



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

Note from the Chair

Autumn is well upon us. Leaves are brown and have gone from the picturesque phase to falling everywhere and clogging up the drains.

In the growing gloom, I have been enjoying the ray of sunshine which is "Educating Essex" on Channel 4 television. The pastoral care at Passmore's Academy is the most compelling drama, but also the most revealing. The school does well academically and in every other way because the staff care for their students and make particular efforts to help the most recalcitrant ones as well as those with more obvious special needs. A child with severe issues inside or outside school is not going to be able to take advantage of the learning opportunities placed before them. Unhappy children fare poorly academically.

Excellent pastoral care leads to excellent results. This is often forgotten in the drive to raise standards. Estyn in its inspections talks about the importance of well-being. Children need to feel safe at school. Sometimes school is the only safe place in their lives. Bad behaviour needs to

be dealt with, but exploring the causes of it may be just as important.

I hope your Governing Body is keeping an eye on the pastoral care in your school. You can ask for reports from relevant staff members. You can ask the school council their opinion. You can ask the whole school by carrying out an appropriate survey.

Meantime, may I draw your attention to the programme of training for the Governors Support Unit. Well-being is firmly on the agenda. Legislation is changing constantly. Governors need to keep up to date. Training for school Governors may even become compulsory.

Martin Price

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

Issue 24 Autumn Term 2011

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

Services to Schools Brochure

The Directorate is currently preparing the Service Agreements for council services that will be offered to schools next financial year, and as part of this process is inviting feedback from Headteachers and governing bodies on the operation of the existing SLA's. An e-survey will shortly be emailed to school's, the results of which will feed the ongoing performance review of the agreements. Feedback from governing bodies via this e-survey, or by emailing Llewis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk directly, will be gratefully received.

All Saints Church in Wales Primary School

All Saints Church in Wales Primary School is celebrating after receiving high praise and Sector Leading Status from Inspectors. The Barry school was inspected during the summer term under sections 28 and 50 of the Education Act.

The reports recognise that All Saints is a very successful school with many strengths. Teaching was acknowledged as providing a rich and varied range of learning experiences which are engaging, challenging and stimulating, through a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Inspection Teams also noted that pupils speak with great enthusiasm about their enjoyment of school, taking an active role in their own learning and great pride in their work. All Saints is one of the first schools in Wales to have achieved an 'excellent' for Wellbeing, including significant examples of sector-leading practices. 'Excellent' is only awarded by Estyn in exceptional cases ('Good' is the equivalent of Grade 1 under the old inspection framework). Pupils receive excellent support and guidance, which was acknowledged to have contributed significantly to their wellbeing and has had a very positive impact on learning.

The Inspectors recognised that the school's very distinctive Christian character has a very positive impact on pupils' all round development. The reports also praised the school's strong community links and parental support and the excellent behaviour of the pupils.

Mrs. Jane Hutt, A.M., has congratulated the school on its excellent reports. She said, "I was pleased to see the high achievements in all aspects of school life, especially the 'excellent' score for pupils' sense of wellbeing, respect and involvement."

Headteacher Richard Ware stated, "We at All Saints are extremely proud of our school and our pupils. We are a strong team of dedicated staff who are completely committed to providing an effective all-round education for our pupils in a newly extended and enriching learning environment. We are delighted with both inspection reports, which have recognised the good practice which takes place. We are particularly proud to be awarded the highly acclaimed Sector Leading status for the wellbeing of our children which we feel is of paramount importance in preparing them for a challenging future.

Elizabeth Martin

School Promotion Co-ordinator



Richard Ware, head teacher with pupils from the school.

Online Payments for School Meals and Music

The introduction of a ground breaking online payments system for school meals and music tuition in Vale primary schools has resulted in a number of tangible benefits for pupils, parents and school staff alike. Utilising a secure internet portal to make payment, parents can make payments via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/payit.

Pupils attending schools that have signed up to the scheme are no longer required to take cash or cheques to school in order to pay for their lunches.

