

Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Governors Annual Report to Parents 2023 – 2024

Headteacher/ Pennaeth – Mrs Laura Martin, BEd, NPQH

Chair of Governing Body/ Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr – Mr Greg Parry



'Ignite, Excite, Inspire'

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'Ignite, Excite, Inspire'



A message from the Chair of the Governing Body ...



It has been another remarkable year at Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog, and I am incredibly proud of the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our entire school community. From pupils and staff to parents and governors, everyone has contributed to making this year successful and enriching.

The school's financial position, which was carefully managed with support from Denbighshire County Council's finance team, remains stable going into this academic year. While this is encouraging, there is always a need for additional resources, so I encourage everyone to continue supporting the PTA and other fundraising efforts.

We've made significant progress in enhancing our facilities. The outdoor learning area continues to provide fantastic opportunities for our pupils, offering an excellent space for Forest School activities. Additionally, accessibility improvements, such as the new ramp, ensure that our facilities are welcoming to all.

This year, our pupils have benefitted from a range of enriching activities. Highlights include residential trips, creative workshops, and sports events, as well as engagement with community projects such as Welsh reading sessions and Eco initiatives. I am particularly proud of the school's efforts in fostering sustainability through our Eco Committee and Healthy Schools initiatives, which have grown fruit and vegetables and encouraged healthy lifestyles.

Academically, the bespoke curriculum tailored by our talented staff has empowered pupils to thrive. The focus on outdoor learning, alongside participation in creative and sporting activities, supports the holistic development of every child. Our Welsh language initiatives also continue to grow, with pupils embracing bilingualism through daily use and structured learning activities.

Looking ahead, the governing body is excited about the priorities for the next academic year. These include further developing cross-curricular skills in Literacy, Numeracy, and Digital Competence, as well as enhancing both indoor and outdoor learning environments. We also remain committed to refining our monitoring processes to support continuous improvement.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have worked tirelessly alongside us to support the school. Your continued support is invaluable, and we kindly encourage you to engage with school activities, fundraising efforts, and events to help us provide the best possible opportunities for our pupils.

I also extend my gratitude to our staff for their dedication and professionalism and to our pupils, whose enthusiasm and achievements inspire us all.

Together, we look forward to another exciting year at Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog!

Warm regards,

Greg Parry
Chair of Governing Body

Governor Membership

2023 – 2024



Mrs Kirsty Haydock	Parent (Chair)
Mrs Charlotte Bennett	Parent (Vice Chair)
Mrs Laura Martin	Headteacher
Mrs Laura Evans	Teacher
Vacancy	Staff
Mrs Ann Jones	Community
Mr Meirick Ll. Davies	LA
Mrs Katherine Morris	Parent
Mrs Sarah Hughes	LA
Mrs Lizzie Smith	Community
Mrs Simone Delaney	Clerk

Both the Chair and the Clerk to the Governing Body can be contacted by letter via the School's address. We welcome any responses or queries that you may have regarding this report. As a result of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, which came into force on the 4th May 2013, a school Governing Body is no longer required to hold an annual Parents' Meeting.

Both our Chair and our Vice Chair can be contacted via the school if needed.

The Governing Body

The Governors have particular responsibility for the overview of school life, including the school building, finances, safeguarding, health and safety, curriculum, staffing, attendance, Additional Learning Needs, discipline, and are also required to interpret and implement new legislation as necessary. Governors must meet three times a year. All Governors are elected or co-opted for a term of four years.

Alongside the full governing body meetings we also have sub-committees who meet termly. These sub-committees are finance, self-evaluation and health and safety.

School Prospectus

The School Prospectus has been updated, it includes information about Governors, staff, dates and current procedures. It is available from the school office and online at www.cefnmeiriadog.co.uk

Curriculum

This year the school has continued to deliver a bespoke curriculum, designed by the staff. The school works on a 3 year topic cycle with this year being year 2. The children are now taught in AOLEs and the school has adopted a whole school approach to the planning and delivery of different topics. The pupils continue to contribute to their learning and work on different projects and challenges during the term. Outdoor Learning continues to be a very important aspect of our curriculum and all pupils access outdoor learning sessions regularly.

After School Clubs

This year we have offered Football, Sports, ICT, Cymraeg, Gardening, Art and Board Games Clubs. Miss Lloyd has also offered Dance Club weekly. Clwb Cefn continue to provide childcare after school until 5.30pm and during the holidays.

Review of Policies

All policies are updated, ratified and implemented on a rolling programme of review. Copies of any policies are available from the office and some are on the school website.

Admission of pupils with disabilities

The school has been adapted to enable pupils with disabilities to be admitted. The school has an Accessibility Plan which outlines work required to make the school accessible to all. The school also has a Strategic Equality Plan, which details actions for the next four years. This is available to be viewed on request. This year we had a ramp put in to ensure that both of the main exits are accessible for wheelchair users.

Sport

Dance Club – This is run by Miss Lloyd after school on a weekly basis.

The Daily Mile – All Key Stage 2 learners take part in the Daily Mile for 10 minutes per day, every day.

Urdd Sports – Key Stage children take part in the different Urdd sporting events throughout the year. This year we took part in the cross country and football competitions.

Vale of Clwyd Sports – Key Stage children take part in the different sporting events throughout the year, this year we took part in the cross country.

Swimming – All of the Investigators and Innovators have a block of swimming lessons during the academic year, this year they completed 15 weeks of lessons at Denbigh Leisure Centre. This year we have had Bikeability sessions for Year 6 and Balance Bike sessions for Nursery and Reception. We used Denbigh Leisure Centre for our PE lessons during the Winter months to ensure we could continue with them.

Attendance

There is an attendance tracker in place, whereby parents of pupils who are absent are contacted if they have failed to contact the school and provide a reason for the absence.

Half termly attendance and punctuality reports are sent home to parents.

Holidays taken during term time cannot be authorised. A Fixed Term Penalty Notice may be issued.

Additional Learning Needs

The new ALN code was made statutory from September 2021, this is available online at <https://gov.wales/the-additional-learning-needs-code-and-regulations>. The school is successful in identifying pupils with Additional Learning Needs and ensuring that their needs are met. Pupils are issued with short targets which help provide a focus for each child's specific needs. There is an intervention timetable in place to ensure that all learners requiring extra support receive it on a weekly basis. Mrs Wilkins is the interventions Teaching Assistant and she works closely with Mrs Evans to ensure all learners are supported.

Mrs Laura Evans is the school's ALNCO and Mrs Lizzie Smith is the ALNCO Governor.

Healthy Schools

The school is continuing on its journey towards the next Healthy School award. Mrs Laura Evans is leading on this area and is working closely with Denbighshire County Council and the staff and pupils to further develop the school's work. This academic year the school welcomed PC Gareth in to talk about the dangers of different substances, we recognised No Smoking Day and World Water Day and all learners have accessed a range of Outdoor Learning sessions. We took part in the Veg Power, Eat Them To Defeat Them initiative and have grown our own fruit and vegetables in the garden.

Eco Schools

As a Governing Body, we feel very strongly about sustainability and ensuring that the children have a good understanding of environmental issues. We have an Eco Committee who are newly elected every Academic year. They meet regularly with Mr Roberts and support the school's annual Eco Day alongside other initiatives.

Links with the Community

The local community is very important to Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog. We utilise the local area regularly. We also welcome visitors in to school to support the children's learning. This year, we have been supported by our Community Governor (Mrs Ann Jones) with Welsh reading, our school liaison officer (PC Gareth), Mrs Susan Blythin (a local resident who teaches swimming) and we have been very well supported by the Community Council this year too. Years 4 – 6 enjoyed a residential trip to Glan Llyn during the Summer Term, they thoroughly enjoyed the different activities and time away with their friends.

We also had a visit from our Patron of Reading to support reading development as well as felt making workshops, graffiti workshops, music sessions from the Cooperative and plenty of visits from our therapy dog, Maisie.

Language Category of the School

The school is a Category 1 school. This means we are an English Medium school where Welsh is taught as a second language.

The use of the Welsh Language within the School

Welsh is taught progressively from Nursery to Year 6. We encourage bilingualism through the daily use of incidental Welsh. There are long term plans for the teaching of Welsh which ensure that there is progression in the three areas, oracy, reading and writing. The school uses a phrase of the week / Brawddeg y Wythnos and 'Tocyn Iaith' reward system for encouraging pupils to speak Welsh to adults and to each other in and around the school.

We also have Welsh Guided Reading sessions for our Key Stage 2 pupils with our Governor, Mrs Ann Jones. Welsh will continue to be a priority for the school over the next Academic Year. We are a Cymraeg Campus School and are working towards the Gold Award.

Curriculum Organisation

The school comprises of 3 classes: Nursery/ Reception/ Year 1, Year 2,/ Year 3/ Year 4, Year 5/ Year 6. There are two full time teachers and two part time teachers (including the head). We also have one HLTA and one teaching assistant as well as three Teaching Assistants who support learners on a one to one basis.

Children are taught through a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities.

The Promotion of Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school teaches the children about the need to eat a healthy balanced diet. The drinking of water is promoted and pupils bring a water bottle into class. The school has a water cooler to provide chilled water. The children are not permitted to drink fizzy drinks. The drinking of flavoured water or fruit juice is limited to lunch time only. The only snacks offered to pupils outside of meal times are fruit or vegetables. The school encourages parents to provide lunch boxes that are balanced and healthy.

Toilet Facilities

There are separate toilets for the girls and boys. The boys' toilets comprise of one toilet cubicle, a urinal, two wash basins and an electric hand dryer. The girls' toilets comprise of two toilet cubicles, two wash basins and an electric hand dryer. There is also one accessible toilet. The toilets are cleaned thoroughly every day by the school caretaker.

School Leavers

This year we had 6 Year 6 pupils leaving Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog. They moved to the following schools: Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan (3 pupils), Rhyl High School (1 pupil) and Denbigh High school (2 pupils). We wish them all well.

Finance

A full financial statement is available on request.

School Priorities for the academic year 2024 – 2025

Next academic year we will be focussing on developing the cross curricular skills of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence. We will also be further developing the indoor and outdoor learning environments as well as developing the monitoring processes across the school.

Holiday Dates School term dates 2024 – 2025

Autumn term

- Starts: Monday 2 September 2024
- Ends: Friday 20 December 2024
- Autumn half term holiday: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024
- Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025
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Spring term

- Starts: Monday 6 January 2025
- Ends: Friday 11 April 2025
- Spring half term: Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 28 February 2025
- Easter holiday: Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025
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Summer term

- Starts: Monday 28 April 2025
- Ends: Monday 21 July 2025
- Early May bank holiday: Monday 5 May 2025
- Summer half term: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

Staff Training Days – Denbigh cluster

- 2 September 2024
- 3 September 2024
- 20 December 2024
- 6 January 2025
- 28 March 2025
- 21 July 2025
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We would like to thank the wonderful parents and pupils of Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog, for their continued support and hard work. The Governing Body look forward to an exciting new academic year in 2024/2025.

Thank you for choosing our school.

Kind regards,
Mr Greg Parry

Chair of Governing Body for 2024/25 (on behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog)