



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

Newsletter



Note from the Chair

The excitement of the election has died down a bit along with the UK media's horror at the idea of a coalition government. Not many commentators have noticed that Wales has been getting along quite well with a coalition government for some years.

It struck me that David Cameron's problems in getting a very disparate bunch of people with very different agendas and backgrounds is not dissimilar to what every Chair of governors has to do at each governors meeting. Chairs have to deal with politics with big and little 'P' – Local Authority representatives, parent representatives, teacher representatives, the local business community, the church. The list goes on and on. The key as Cameron and Clegg have discovered is a clear documented vision of where everybody wants the school (or country) to be going.

At St Richard Gwyn this week, we have been looking at our Mission and Vision. Staff and governors have been debating our ten year old statements and looking not only at whether they are still relevant today, but whether they are any more than pious statements on a bit of paper we wheel out for inspections.

It was great to see so many of you at the annual Conference for governors at the Vale Hotel recently. The feedback was very good. I hope governors will be able to take some of the learning back to their schools to aid them as we enter the challenging time politicians of all colours assure us is in store.

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

Partnership Agreement – Reminder to Headteachers, Chairs and Clerks

Your governing body will have received a copy of its Partnership Agreement. The document was emailed to all Headteachers to assist them in discussing the Partnership Agreement with you.

Can you please discuss the Partnership Agreement at your next full governing body meeting with a view to formally agreeing and signing your acceptance of it by means of the pro forma sent to you. The pro forma should be returned to the Governor Support Unit.

Should you have any queries relating to the Partnership Agreement please contact John Sparks, Head of Governor Support in the first instance via email on JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by phone on 01446 709106 (direct line).

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

Issue 20 Summer Term 2010

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

Making the most of technology – eTrading for Schools in action

What is eTrading for Schools?

eTrading for Schools is an eProcurement tool specifically tailored to the needs of schools. It provides a simple, secure, online service for schools to select goods and services from regional and national suppliers and frameworks; and can be integrated with existing SIMS financial management systems. eTrading for Schools is delivered by the Assembly Government's Value Wales division. Through the xchangepwales programme, Value Wales aims to create efficiencies in the Public Sector through the delivery of electronic procurement products and services, lowering the cost of doing business for both the Public Sector buyer and supplier. Savings in the range of £70m - £200m are estimated over the 5 year life of the programme. Participating organisations – for example, schools, local authorities, housing associations – retain all financial and efficiency savings made.

eTrading and Vale Schools

Having taken part in 2009's successful pilot of the eProcurement system eTrading for Schools, the Vale are now rolling it out to 59 of its schools with implementation expected to be completed in 2011.

Lesley Matthews, SIMS/ONE Co-ordinator in the Vale notes:

"Schools increasingly face procurement challenges, especially with the budgetary constraints in the current climate. The eTrading for Schools portal provides schools with a secure electronic environment for best value purchases so that they can make savings and efficiencies. This was one of the driving forces in engaging xchangepwales to roll-out the portal to Vale schools."

Leading the way at Peterston

Peterston Super Ely C/W Primary School was in the first wave of the roll-out and at the helm of this change from manual to electronic procurement at Peterston, was Deborah Griffiths, School Administrator. Having worked at the School since 2008, Deborah had been making her selection from paper catalogues, and faxing or phoning orders through. A periodical CDROM provided new pricing arrangements to upload to the SIMS financial management system (FMS).

Since Deborah was given access to the eTrading for Schools portal, ordering took on a new simplicity. She was able to access a series of online catalogues from national and regional suppliers – these included her regular suppliers as well as framework contracts. In addition the Request for Quotation (RFQ) function provides the facility to contact suppliers for prices on complex items and services or those not readily available through catalogues.

During December Deborah completed two orders – one for stationery and the other for Christmas consumables, totalling just over £330. How did she find the process? *"I found it very user friendly. It was just like using any of the online shopping sites, like Argos. I just looked up the items that I wanted by entering the catalogue number or searching by key words."* In particular Deborah liked the fact that she no longer had to select from a catalogue and is anticipating much more storage space in the cupboard of her small office in the reception area of the school *"My catalogue storage cupboard could become a thing of the past!"*

First orders came through quickly and this provided the school with its first key benefit. Before, Deborah found that each order was bringing additional work: where prices had changed since the last CDROM update, each invoice had to be matched with purchase orders and manual adjustments made to their FMS. Not only was this a laborious task, it sometimes led to inadvertent budget over-spends where prices had risen. Now Deborah can forecast to the penny: *"Prices on the invoices are exactly as per the system. Even the VAT is correct. I don't have to do any manual adjustment which is usually so time-consuming."*

What about implementation – was this a complicated process? Lesley Matthews visited the school and implemented eTrading for Schools. The process (including the training) took about an hour and a half. Deborah was impressed by the security measures put in place with user names and passwords. An icon on her desktop takes her straight to the eTrading for Schools portal.



Lesley stayed with Deborah and talked her through her first order: *“The configuration and user guide documentation is ‘user-friendly’ with screen shots making it a working reference document. There was no need for us to re-invent them to suit Vale users”.*

Learning the ropes

Generally a time of low order volumes, the lead up to Christmas was a good time for the implementation. Being able to work through the functionality at a pace to suit her learning was beneficial. Deborah says: *“I haven’t had to rush and have had time to get used to the system and all the things that it’s able to do. I placed my first large order – over £1200 - with one of our regular suppliers. Notoriously slow at processing orders, I’m looking forward to finding out how eTrading for Schools speeds this up.”* Deborah received the majority of her order in just two days – a much improved situation.

As is to be expected with a new system, there have been one or two niggles: Suppliers who do not describe their primary activities accurately, for example and an RFQ for printer consumables returned no takers. Investigations showed the latter to be partly due to an error in the school’s email address. A phone call to the eTrading for Schools helpdesk fixed this quickly. Deborah has also had to remind herself to link the eTrading for Schools order with the SIMS FMS. This is a simple function key press and a question of learning a new process – something that will soon become second nature.

So what’s next for eTrading for Schools at Peterston?

Deborah is keen to take advantage of the potential savings available through framework agreements. For example, the additional 7% discount from The Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution has already reaped benefits. This was achieved by registering with the supplier in advance of placing an order – a short form that was quickly filled out.

For further information please contact:

Lesley Matthews

SIMS/ONE Co-ordinator

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and/or visit: www.xchangewales.co.uk

Understanding Disability Awards 2010

The Understanding Disability Awards are held annually to celebrate examples whereby individuals, groups or organisations have made the effort to ensure the successful inclusion of people with a learning disability into ordinary daily life.

This might be a workplace that has made itself more accommodating to an individual by putting in place extra support from colleagues, a school that has included disabled children into mainstream classes, individuals that put themselves out to involve people with a learning disability or any other example whereby someone has 'gone the extra mile'.

We are seeking nominations for this year’s awards and all nominations will be assessed by an

independent panel to choose one outstanding nominee from each of the 4 categories. Awards are presented in a high profile event and the awards have proven very popular for the past 16 years.

We welcome any nominations and would urge you to put forward at least one group or individual that you are aware of in either your professional or private life. Please download and complete a nomination form from www.parentsfed.org and forward it to hasina@parentsfed.org

Hasina Kaderbhai

Tel: 029 20227800

email: hasina@parentsfed.org

Education Update and Briefing Session

– 22 June 2010

The Education Update and Briefing Sessions which were launched in the autumn continue to be a success with the next event scheduled for 6:30pm on Tuesday 22nd June 2010 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry.

Particular areas which this Session will focus on include support for the More Able and Talented, Community Focused Schools and Welsh Medium Education.

Background

In a joint venture agreed between the Governor Support Unit (GSU) and the Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA), a new key termly event for governing bodies in the Vale was launched on the 1st December 2009.

The Education Update and Briefing Sessions provide an opportunity for:

- Bryan Jeffreys – Director of Learning & Development
- Paula Ham – Head of Service for Strategic Planning & Performance
- Lynette Jones – Head of Service for Achievement
- Caroline Rees – Head of Service for Additional Learning Needs

to brief and update all Chairs and Vice Chairs of school governing bodies in the Vale on current and forthcoming local and national initiatives.

The Panel also respond to questions submitted in advance by the VSGA Management Committee, Chairs and Vice Chairs of governing bodies.

Who can attend?

The Education Update and Briefing Sessions are open to attendance by the VSGA Management Committee, Chairs and Vice Chairs of governing bodies.

If a Chair and/or Vice Chair are unable to attend, the Chair/GB can nominate a replacement from its governing body.

Please make every effort to ensure your governing body is represented at these key events.

The launch held in the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry was very successful with representation from governing bodies throughout the Vale. Comments and feedback from the launch event included:

- *"Good to meet the Heads of Service and to obtain an understanding of vision and objectives for the future."*
- *"Direct contact between governors and LEA Heads of Service and Director ensuring good communication with governing bodies"*
- *"This was a very promising start. If future sessions are as good, governors will not wish to miss them. Well done, an excellent initiative."*

The second event held in February maintained the success of the launch event with nearly 50 attendees and very positive feedback with Heads of Service briefing governors on:

- *How do I know if my school is improving? - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MER)*
- *Review of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) in the Vale*
- *Vulnerable Groups, in particular 'Looked After Children'*

and fielded a wide range of questions on funding, effective management of schools, post 16 transport consultation.

Governing bodies may wish to include the 'Education Update and Briefing Sessions' as a standing agenda item at their full governing body meetings to discuss feedback from the sessions and to consider any questions they may wish to submit to the Panel at future sessions.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

What should governing bodies be doing each term?

The Governor Support Unit (GSU) is currently planning on producing a Governing Body Year Planner which will highlight throughout the academic year what matters governing bodies should be considering.

This is in response to comments and feedback from Headteachers and hopefully it will support governing bodies recognise the actions they are responsible for in key areas such as:

- School Improvement/Performance
- Human Resources
- School Budget
- Governing Body meetings

The GSU welcomes input from governors on any areas they feel governing bodies particularly need support and advice on as part of this year planner.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) - New Vetting and Barring Scheme

A new national Vetting and Barring Scheme is being introduced for people working or volunteering with children. Under the scheme, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will take decisions on barring unsuitable people from working or volunteering with vulnerable groups (including children).

There will be a legal requirement for employers to check if a person is ISA registered, which means the ISA has found no known reason why the applicant should not work with children or vulnerable adults.

The legislation specifies that all new and existing school governors will be covered by the scheme.

School governors will fall under the term "Regulated Activity" given they are in a position of "defined responsibility". This means that if an individual is barred from working with vulnerable adults or children, they simply cannot be a school governor.

Phasing in arrangements

From the 1 November 2010, all newly appointed governors and clerks to governing bodies will need to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and apply for an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

By 31 July 2015, all governors and clerks must be registered with the ISA and have obtained an enhanced CRB check.

Governors cannot start their role and will not be able to attend meetings until they have registered with the ISA and their CRB check has been completed. The process should take no longer than 2-3 weeks.

Important

Existing governors who do not need to register with the ISA and apply for an enhanced CRB check from 1 November 2010 but support their school by helping out with reading, writing etc will need to ensure they register with the ISA and apply for an enhanced CRB check as this is considered as separate and different from their role as a governor.

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Guidance

The Governor Support Unit is expecting further guidance shortly leading up to the implementation of the scheme from the WAG and we will update governing bodies accordingly.

Further information can be found online via the ISA website: www.isa-gov.org.uk

If in the meantime, you have any queries relating to the ISA please contact the Governor Support Unit on 01446 709106/108.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

Welsh Books Council Competitions held in our English and Welsh Medium Schools – County Round Summer 2010

The English medium schools competition was held at St Andrew's Major C/W Primary School in Dinas Powys on Tuesday 20th April.

Many thanks to head teacher Sue Jordan and her team of teachers for making us most welcome.

Four schools took part: St Andrew's, St David's, Barry Island and Gladstone. They were judged by teacher Sarah Jones and librarian Gill Southby. The children were humorously entertained once again, by author Francesca Kay.

The children had to discuss and compare their views about chosen Welsh themed books and present a dramatisation of a further Welsh themed book. The standard was extremely high and the judges had a very difficult task deciding on the winner. Well done to all those who took part.

Congratulations go to Barry Island Primary School, who will be going on to the National round to be held at Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon on the 25th June. We wish them lots of luck!



Barry Island Primary.



Discussion Group.



Gladstone Primary



St Andrew's C/W Primary.



St David's C/W Primary.



Story telling with all schools.

Round 2 of the County Welsh Books Council Quiz for Welsh medium schools, was held at Ysgol Sant Curig on Thursday April 29th. Many thanks to Siân Owen (Headteacher), Ms Rhian Thomas (Deputy) and the staff at Ysgol Sant Curig for allowing us to hold the competition at the school and for the welcome.

Three schools competed this year, and were very keen to share their ideas and opinions on the content of the books that they read.

The judge this year was Mrs Gwenno Huws and she was impressed by the high standard of the discussion and the presentations given by the three schools.

Congratulations to Yr.3 and Yr.4 from Ysgol Gwaun y Nant and Yr.5 and Yr.6 Ysgol Iolo Morganwg for winning the competition. These two schools will be representing the Vale in the National Rounds held at Aberystwyth in June. We wish them well with the reading work for the next round.

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Welsh Adviser

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Pupils from all participating schools.



Winning book presentation team - Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.



Winning presentation Year 3 and Year 4 - Ysgol Gwaun y Nant.



Year 3 and Year 4 Reading Team - Ysgol Sant Curig.

Vale Schools – Free Breakfast Clubs

Welsh Assembly Free Breakfast Clubs continue to grow in Vale Schools.

The total number of schools operating this free initiative is now twenty one with another school planning to start their club in June 2010. Recently four breakfast clubs took part in a National Breakfast Club plus Awards run by Kellogg's & ContinYou.

All entries were excellent and on this occasion we had one breakfast club Highly Commended. This was the first year our schools entered the competition so

we are proud of the enthusiasm and professionalism portrayed in the entries. Vale Catering would like to thank all schools that entered this competition and congratulate St Helen's Roman Catholic Junior School on their award.

Rita Hicks

Head of Vale Catering

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VSGA/GSU Governor Conference 2010

The VSGA/GSU Annual Governor Conference was held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel on Saturday 6 March. The Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA) and the Governor Support Unit (GSU) were delighted that so many governors gave up their Saturday mornings 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 focus of the 2010 Conference was 'Partnership for Effectiveness – the next phase' and built upon the 2009 Conference which considered the Welsh Assembly Government's School Effectiveness Framework (SEF). 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 (VSGA) Committee.

Dr Martin Price, Chair of VSGA then introduced the key note speaker Roy Leighton. Roy has worked in education for many years in the UK, Europe and the Middle East with the whole range of sectors of the educational world from the disaffected to supremely able - that is for teachers as well as for the children! Roy delivered a "wry look" at the need to work in partnership/ collaborate, as well as the benefits, trials and tribulations of partnership working. Many governors felt his presentation was entertaining but also thought provoking.

During a break for coffee, governors had the opportunity to network with speakers, officers of the School Improvement Service (SIS) as well as fellow governors before joining up again for the next presentation.

The next speaker was Professor David Egan who is Professor of Education at the University of Wales Institute Cardiff, where he is Director of the Centre for Applied Education Research.

During his career in education he has been successively a University researcher, senior research fellow and lecturer in History, a secondary school teacher, an Open University Tutor, a teacher trainer, Head of a University School of Education, a registered inspector of secondary schools and an educational researcher. David is currently the professional adviser to the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) Project Board.

David primarily covered during his presentation the "8-14 agenda" and the implications for schools and governors. Governors felt he raised awareness of the work which needs to be done in the 8-14 age group and "brought the dry statistics of reviews and studies to life".



Opening address by Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cllr Gordon Kemp.



Roy Leighton.



Professor David Egan.

Two Headteachers from the Vale delivered the next presentation. Clare Matthews, Acting Headteacher of St Brides CW Primary School and Julie Thompson, Headteacher of Dinas Powys Infant School provided an overview of how professional learning communities (plc's) are working within their own schools as part of the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) agenda. It was encouraging to hear about elements of the SEF agenda in action at a practical level through a clear presentation highlighting the benefits of sharing good practice with schools working together.

Following the workshops everyone came together for the closing presentation. Bryan Jeffreys (Director of Learning & Development) updated governors on 'Education 2015 – Delivering the Vision'.

Bryan highlighted the challenges facing the education service and specifically 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.

Bryan highlighted:

- Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Learners
- Engaging Parents and Carers
- Improving the Learning Environment
- Raising Pupil Attainment
- Extending Post 16 Learning Opportunities

as strategic priorities the service is focussing on moving forward with developing and improving the provision for children and young people in the Vale. Governors felt it was an informative update highlighting progress to date towards the aims of Education 2015.

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



Julie Thompson, Headteacher - Dinas Powys Infants and Clare Matthews, Acting Headteacher - St Bride's CIW Primary



Bryan Jeffreys, Director of Learning and Development, Vale Council.

Show Racism the Red Card – Winners and Runners Up from Vale Schools



Show Racism the Red Card recently announced the winners of their Anti-Racist School Competition 2010. Winners and runners up recently attended a prize-giving ceremony at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on Thursday 29th April.

The winners in each category received prizes including signed shirts, balls, framed certificates and other football and rugby related items, from current and former professional footballers and rugby players. These included Cardiff City captain Mark Hudson, campaign patron and former Wales rugby captain Colin Charvis who was also joined by Dragons players Ali McKenzie and Aled Brew to hand over the prizes.

The event was headed by Ashok Ahir who is Head of the BBC Political Unit and former West Ham and Fulham footballer Leroy Rosenior.

Sunil Patel, Wales Campaign Manager, said; "The standard of the entries in this year's competition was incredibly high. I know the judges had a hard time choosing their favourites."

The winners had a great day which included a tour of the stadium after the Prize-Giving ceremony.

The Vale was hugely successful in this national competition with winners and runners up coming from the following schools:-

- 1. Bryn Hafren Comprehensive – Vale of Glamorgan**
Year 10 + Category Runner-up - Kirsty and Sophie Thomas from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive
- 2. Evenlode Primary School – Vale of Glamorgan**
Video / Media Category Winner – Rose Wilcox, Ffion Blunsdon, Lauren Birch-Hurst from Evenlode Primary School
Years 1 – 4 Category Runners-up - Lily Ireland & Isabelle Dain-Smith from Evenlode Primary School
- 3. St David's C/W Primary – Vale of Glamorgan**
Year 6 Category Winner - Maya Bell from St David's C/W Primary School
- 4. St Joseph's R/C Primary School – Vale of Glamorgan**
Year 6 Category Runner-up - Alysha Harrison & Tara Lovering from St Joseph's R/C Primary School
- 5. Ysgol Maes Dyfan – Vale of Glamorgan**
Years 10 + category winner – James Baynes from Ysgol Maes Dyfan

The overall winners of the competition were also from a Vale school:

OVERALL WINNER - Rose Wilcox, Ffion Blunsdon, Lauren Birch-Hurst from Evenlode Primary School

Rose, Ffion and Lauren won prizes which included a laptop for their school and an incredible experience to watch Manchester United train and meet some of their players. Well done to all.

Martine Coles

Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) Lead Professional

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SLA Standards Board

A Standards Board tasked with developing the Service Level Agreement (SLA) documentation for Council services traded with Schools has recently met for the first time. The Board, which will meet each term, has been set up as a conduit between School Clusters and SLA service managers to resolve issues and improve services.

Each cluster has nominated a representative; Dr Vince Brown, Llantwit Major School for the rural Vale cluster, Mr Mark Middlemiss from Palmerston Primary School for the Barry Cluster and Mr Huw Jones, Albert Primary School from the Penarth cluster. The support of other Headteachers and governors with a particular interest in the development of individual SLA's is also invited by the Board.

The main responsibility of the Board is to monitor

performance of services throughout the term of these agreements and resolve performance issues. Individual cluster representatives will prepare a termly report on services' achieved performance which will have been assessed against the agreements. The content of this report and development of future SLA documentation will be fed by representations from individual service managers and feedback from Headteachers via cluster meetings. Governor input is welcomed in this process.

For further information, please contact:

Lisa Lewis

Strategy Planning & Performance Manager

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Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) - Guidance for Governing Bodies on Charging for School Activities

Every school has a legal obligation to determine, adopt and implement a Charging Policy. The WAG Guidance Circular, Guidance for Governing Bodies on Charging for School Activities is aimed at helping school governing bodies and head teachers set out their policies on charging and remission for school activities and school visits. It focuses on:-

- school activities that governing bodies and local authorities can/cannot charge for, including transport, music tuition, residential visits and 'optional extras';
- asking parents or carers for voluntary contributions;
- charging and remission policies;
- activities not run by the school or local authority; and
- charges for using school minibuses.

The guidance also sets out the support available to parents on low incomes and in receipt of benefits when being asked for contributions towards the costs of school visits.

Examples are provided throughout the text to illustrate points. Frequently asked questions, a model procedure which governing bodies may choose to adopt, and template letters are provided in the annexes.

The guidance is available electronically on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

An English version of the guidance can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/schools/schoolfunding/chargingforschoolactivities/?lang=en>

The Welsh version of the guidance can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/schools/schoolfunding/chargingforschoolactivities/?skip=1&lang=cy>

If you have questions about the Guidance or your Charging Policy, please contact the Governor Support Unit on 01446 709106/8.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

School Admission/Exclusion Appeal Panels – Volunteer Panel Members

Democratic Services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council is looking to increase its pool of volunteer panel members to sit on School Admission/Exclusion panels.

Membership must comprise a combination of lay members and 'persons who have experience in education, who are acquainted with educational conditions in the area, or who are a parent of a pupil registered at another school'.

The following would be disqualified from being panel members:

- any member of the Council, or of the governing body of the school in question.
- anyone, other than a teacher from another school, employed by the Council or by the governing body.
- any person who has, or who has ever had, any question with the Council (e.g. former members of the governing body), or with any member or employee of the Council or governing body such that doubts might reasonably be raised over their ability to act impartially regarding the Council; or the school.
- Employment by the Council as a teacher is not in itself a reason for disqualifying someone from membership-unless there is another reason to call into question their ability to act in an impartial manner.
- any person who was party to, or took part in any discussions regarding the decision not to admit the child or young person about whom the appeal is concerned.

Anyone appointed as a panel member would receive training before being asked to sit on a panel. Panel members are eligible to receive travel and subsistence allowances, and can be compensated for any loss of earnings that arise as a result of attending an Appeal Panel.

If you'd like further information and/or are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Hope in Democratic Services.

Christopher Hope
Democratic Services Officer, Vale of Glamorgan Council
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email: CHope@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Exhibition of 'Learning in the Foundation Phase' at Dyffryn Gardens

Ten primary schools across the Vale rose to the challenge of documenting children's learning in the Foundation Phase and took part in an exhibition held recently at Dyffryn Gardens.

The idea behind the exhibition was to share both how children learn and what learning looks like in the Foundation Phase with a wide audience.

The exhibition ran at Dyffryn Gardens for 4 weeks during the month of March.

A detailed article will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

The exhibition moves to Barry Central Library from the 14th - 25th June 2010.

My thanks must go to the following schools for embracing the project so readily and with such passion and commitment:

- Ashgrove Special School, Penarth.
- Cogan Nursery, Penarth.
- Eagles well Primary School, Llantwit Major.
- Llangan Primary School.
- Palmerston Primary School, Barry.
- Romilly Primary School, Barry.
- Sully Primary School.
- Victoria Primary School, Penarth.
- Y Bont Faen Primary School, Cowbridge.
- Ysgol Sant Curig, Barry.

Amanda Gould

Associate Adviser for the Foundation Phase

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National Participation Standards Kite-mark Launch - 13th May 2010

Huw Lewis AM, Deputy Minister for Children opened this event which was held in Newtown, Powys to launch the Participation Standards. Both the Youth Participation Officer and Children's Participation Officer from the Vale of Glamorgan attended this national participation event to celebrate, promote, and share the findings of a three-year project.

This project has been researched, developed, and piloted a National participation quality assurance model, known as a kite-mark, based on the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales. The National Standards provide a framework of good practice for organisations and services working with children and young people and help to ensure their voices are heard in the decisions that affect them.

The kite-mark and new resources provide a practical tool-kit for to measure, assess and gain recognition for the quality of participatory practice- in any sector, service or organisation.

We are intending to develop pilot projects in both the Youth Service and primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, with a particular focus on how to self-assess your organisations participatory practice using the National Standards and the young inspectors' training Programme.

Martine Dodd

Associate Adviser SEN and Children's Participation Officer

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Community Focused School Grant

£98,000 available to Vale schools to develop a community focused approach to childcare

The Community Focused School (CFS) childcare grant for 2010/11 has been provided by the Welsh Assembly Government to create good quality, affordable childcare opportunities for children and young people to be cared for out side of the school day.

Before / after school and holiday clubs have always been promoted as a part of CFS development providing opportunities for children to socialise, relax, learn and play. In addition to this they offer parents the opportunity to work or access training in the knowledge that their children are in a safe environment.

The grant can fund staffing, resources and marketing to create a firm foundation for a sustainable provision. All schools can put forward an application to access this grant providing them with the resource to develop the following types of childcare opportunities attached to their school:

- Out of school provision for children and young people 5 – 14 yrs
- To support and develop existing childcare provision
- Paid holiday provision for children and young people 5 – 14 yrs
- Out of School Hours Learning (OSHL) offered by schools as a part of the school programme
- After school/holiday clubs
- Providing childcare for children and young people considered vulnerable

The community focused schools team are best placed to support developments with an integrated approach to childcare. The team are available to support schools to work collaboratively with others to create new ways to address the needs of parents and children/young people from the communities in which they are placed.

The aim of the grant is to support the setting up of new clubs, wherever possible clubs should be made sustainable through charges to parents or other identified sources of income. Schools are encouraged to look at existing clubs and staffing arrangements, coordinate and expand what is on offer with the support of other agencies and the CFS team.

In addition to the funds available for schools the community focused team will be working with the open access play team to create opportunities for play to be linked to schools in the Vale and a wider range of providers to coordinate holiday activities and childcare through the summer holiday period. We are aiming to provide a programme of activities which can be distributed to parents in the Vale.

For more information please contact:

Lynne Osborne

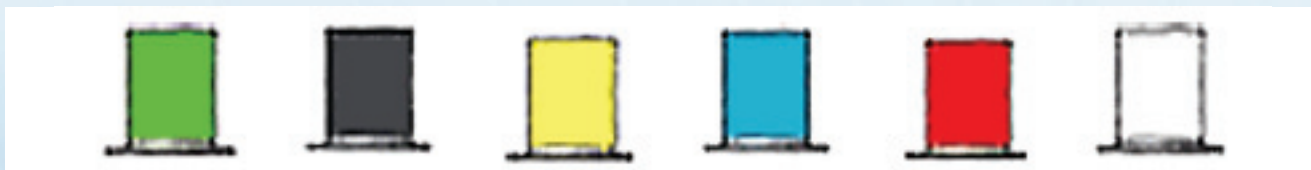
Community Focused Schools Manager

Tel: 01446 709560

email: losborne@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Developing Thinking in Physical Education

Debono's Six Thinking Hats



Rhws Primary school had been working with a consultant to develop thinking skills and approaches across the curriculum and were well on their way to embedding and developing assessment for learning techniques within all lessons in school. In P.E. pupils were familiar with interpreting and developing success criteria and were beginning to use them to structure their feedback to others. Pupils were developing this through the '3 stars and a wish' concept in a variety of subject areas.

The P.E. Subject Leader, Kelly Toshack, had found that pupils especially those in year 3 were finding it difficult to provide feedback using all the success criteria in P.E. lessons. Feedback was not particularly meaningful in that pupils were able to state what was good about a piece of work and what needed to be improved. However, they were not all able to state why a piece of work was good or what they needed to do in order to make improvements to their work, the next steps.



Green Hat Thinking - Pupils discussing new ideas and suggestions to overcome identified problem.



Green Hat Thinking - How can we change our floor sequence so that we can form it on apparatus?



Black Hat Thinking - "I'll have to change my sequence on the apparatus. Where will I be able to roll safely?"



Yellow Hat Thinking - "We liked the way your sequence flowed and you showed good body tension in your movements."

One of the approaches that had been presented to the school to develop thinking was the use of Daniel DeBono's Six Thinking Hats. This theory is used across a wide range of organisations to de-compartmentalise thinking. Three of the Thinking Hats were selected to use with pupils: yellow hat thinking, looking at positive aspects; black hat thinking, identifying problems or difficulties; and green hat thinking, looking at creativity, alternatives and solutions.

Pupils were introduced to the thinking hats one by one and asked to focus their thinking and their feedback on the particular hat that had been introduced. Once the pupils were able to structure their feedback and

responses around the yellow (star/positive) and black (wish/difficulty) thinking hats, the green (solutions) hat thinking was introduced. This enabled pupils who had received feedback from their peers to think about what they needed to do in order to improve. Pupils used the yellow hat and the black hat thinking given to them to make improvements by using green hat thinking.

Pupils' feedback improved because they were focusing on one area of thinking.

They were able to give more specific and detailed feedback. This also encouraged the use of more technical language and worked particularly well when observing and providing feedback in gymnastics and dance. Pupils' ability to use the feedback to support improvement also improved. Pupils came up with more innovative and creative ideas on how to improve their performance. Pupils were able to use the thinking hat approaches with more confidence in other subject areas.

This work on Developing Thinking within Physical Education will shortly appear on the national P.E.S.S. (Physical Education and School Sport) website PESS4teachers as a good practice case study.

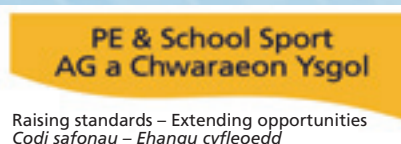
To find out more about P.E.S.S. or to visit the website, follow this link <http://www.sportscouncil-wales.org.uk/getactiveinthecommunity/active-young-people/pe4teachers>.

Lesley Dancey

P. E. & School Sport Co-ordinator, Vale of Glamorgan Council

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VSGA Management Committee Membership 2009-10

The Management Committee is comprised of 15 elected governors plus each Parent Governor Representative from the Primary & Secondary sector.

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Dr	C	Brown	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
2	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
3	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Colcot Primary & Holton Primary
4	Mrs	G	Evans	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
5	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Cadoxton Nursery & Llantwit Major School
6	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Sant Baruc & Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
7	Mr	K	Ingram	Ashgrove School & Albert Primary
8	Cllr Mr	G	Kemp	Cowbridge Comprehensive & Rhws Primary
9	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comprehensive
10	Mrs	J	Pearce	Llantwit Major School & Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
11	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C School
12	Mr	G	Price-Stephens	Llandough Primary
13	Mr	D	Treharne	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
14	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
15	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Albert Primary & Victoria Primary
PGR	Mr	S	Williams	Rhws Primary
PGR	Mr	P	Lewis	Cowbridge Comprehensive

Governor Training Sessions – Summer Term 2010

All governors should have already received their Summer Term Governor Training Programme. Please see below details of the remaining scheduled courses.

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 22 June	Education Update & Briefing Session	6.30pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry
Tues 29 June	Foundation Phase	7.00-9.00pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry
Mon 5 July	Managing Exclusion	7.00-9.00pm	Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry

School Governors Guide to the Law – Updates

The recently published School Governors Guide to the Law has had 5 chapters updated. It is envisaged that the next changes will be in July 2010, October 2010 then January 2011.

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) will not be issuing hard copies of these updates. Instead the WAG web pages have been updated to reflect these changes - please find links to the guide below.

Chapters 3, 4 & 7 –

Chapter 3 - Governing Body Constitution

Chapter 4 - Governing Body Procedures and Meetings

Chapter 7 - Support and Training for Governors

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/schools/schoolgov/schoolgovguide/gov-gchap1to10/?lang=en>

Chapters 16 & 17 –

Chapter 16 - School Uniform and Appearance Policies

Chapter 17 - Charging for School Activities

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/schools/schoolgov/schoolgovguide/gov-gchap11to20/?lang=en>

If you have any queries relating to the changes, please contact the Governor Support Unit on 01446 709106/108.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

In association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council

Governor Support Unit
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
School Improvement Service
Provincial House, Kendrick Road, Barry CF62 8BF

Contact Details:

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Head of Governor Support

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Email: JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Jeremy Morgan

Senior Governor Support Officer

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Email: JerMorgan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



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

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Learning & Development Dept.

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Provincial House, Kendrick Road

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