Responding to the views of parents and schools faced with a long term requirement to replace cheques as a practical payment method, the Vale Catering (School Meals) team have spearheaded an initiative that aims to make paying for school meals as convenient as possible for modern lifestyles of time-conscious parents whilst also seeking to reduce cash handling by pupils and school staff. Developed in-house as a joint project between Vale Catering, Finance and ICT teams, the Vale's online meals payment system is the first in Wales to be rolled out past pilot stage.

Adopted by over half of primary schools within the county, the new system has won both national media attention and praise by its users, from the intuitive nature of the online payment process, the ability to make multiple payments for siblings during a single transaction, and from the additional peace of mind gained by parents from removing the need for pupils to handle cash.

Use of the online system confers the following benefits to pupils, parents and school staff:

- offers parents a convenient service from home, available 24/7;
- comes at no cost to the school and no additional cost to the customer;
- removes the need for children to carry cash into the classroom;
- removes the need for teachers/administrative

staff to collect cash/cheques;

- reduces the amount of cash held in school offices;
- gives real-time reporting access to payments made; and
- reduces the cost of handling transactions for the authority.

A full training package is offered to schools taking up the service including suggested communication materials and promotion via the Council's website, e-newsletter and social media channels such as Twitter and Facebook. Reporting of payments within schools is performed on a real time basis, accessed via a web-based reporting package that is currently available to all school administrators.

Parents can make payments securely by debit or credit card at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/payit or by telephoning Contact OneVale on 01446 700111, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. To date, 27 schools have joined the scheme since August 2011, resulting in excess of 17,500 meals being paid for online and by phone over the last 2 months:

Cadoxton, Cogan, Colcot, Evenlode, Fairfield, Gwenfo, High Street, Holton, Llancarfan, Llandough, Llanfair, Llansannor & Llanharry, Peterston-Super-Ely, Romilly, St Andrews, St Brides Major, St David's CIW, St Helen's RC Infants, St Illtyd, St Joseph's, St Nicholas, Victoria, Wick and Marcross, Y Bont Faen, Ysgol Sant Curig, Ysgol Dewi Sant and Ysgol Nant Talwg Primary Schools.

If you require further information about joining the service, please contact Carole Tyley, Business Manager on the details below.

Contact Details

Carole Tyley

Business Manager

Vale Catering Services

CTyley@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

02920 20673037

Guidance for Governing Bodies on School Uniform and Appearance Policies (revised July 2011)

The Welsh Government has provided updated guidance for governing bodies and Headteachers on issues relating to implementing or changing a school uniform and appearance policy:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/uniform/?lang=en>

School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011

The new **School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011** came into force on 1 September 2011 and revoked **The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2001**.

Background

Many Headteachers and Governing Bodies prepare their Annual Report to Parents at the beginning of a new school year for the previous academic year. For instance your Annual Report physically produced in the last academic year would have focused on and included information/results from the previous 2009/10 academic year.

Questions have therefore been raised with Welsh Government whether schools are required to apply the new Annual Reports Regulations 2011 when producing their 2010/11 Annual Report to Parents.

Welsh Government Advice

Welsh Government has confirmed that the:

- new Annual Reports Regulations 2011 which came into force on 1 September 2011 will only apply to all Annual Reports issued in respect from the 2011/12 academic year;

- Welsh Government does not expect the new Annual Reports Regulations 2011 to be applied to an Annual Report covering the last 2010/11 academic year; and

- Annual Reports covering the 2010/11 academic year are subject to the old 2001 Regulations which were in place at the time.

GSU Advice

To this effect, I advise all schools to continue using the **Guidance Circular 15/01 – Governors' Annual Reports – Guidance for Governing Bodies** as reference when producing your Annual Report for the 2010/11 academic year. A checklist on the last page of the Guidance clearly states what you need to include in the summary and full reports. In due course, I will also be producing updated guidance on the relevant changes contained within the new Annual Reports Regulations 2011.

Jeremy Morgan
Governor Support Unit

Corporate Occupation Health and Safety Team - Update 2011/12

Welcome to the first update from the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Team. The purpose of this update is to let you know some of the recent changes to the service.

A New Health and Safety Officer for Schools

Recent changes to the team structure have made way for Dave Porter to become the new Health and Safety Officer for Learning and Development. Dave has been with the Council since 2002 and with the team since 2008. He is well suited to the role and looks forward to working with all of the schools.

Changes in Policies

We have recently reviewed the Corporate Health and Safety Policy to clearly highlight the council's ongoing commitment to health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace. We have also introduced a new Lone Working Policy and are looking to introduce a new Occupational Health Policy which is in its final stages of consultation. Following endorsement by Cabinet all new Policies are available on the staff net.

Reporting of accidents and/or incidents

Following a review of accident/incident statistics, there is evidence to suggest there is under reporting in schools. A review of the guidance provided to schools will be undertaken and details will be supplied to schools in the near future.

Topics for Training

The Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Team will again be holding a Governors training session in the spring based on some key topics e.g. the management of contractors, understanding fire safety.

Both the Health and Safety Team and Occupational Health would welcome your attendance and if you have a burning topic which you would like us to consider covering then please feel free to contact Dave Porter or Maggie Pinkney by email DPorter@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or MCPinkney@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Penarth Learning Community is 'on track'

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has secured £34m Welsh Government grant funding towards the cost of Penarth Learning Community.

The ambitious £48m scheme consists of a mainstream comprehensive school co-located with a school providing education and care for pupils with a wide spectrum of learning needs. It presents a unique opportunity to provide fit for purpose, flexible facilities that will support the innovative delivery of education.

The new facilities will offer staff and pupils the chance to transcend the current boundaries of teaching and learning and redesign the education service for young people and lifelong learners in the area. The innovative vision will provide modern, flexible facilities to replace the current St Cyres School buildings and those of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn Special School, Ysgol Maes Dyfan Special School and Ashgrove Special School.



Now that the necessary funding has been secured the next step will be to gain the Welsh Government's approval to re-organise the schools. This requires a statutory process which started with consultation on the proposals. This closed on the 17th November 2011.

Consultation will be followed by publication of a statutory notice, a month long objection period and finally, determination by the Welsh Government. It is expected that the statutory process will not be concluded much before the summer of 2012.

Planning permission will also be required and this will be sought early in 2012. It is anticipated that work will commence on site in October 2012 once all necessary approvals have been secured.

Foundation Phase success for hard working LSAs

Four Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) working in the Foundation Phase in Vale schools have recently been celebrating their success in completing and obtaining accreditation in Welsh Government Foundation Phase Modules.

Charlotte Jones and Paula Lyden from Holton Primary School together with Sue Davies and Lisa Martinson from Cadoxton Nursery School have all studied and submitted assignments to Bangor University over the last year and all their hard work has paid off.

The pilot scheme was funded by the Welsh Government and was open to Learning Support Assistants across Wales. The Vale of Glamorgan was the only South Wales Local Authority to enter candidates for this accreditation. The scheme was overseen by Amanda Gould (Associate Adviser for the Foundation Phase) who offered training and support to the candidates for each assignment. The assignments were set and marked by the education department of Bangor University.

This accreditation will provide the candidates with points towards accessing a degree course in higher education.

We are all very proud of their accomplishments and hope that their success will provide them with the necessary stimulus to access training at a higher level.

Amanda Gould
Associate Adviser for the Foundation Phase

Archbishop visits All Saints Church in Wales Primary School

Proud pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Barry, gave the Archbishop of Wales a tour of their newly extended school on 6th July. The Archbishop, Dr. Barry Morgan, visited the school to dedicate the new building. He was shown the new ITC Suite with its 30 computers and the bright new classrooms which have marked the end of the school's open plan status and given everyone much more room to learn and develop. He also visited the beautiful Faith Garden which has been created in the shape of a Celtic cross and the outdoor Adventure Trail where pupils can keep fit while having fun.

The Archbishop joined the pupils, teachers, governors and friends of the school for a Service of Dedication. The Welcome Address was given by Father Adrian Berry, Chairman of Governors and prayers were led by pupils representing each class. The service was enhanced by the musical talents of the school's choir and orchestra.

During his address, the Archbishop said, "This is now a fantastic school and you are very lucky but what really makes any school special is not the building but its spirit – how we care for each other – and it is clear to me that this is a very happy school."

Headteacher Richard Ware paid tribute to the many people who made the extension possible, including the teachers who kept up high standards during the building work. He said, "Our school motto sums it up, As many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school. This extension has given us much more room. The children no longer share open plan classrooms but have spacious rooms of their own. This has had an impact on the quality of teaching, improving on our existing high standards."

Elizabeth Martin

School Promotion Co-ordinator
All Saints Primary School
Barry



Public Health Report - Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

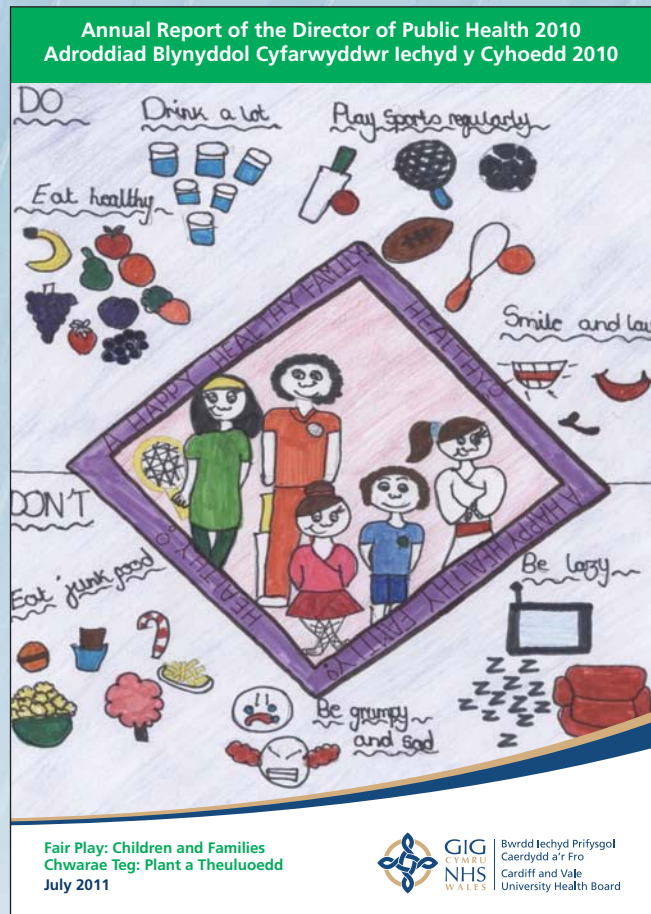
I am delighted to highlight my annual report.

In this report, I have chosen to focus on the health of children and their families. Evidence shows that investing our resource in the early years of life will allow us to achieve sustainable change to the health of our population. I focus on the key challenges which need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable health gains, recognising that no one service can achieve these health gains alone. Partnership at local, national and international level is essential in ensuring that short term imperatives don't detract from our goal of better health and wellbeing.

Given our current resources and the challenges affecting the health and wellbeing of our population, a focus on children and their families is a necessity.

Should you require a copy or Welsh language version, please contact Heather Kean on 02920 556028 or email to Heather.Kean@wales.nhs.uk.

Dr Sharon Hopkins
Director of Public Health
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



Management Committee Membership 2010-12

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

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Cllr Mrs	M	Alexander	Gladstone Primary & High Street Primary
2	Dr	C	Brown	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
3	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
4	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Holton Primary
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	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Primary
11	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C School
12	Mr	P	Sampson	Cadoxton Primary
13	Mr	D	Treharne	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
14	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Albert Primary & Victoria Primary
15	VACANCY			
PGR	Mr	P	Lewis	Cowbridge Comprehensive
PGR	Mr	S	Williams	Rhws Primary
Observer	Mrs	G	Evans	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
Observer	Mr	G	Scott	High Street Primary

HR update

Agency Worker Regulations

The above came into force on 1 October. The main impact is the entitlement to comparative rate of pay for staff who have completed 12 weeks service. Agencies will request this information from the employer and we have an obligation to provide this. I've also attached some additional info from BIS on this subject. I think there may be some further considerations arising from this in relation to teachers pay and will let you have any additional relevant info if applicable.

I have also been asked to remind Schools that supply teachers must be employed either via a supply agency or the Vale's supply list. It is not possible to engage someone who is offering services on a self employed basis as we will not be able to ensure essential pre-employment checks have been undertaken or to make payroll provisions.

Changes to 2011 STPCD

There have been 3 changes as follows:

- £250 payment for unqualified teachers earning less than £21000 FTE.
- Reduction in working days to 194 to allow for Queens Diamond Jubilee.
- Removal of the provision to increase Headteacher ISR by up to two groups which has been replaced with the introduction of a 25% limit on discretionary payments for Head teachers pay in circumstances of schools causing concern, recruitment or retention difficulties, or heads **temporarily** managing more than one school. The revised provision is in Section 12 of the STPCD.

Temporary Contracts

Please remember it is important that temporary contracts are issued for genuine reasons only to avoid any unfair dismissal challenges (i.e. they are not to be used as some sort of probation period). You will find 'Guidance for Short and Fixed term contracts' on School Staff Net: Learning & Development: Schools Page: HR for Schools: Guidance).

Please remember that all School Policies and additional information/guidance is available on Staff Net. Most of the documents are in PDF format, but if you need Word versions these can be supplied.

I hope this is of some assistance to you. If any of the information would be useful for others in your school, please pass it on. If you need any further information, please let me know.

Sue Alderman

Principal Personnel Officer

Human Resources Service

tel/ffôn: 01446 709870

e-mail/e-bost: STAlderman@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Get Back on Track for Parents

The Vale Council Adult and Community Learning Service has organised a new project called "Get Back on Track" which supports parents by helping them to improve and gain new skills. There has been keen interest by learners in participating in this project in the Rural Vale. A 10 week Computer Course for parents was delivered in St Athan Primary School with sessions focussed on enabling parents to support their child with homework assignments. The parents learnt skills in using Word to produce the ultimate poster, searching the internet for information and preparing interesting Powerpoint presentations.

An intergenerational project, Maths for Parents was delivered in Llantwit Comprehensive School for 6

weeks. Parents came along to Maths sessions with their child after school and learnt how to have fun with maths through simple games. This course was hugely successful and continued through the autumn term. Year 7 Parents will be targeted as part of transition to Llantwit School.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact

Rural Vale: Sally Perini 01446 773831

Barry: Debbie Lewis 01446 733762

Penarth: Heather Todd-Bennett 029 2070 1569

Reducing the Carbon Emissions of our Buildings

This year has seen further implementation of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's carbon management plan. We have carried out a variety of schemes which have helped reduce the Vale Council's annual carbon emissions. These schemes have been carried out in schools, leisure centres, retirement homes and community centres and have so far shown great results. We have utilised many different technologies such as insulation, LED lighting and automatic lighting controls which have improved the energy efficiency of the Vales' buildings.

The works to date have saved over 900 tonnes of CO₂ per annum and will save over £120,000 per year. With energy prices rising the savings will only increase as will the benefit seen by the building managers who are part of the scheme. We currently have projects in the pipeline which will save a further 500 tonnes of CO₂ and are constantly looking for exciting new technologies that will help us reach our goal of a 20% reduction in emissions by 2015/16 and 30% by 2020.

We have had great success with the Vale schools and have found that everyone is very keen to reduce their schools impact on the environment. With the winter on its way many schools will start to see the benefit of the technologies that have been installed as the schools will stay warmer and the energy bills will be lower. We are working on the last insulation projects of the carbon management plan and are beginning to focus on lighting replacement and electrical equipment replacement (e.g. hand driers, CRT monitors, shutdown software etc.).

As we move towards these kinds of technologies the benefits will become more apparent to staff and pupils with better lighting and improved equipment.

If you have any ideas on how to improve the energy efficiency of you school or would like to enquire about the Salix loan scheme please contact the carbon management plan assistant Ben Markham on **01446 709724** or email bmarkham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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:

John Sparks

Head of Governor Support
Tel: 01446 709106 Fax: 01446 701820
Email: JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Jeremy Morgan

Senior Governor Support Officer
Tel: 01446 709108 Fax: 01446 701820
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

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