

PTAs and Licensing: the importance of getting it right

Over the last three years new licensing and gambling legislation have resulted in significant changes to the licences that a PTA needs for example to hold an event or a raffle. Not having the correct licences in place may lead to problems for the PTA. Failure to obtain the appropriate licence for an event featuring regulated entertainment, the supply of alcohol and/or late night refreshments (such as disco's or summer fairs) could result in a fine of up to £20,000 or six months imprisonment.

The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (NCPTA), a national charity and membership organisation providing support for PTAs and other home school groups throughout Wales,

England and Northern Ireland, works closely with the relevant regulatory authorities to understand forthcoming changes and to seek specific guidance on how PTA activities are effected. Membership of the NCPTA will ensure that your PTA is aware of pertinent changes to licensing requirements. Membership of the NCPTA starts from just £60 a year and includes £10 million public liability insurance cover.

For more information, please contact Nicole James, NCPTA Adviser Wales on **01792 362 499** or nicole.james@ncpta.org.uk or visit www.ncpta.org.uk.

Nicole James
NCPTA Adviser Wales

Governor Training Sessions – Spring Term & Summer Term

All governors should have received their Spring Term Governor Training Programme. Please see below, details of the remaining training to be delivered this Spring Term.

Also included is advance warning of forthcoming training courses already scheduled to take place during the Summer Term. Further courses will be added shortly and we will as usual send out the termly Governor Training Programme to all governors early in the Summer Term.

If you would like to reserve a place on any of the training, please contact the Governor Support Unit on **01446 709106/8** or email governors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

Date	Course	Time	Location
Tues 24 March	Training for clerks to governing bodies	5.00-6.30pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry
Weds 18 March	Managing Exclusion	7.00-9.00pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry
Weds 6 May	Child Protection Awareness	7.00-9.00pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry
Tues 19 May	Health & Safety	7.00-9.00pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry
Weds 24 June	The Foundation Phase	7.00-9.00pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry

In association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council

Governor Support Unit
Vale of Glamorgan Council, School Improvement Service
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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.

It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

VSGA
Governor Support Unit
Learning & Development Dept.
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Provincial House, Kendrick Road, Barry CF62 8UF

Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit Newsletter



Note from the Chair

On your behalf, I have been attending meetings with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Head-teachers and Union representatives about the implementation of new legislation from the Welsh Assembly Government.

This is the *Maintained Schools (Partnership Agreements) (Wales) Regulations 2007*, which means that formal written Partnership Agreements are required between all schools and their Local Education Authorities from September 2009.

To quote from the guidance document:

...the partnership between LEAs and schools does not always work smoothly. There is sometimes uncertainty about what LEAs should provide for their schools and what schools are expected to deliver. Lack of understanding or clarity of the respective responsibilities of LEAs and schools

can lead to difficulty and could detract from and undermine what schools achieve.

The idea is to set down what schools can expect from the Authority, but also what schools are expected to deliver. The draft document we have seen so far looks very useful in putting down clearly where schools can look for advice and help. This is likely to be a helpful reference source for schools.

May I also take this opportunity of thanking all those who made such a success of the Annual Conference for Governors which was held on the 7 March. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the Governor Support Unit which is really appreciated.

Martin Price
Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of
Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman
Catholic High School, Barry

New Heads of Service in Education

New Heads of Service have been appointed to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Education Service. Lynette Jones, Head of Achievement and Paula Ham, Head of Strategic Planning and Performance both started on the 2 March. Lynette brings from Education and School Improvement Service (ESIS) a wealth of current school effectiveness knowledge in addition to her Headteacher experience. Paula has joined us from Monmouthshire Council

where she was accountable for finance, support services to schools and for the capital programme. We are pleased that we have been able to appoint candidates of this calibre.

The Head of Service post for Additional Learning Needs, has been reviewed and re-advertised with greater emphasis on the strategic education role. An appointment is expected in March.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

Issue 16 Spring Term 2009

Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives
- VSGA was set up to:
- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations



News from Governors Wales

Publications

A series of governor guides on "Effective Governing Bodies" will be distributed to Chairs of governing bodies this term.

The section on statutory policies and documents required to be determined adopted and implemented by the governing body, found in part 1 of the Handbook for school governors has been updated. Governors Wales has emailed the update directly to schools 'on block'. It is also available to download from the Governors Wales' website.

All publications are available on www.governorswales.org.uk/publications

Summer Conference/AGM – 11th July 2009

The theme of the conference will focus on the Independent Safeguarding Authority and Safeguarding Children in Education (Child Protection Role of local authorities and governing bodies). Other sessions will focus on: Staff disciplinary procedures and role of the General Teaching Council for Wales in respect of professional conduct/competence. The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will deliver the keynote address.

Governors Wales' Website

The Governors Wales' website www.governorswales.org.uk provides up to date, relevant information for school governors. Please spare a few moments (or longer!) to browse the site – you will find news items, FAQs, a wealth of publications – ranging from Governors Wales publications to circular guidance and statutory instruments from the Welsh Assembly Government, direct links to LEA governor training programmes and more!

We are keen to develop our website and would welcome any feedback, useful links, FAQs etc. Please email your comments to contact@governorswales.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Future publications/events for 2008-2009 to look out for:

Fact File on: The Critical Friend – Spring Term

Education 2015

Following the advent of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), the education service is no longer obliged to produce a "Single Education Plan." However, in order to make a confident and meaningful contribution to the CYPP and the Council's Corporate Plan, the Council's education service, including schools and their governing bodies, need to be clear about the service's vision, its sense of purpose, the values it wishes to promote, its priorities and the outcomes it wishes to achieve for the children and young people in the Vale.

Accordingly the Learning and Development Directorate has embarked on a process of consulting its own staff and headteacher colleagues on the education service's purpose (mission), the core values the service should exemplify in its work and the main priorities we should aim to promote. The latter clearly needs to be based on an analysis of need and work has taken place to capture the intelligence gained from recent surveys of need and the messages emanating from the wealth of data available to us.

The process of consultation and discussion will result in draft papers which will, within the next few weeks, evolve into a set of succinct statements outlining our service's purpose, values and priorities and will seek to capture the essence of our approach in an overarching vision statement. In order to ensure these statements have meaning, in an operational context, each priority will be linked to a number of outcomes we would wish children and young people in the Vale to achieve. These outcome statements will be critical in guiding and informing our various service units in planning their work and generating their own targets.

Whilst this exercise is critically important for those responsible for delivering the Council's education services it is also essential that the services' key partners are informed about and able to participate in the process. Discussions with elected members, headteachers, governors and young people will be an important ingredient before statements are agreed and acted upon. Hopefully governors of our schools will take a keen interest in this exercise and will provide us with feedback to further inform the process. The latest version of the various Education 2015 documents are available on the Council's intranet site and can also be obtained from Ellie Kingdon at the Learning and Development Directorate's office at Provincial House. ekingdon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Bryan Jeffreys
Director of Learning and Development

Cadoxton Nursery School

"stands out as a green oasis in a built up area of Barry. The whole site has been transformed into an outdoor classroom, with a wide range of mini habitats and provides opportunities for the children to experience the outdoors."

The Judge of the Vale of Glamorgan Biodiversity Awards 2008



The school is a free standing nursery providing placements for 100 pupils. Having our own early years environment allows us to specialise in provision for children from 3 years of age.

As an Early Start School we are developing the principles of the Foundation Phase for the second year. It is the aim of governors, staff, parents and both the local and wider community to ensure **OUR** children are provided every opportunity to create firm foundation for life! We believe the children should be at the core of every decision made. The nursery has developed good links with Cadoxton Primary School as well as the Flying Start Playgroup operating in the local Methodist Church; along with the Sports and Community Hall, our vision is to establish a 'Community Focused' site for all.

The school offers a range of parenting groups including Language/Number and Play, Keeping Up with the Children, Coping with Kids and Healthy Cookery classes for parents and children during the autumn term. The transition from home to nursery can be a daunting step but we aim to work in partnership with our families.

Above all the staff make Learning Fun!

Mrs Susan Roberts
Headteacher of
Cadoxton Nursery School



The Maintained Schools (Partnership Agreements) (Wales) Regulations 2007

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has directed Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in Wales to enter into a partnership agreement with the governing bodies of each of the schools maintained by the authority. Agreements are required for primary, secondary, nursery and special schools. The agreement must set out how a LEA and a governing body will carry out their respective functions in relation to a school.

Background

Many schools and LEAs in Wales already work in close partnership. The statutory Code of Practice on LEA/School Relations put in place by the Welsh Office in 1999 has helped to foster partnership working.

However, the partnership between LEAs and schools does not always work smoothly. There is sometimes uncertainty about what LEAs should provide for their schools and what schools are expected to deliver. Lack of understanding or clarity of the respective responsibilities of LEAs and schools can lead to difficulty and could detract from and undermine what schools achieve.

The purpose of Partnership Agreements is to enhance and sustain partnership working between LEAs and schools. The Welsh Assembly Government wants to promote this way of working, which is a strong theme of the 'Making the Connections'

agenda and the Beecham Report. The Welsh Assembly Government believes that working in partnership will help raise standards in Welsh Public Services and outcomes for learners.

Accordingly, the Welsh Assembly Government has developed the School Effectiveness Framework to support improving children and young people's learning and wellbeing. The School Effectiveness Framework aims to develop tri-level working between schools, local authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government, to work together for the benefit of learners and Wales. Partnership Agreements are a tool in the quest for improved School Effectiveness. The Agreements provide a formal, legal basis that will make clear the roles of LEAs and schools, by setting out how the LEA and governing body of a school will discharge their respective functions on specified matters.

By setting out in one document the matters on which an LEA and a school must agree, and by the process of agreement itself, the Partnership Agreement will provide a firm basis for working together and promoting higher standards in schools.

Vale of Glamorgan

A working group has been formed to ensure compliance with Section 197 of the Education Act 2002 that requires all LEAs in Wales to enter into individual Partnership Agreements with governing bodies.

The working group consists of a Headteacher from each cluster group, the Diocesan Directors for Education from the Roman Catholic and Church in Wales sectors and a Vale School Governors' Association representative together with officers from the LEA.

The group has met twice so far this term and has agreed on a format for the document. Progress is being made bringing together the many areas that need to be included and agreed upon by the Autumn term. Schools and governing bodies will be kept informed of progress as the group moves forward drawing up the Agreements.

If you have any questions relating to Partnership Agreements, please do not hesitate to contact the Governor Support Unit on **01446 709106/108**.

Jeremy Morgan

Governor Support Unit

Road Safety Education



The Gregory Brothers with Councillors Geoff Cox and Tony Hampton, Headteacher Mr Gilbert, Deputy Headteacher Mr Hardy, 4 Junior Road Safety Officers-Sophie Baker, Aisha Ul-Haq, Austin Kay and Shannon Murphy and Vale Council Officers, Rob Quick, John Rogers and Michelle Fitzpatrick.

It was really good to meet the school governors who took part in the *Safe Routes In Communities* Travel Planning workshop last November and as a result, travel plans are currently being submitted to us from schools and local community groups ready for consideration for next year's WAG grants.

Hopefully many of you will also have had the opportunity to experience the recent performance of *The Gregory Brothers Road Safety & Recycling Roadshow* on their whirlwind tour of the Vale primary schools. The serious message of these two important issues is delivered in a fun and entertaining way, which even includes some of the teachers, much to the delight of the children who see it. Together with the Education department and Waste Management, we have been able to jointly fund this popular theatre in education show this year for all the primary schools, including Welsh performances for Welsh medium schools, during two 3-week runs, the second being in April and May.

Thanks to the help of Lyn Mererid and Leonie Horton, we have also been able to deliver the Road Safety Interschools Quiz in both Welsh and English to our primary schools, which is currently approaching its exciting knock-out final. Who can beat last year's champions at Llansannor CW Primary?

During the year, the Road Safety team provide a variety of educational programmes for schools. Is your school taking full advantage? From Tufty (yes he is still alive and well!) to Pass Plus Cymru for novice drivers – there is something for every age group.

Our current portfolio includes The Children's Traffic Club offered to all 3 year-olds, Tufty, Kerbcraft child pedestrian training, Junior Road Safety Officer scheme, cycle training and Pass Plus Cymru as well as seasonal initiatives many in partnership with other agencies including the South Wales Police and Fire & Rescue service.


If your school is interested in any of these activities or any other road safety schemes, like help with setting up a Walking Bus or traffic congestion problems outside your school, then please contact us at the Dock office on **01446 704668** or JAJenkins@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Jayne Jenkins
Road Safety Officer

Yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Uyweddau Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

The Maintained Schools (Partnership Agreements) (Wales) Regulations 2007
Guidance for Local Education Authorities and Schools



Guidance
Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 016/2008
Date of issue: 30 June 2008

VSGA/GSU Governor Conference 2009



Richard Gerver (Education Adviser)

The VSGA/GSU Annual Governor Conference was recently held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel on Saturday 7 March. The Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA) and the Governor Support Unit (GSU) were delighted with the increased attendance on last year, which reflected the continued commitment of governors in the Vale of Glamorgan. The feedback from governors, both verbal and in writing, highlighted the success of the Conference.

The title of the 2009 Conference was 'Chance, Change & Challenge equal Opportunity' with the purpose to support governors in furthering their leadership effectiveness by understanding more fully how best to: see challenge as opportunity for change; take time to make change and; take calculated risks to make the necessary changes.

Upon arrival governors were met with an early morning coffee and a welcome and opening address from the Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cllr Gordon Kemp who is also a member of the Vale School Governors' Association Management Committee.

Professor David Hawker (Director of the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS)) set the focus for the Conference and spoke

about 'Challenges and Opportunity for Education in Wales'.

Professor Hawker spoke about the need to strengthen effective collaboration across professional boundaries to allow all involved in children's services to pursue a common agenda through the Children and Young People's Plan.

He stressed the importance of early years' education and felt that both the Flying Start initiative and the introduction of the Foundation Phase would help ensure children have the best start in life. He spoke about the importance of teaching reading skills and the need for teachers to continue to focus on this area as the Foundation Phase is implemented during the coming years.

Professor Hawker reminded the Conference of the key ingredients that are essential to building and maintaining effective schools: a focus on pedagogy, development of the workforce and strong leadership. He then addressed the subject of skills that work for Wales and the initiatives being put into place e.g. 14 - 19 Pathways and the Welsh Bacalaureate which will equip future generations with the skills needed to engage fully in society and the workplace in Wales.

Professor Hawker completed his address by talking about the need for Welsh Assembly Government to look at capacity within the education system to ensure that services offered were the best value for money.

Dr Martin Price, Chair of VSGA then introduced Richard Gerver (Educator and Adviser to the DCSF, QCA and the Government) who delivered a lively and uplifting keynote presentation entitled 'Leading into the Unknown'.

Richard challenged us to consider our moral purpose in schools and questioned whether it drives our vision in practice. Are we preparing children and young people effectively for the future?

Schools need to ensure pupils have confidence to express their needs and strengths. He believed that schools should remodel delivery to more appropriately



Bryan Jeffreys (Director of Learning and Development)



Professor David Hawker (Director of the DCELLS)

match what pupils need rather than what teachers want to teach. Learning today for life tomorrow was a key message together with an emphasis for governors and teachers to make learning matter.

Richard's presentation was refreshing and engaging placing a clear focus on putting children at the centre of all we do.

During a break for coffee, governors had the opportunity to network with speakers, officers of the School Improvement Service as well as fellow governors before breaking into groups for two workshops.

One workshop was led by Andy Henderson (Headteacher of Ysgol Hen Felin in Rhondda Cynon Taff) provided an insightful Headteacher's perspective of the School Effectiveness Framework. The School Effectiveness Framework sets out the vision for putting school effectiveness based on tri-level reform into action. Tri-level reform is the whole of the education community (schools, local authorities and the Assembly Government) working collaboratively and in alignment. The Framework describes the key characteristics required to build on existing good practice and improve children's and young people's learning and wellbeing throughout Wales, and each partner's contribution to securing that. Andy updated delegates with progress on the implementation of the Framework since its launch by Jane Hutt (Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills) at our Governor Conference last year.

The other workshop led by Richard Gerver built on his messages delivered during his earlier keynote presentation.

Richard spoke about his experiences as a Headteacher at Grange Primary School in Long Eaton, Derby and provided examples of 'New Curriculum' initiatives he introduced to improve the school.

Relationships and partnerships were built with the local community, its businesses and organisations to support 'The Grangeton Project'. 'Grangeton' is the school's own town run by the pupils which consists of a newspaper, library, cinema, healthy eating tuck shop, media centre with a television centre and radio station, language café and a museum.

The town also includes 'Grange University' where children have the opportunity to select learning opportunities through a series of workshops that run every Friday morning. Workshops run for the duration of a half term and are accredited against a series of pre-planned skills that feed back into the children's learning. Workshops are run by school staff, parents

and local organisations and businesses. Workshops allow the children to develop a portfolio of skills in areas that they are interested in. Every child keeps a record of their workshops and are given a certificate at the end of each workshop block.

The University offers children the chance to develop interests and skills in a number of areas which will help identify each child's unique talents, some of which, under a conventional curriculum can go undiscovered.

Following the workshops everyone came together for the closing presentation. Bryan Jeffreys (Director of Learning & Development) delivered a presentation titled 'Education 2015'.

Bryan spoke about the challenges facing the education service and highlighted the need of the service to be clear about its vision, its sense of purpose, the values it wishes to promote, its priorities and the outcomes it wishes to achieve for the children and young people in the Vale.



Andy Henderson (Headteacher of Ysgol Hen Felin, RCT)

Bryan highlighted:

- Partnership Working
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Curriculum Developments
- School Effectiveness
- Collaboration
- Safeguarding
- Resources

as key areas the service would be focussing on moving forward with developing and improving the provision for children and young people in the Vale.

Further information relating to 'Education 2015' can be found in another article by Bryan in this Newsletter.

The Conference finished with a buffet and many governors spoke of the high standard of the event. All the speakers delivered interesting presentations and workshops on key issues and helped establish the morning as a key annual event in the governor calendar within the Vale. We hope governors felt rewarded with an increased understanding of the points discussed and that they found the event worthwhile and enjoyable.

The GSU would like to thank all those governors who gave up their Saturday morning to attend the Conference and are grateful yet again for their continued support.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit