup competition, against the Best School Athletic teams from the other regions of Wales in Aberdare in July.

Riley Jones (Y10) qualified in the 200m to represent Eryri Schools at the Welsh Schools Final in Aberdare. Sienna Hughes (Y7), also qualified in the U14G category of the 100m and Long Jump. Sienna claimed a Silver Medal in the 100m at this event, this went alongside her plethora of Regional and National medals collected across the 2026 Track and Field Season.

Golf

Amy Brown and Culhwch Devereux successfully defended their Conwy Schools Golf Championship crowns after winning the Gross Competition at North Wales Golf Club on Monday 29th June.

Their victories have earned them the opportunity to represent Conwy at the Eryri Golf Championship, which will take place at Conwy Golf Club on 9th July.

Other notable individual mentions:

Finlay Shannon – Eryri Hockey Squad and Regional Performance Centre

Lucas Thomas – represented 'Nofio Gwynedd Performance' in both the 50m and 100m breaststroke events at the Aquatics GB Championships – one of the premier national swimming events in the UK!

Riley Keating and Kaydan Williams represented Conwy County at Welsh School Boy Trials in Cardiff City Stadium.

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 and student leadership group 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' with us being selected as one of only 9 initial 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 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 I](#)). 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 £2098 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 year 7 student Riley Corns who raised £745 by cycling 50km. Previous winners include Anelise Pierce (year 8 student) who raised an incredible £1085 by cycling 220miles over 44 days, 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 fourth 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 Tŷ Gobaith, Wales Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation, Joshua Tree, Cancer Research and Cuddles neonatal this year!

In addition to these appeals we have established a strong partnership with Conwy Foodbank and Crest 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 2026 – 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Staff Training Days	*01/09/2026* *02/09/2026*
Term Start	03/09/2026
Half Term Close	23/10/2026
Half Term Open	02/11/2026
End of Term	18/12/2026
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	

SPRING TERM 2027

*Staff Training Day	*05/03/2027*
Term Start	04/01/2027
Half Term Close	05/02/2027
Half Term Open	15/02/2027
End of Term	19/03/2027
EASTER HOLIDAYS	

SUMMER TERM 2027

*Staff Training Days	*28/06/2026*
Term Start	05/04/2027
May Day	*03/05/2027*
Half Term Close	28/05/2027
Half Term Open	07/06/2027
End of Term	16/07/2027
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

2024-25

2025-26

Staff Costs	6,982,447	7,365,796
Premises	906,665	917,536
Transport	26,259	32,570
Supplies & Services	572,464	638,263
Total Net Expenditure	8,487,835	8,954,165
Total Resources available	8,463,672	8,875,058
Reserves carried forward	(24,163)	(79,107)

Resources

2024-25

2025-26

Reserves brought forward	166,648	(24,163)
Pre 16 Allocation	6,729,611	7,082,143
Post 16 Allocation	612,298	729,375
EIG Allocation	132,831	163,211
Professional Learning Grant	28,809	33,322
Other Grants	793,475	891,170
Total Resources available	8,463,672	8,875,058
Total Net Expenditure	8,487,835	8,954,165
Reserves carried forward	(24,163)	(79,107)

Destinations Information

Destination of Years 11 & 13 (2025 – 26)

	Y11		Y13	
	Number	%	Number	%
Continuing in full-time education - Same School Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - Yr un ysgol	95	51.63%	0	0.00%
Continuing in full-time education - School Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - Ysgol	2	1.09%	0	0.00%
Continuing in full-time education - College Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - Coleg	69	37.50%	5	9.09%
Continuing in full-time education - HE Parhau mewn addysg amser llawn - AU	0	0.00%	35	63.64%
Entering employment outside WBTP Dechrau cyflogaeth tu allan i Hyfforddiant Seiliedig ar Waith i Bobl Ifanc	6	3.26%	11	20.00%
Entering WBTP (employed status) Dechrau Hyfforddiant Seiliedig ar Waith i Bobl Ifanc (statws cyflogedig)	2	1.09%	0	0.00%
Entering WBTP - (without employed status) Dechrau Hyfforddiant Seiliedig ar Waith i Bobl Ifanc (heb statws cyflogedig)	6	3.26%	0	0.00%
Able to Enter Emp, Ed or WBTP (Unemployed) Yn gallu cael mynediad at Gyflogaeth, Addysg neu WBTP (di-waith)	1	0.54%	3	5.45%
Unable OR NOT READY to enter Emp, Ed or WBTP (e.g. due to illness, custodial sentence) Methu NEU DDIM YN BAROD i gael mynediad at Gyflogaeth, Addysg neu WBTP (e.e. salwch, dedfryd o gaethiwed)	0	0.00%	1	1.82%
Known to have left the area Yn hysbys iddynt adael yr ardal	2	1.09%	0	0.00%
Not responding to follow-up and therefore unknown Dim ymateb i'r arolwg, felly'n anhysbys	1	0.54%	0	0.00%
Total number of 2026 statutory school leavers Cyfanswm y gadawyr ysgol statudol yn 2026	184	100.00%	55	100.00%

Performance Information

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