



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

Newsletter

Note from the Chair

I am writing this note on a very full train on my way to a charity conference in London. I will be mixing with lots of enthusiastic people aiming to change the world for the better. I like to think that this is what the School Governors in the Vale are also trying to do

Last summer's Education and Briefing Update was particularly illuminating. The common thread through all the presentations and the discussions was the need to consider how schools are meeting the challenge of improving the life chances of all the young people in our care, but particularly those who may need more help than others.

We looked at the worrying gap in achievement between those pupils on free school meals and those who are not. We may

disagree with blunt use of this measure, but there is no denying this stark message. As a Governor, are you aware of all the strategies that your school is adopting to do something about it?

Then there is the innovative approach to early identification of potential NEETS (those not in education, employment or training) and then working with them to help them grasp the opportunities available to them in our fine schools and college. Not every secondary school in the Vale is involved in this initiative. Make sure yours is.

May I wish you a happy and restful Festive break.

Martin Price

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

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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

In association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Governor Support Unit

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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 8BF

New Head of School Improvement & Inclusion

Mike Glavin has been appointed as Head Of School Improvement and Inclusion. He will join the team within the Directorate Of Learning And Skills in January.

Mike has eighteen years successful Headship experience across three primary schools. Leadership within his current school, Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary, has recently been judged by Estyn as 'excellent'. Mike has taught within a number schools of varying nature, ranging from those challenged by the surrounding social deprivation to a prestigious international school in Saudi Arabia.

Whilst serving as a Headteacher, Mike has taken on a number of other roles. In his role as NPQH Tutor, he gained over ten years' experience of preparing candidates for Headship. In addition he provided challenge and support to schools as a System Leader within the Central South Consortium.

Mike said that he was delighted to be joining The Vale and added,

"I hope to use my experience to shape services that best support and where necessary challenge educational settings to achieve the best possible outcome for the children and young adults in their care.'

'I know the vital role that Governors play in securing the very best for learners. I will endeavour to support Governors across the Vale to perform their crucial role effectively.'

Jennifer Hill
Director of Learning and Skills

School Development Plan (SDP) - New Regulations

Following a public consultation, regulations have been introduced concerning the preparation and maintenance of school development plans. The new regulations came into force on 27 October and, by 1 September 2015 all maintained schools are required to have in place a school development plan (SDP) that complies with the new regulations.

The School Development Plan (SDP) is the school's single strategic plan for improvement. Based on robust self-evaluation it will set out the actions a school will take to improve learner outcomes in the short and long term. As well as providing a focus for the school as it improves its provision it will also inform the challenge and support provided by regional consortia.

The SDP will be a rolling three-year plan, approved by the governing body, that sets out how the school will achieve its targets in relation to its priorities and how it will use the resources it has available. It will also show how the school intends to develop its staff in order to meet the school's priorities and targets and will therefore take account of the school's annual cycle of performance management.

For many schools, the introduction of these statutory requirements will represent little or no change where they already have effective arrangements in place.

The regulations and accompanying guidance can be found on the Welsh Government website at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolhome/school-development-plans/> and on learning Wales at <http://learning.wales.gov.uk/yourcareer/school-development-plans/?lang=en>

LED-lighting makeover for schools to save money and be more environmently friendly

Over the course of this summer break, three of our primary schools had an LED-lighting makeover: in which the majority of the older fluorescent tube lighting was upgraded or replaced for new. The work is intended to:

- make the schools greener, by reducing both energy used and the Carbon footprint
- save money, primarily by using less electricity but also because there is less maintenance and replacement bulbs
- give a brighter, whiter light that better shows off colours, without any flicker or noise
- improve the appearance of the school

Following the installation, I have been keeping an eye on the energy used. By comparing the electricity the school has used at the beginning this term compared a year ago:

- St Illtyd's Primary is using 33% less electricity overall
- Jenner Park Primary School is using 31% less electricity on lighting
- Cadoxton Primary Community Sports Hall is using 70% less electricity: equivalent £2000 annual saving

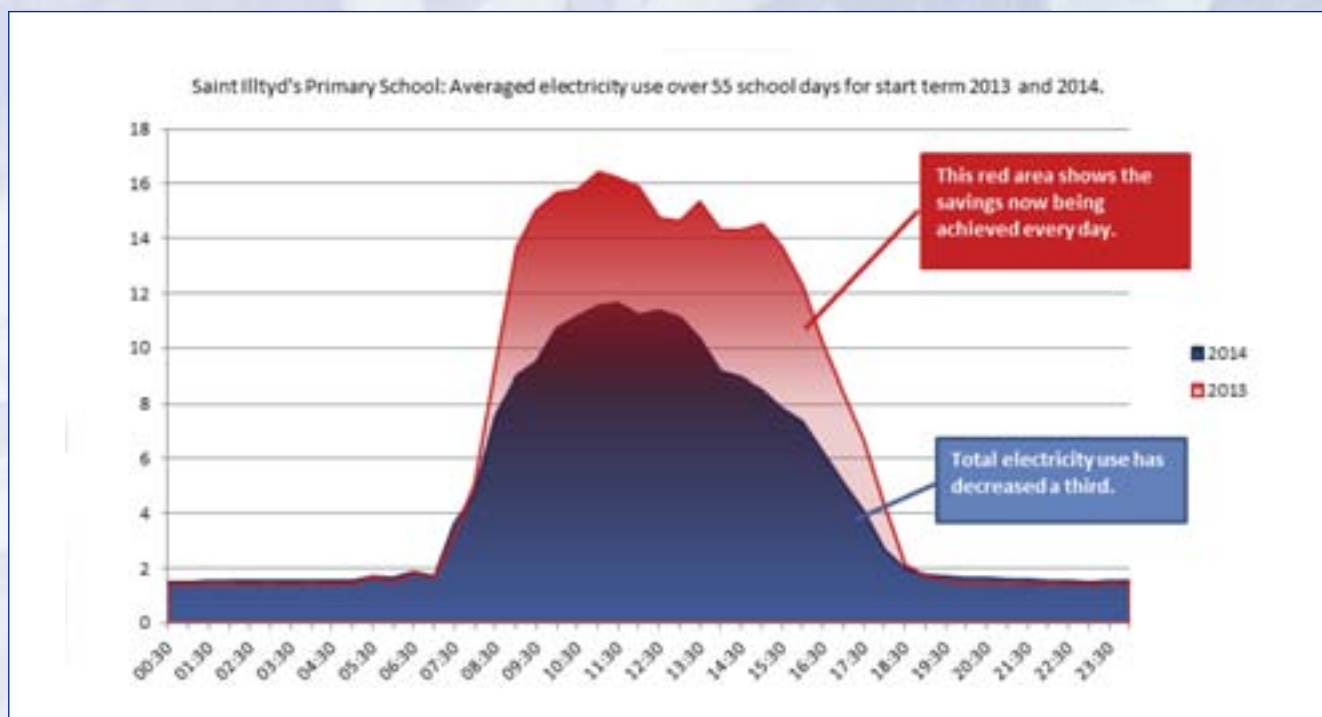
These are proof quite significant savings are immediately achieved as soon as the work is complete. As the days grow dimmer over winter the lights will be used slightly more and the difference in costs will become ever obvious.

St Illtyd's Primary School

St Illtyd's lights throughout were old inefficient fluorescent fittings fixed to a hard ceiling. The fixtures themselves were in good repair and it made economic sense to retain them wherever possible. The work took place over one week this summer break, with most of the fittings being equipped with highly efficient LED bulbs, and a number of fittings being changed for brand new LED versions.

The following chart graph electricity used per half hour (measured in kilo Watt hours) throughout the day. In red is the average of 55 school days in September, October and November in 2013. In blue is the same days for 2014. Evident is the huge decrease in electricity use, seen as the greater red area. This shows a drop of approximately one third in the total electricity used by the whole school; you can therefore expect to see a similar decrease to your electricity bills.

I would remind you that even greater savings can be achieved by continuing to monitor your electricity use and turn off lights and other appliances when not required. The graph indicates a slightly greater level of use when the school is closed: this is an increased baseline use compared last year, and is most likely the result of more appliances being brought into school over the year. This increased use emphasises the importance of turning off to protect the savings you are making with the LED lights.





The financial and carbon savings that may be achieved are clearly significant and can greatly reduce your energy expenditure. We are all obliged to reduce our carbon footprint and the Salix fund is the means of obtaining such works at no upfront cost. The council has been using this fund since 2009 to install around 80 building improvements, over 30 within schools, and safeguard an expected £4Million in savings over their lifetime.

The project work is paid in instalments entirely from the energy savings that the project makes, so the school will actually see less money being spent on energy each year even after paying energy bills plus making repayments. After the final repayment all the savings are retained by the school and there is no council reduction to the energy portion of the school budget. In effect, you will be spending less money from the moment the measures are in place.

Please drop me an email or a call to find out what energy improvements your school may be able to benefit from. You can save money, save energy and become a greener school in the same instant.

Mark Biernacki

Carbon Management Assistant

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News from the Central South Consortium

Please see the link below to catch up with the latest news from the Central South Consortium.

<http://www.cscjes.org.uk/Communications/Newsletters.aspx?lang=en-gb>



■ Vale Youth Forum- First Youth Mayor and Deputy.

Vale Youth Forum and Youth Cabinet First Elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Since the election of the Youth Cabinet on 31st March 2014, the Vale Youth Forum and Youth Cabinet have been working towards the election of the first Youth Mayor in the Vale of Glamorgan.

During Local Democracy Week which took place between 13th – 17th October, candidates from the Youth Cabinet went head to head in an election campaign to become the first Youth Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Elections were held on 32 different occasions in a variety of locations including schools, training providers, youth clubs and youth organisations and young people were encouraged to take part in a secret ballot. Thank you to all the partners and professionals who have supported the Youth Mayor Election campaign and enabled young people to watch to the Youth Mayor manifestos and vote. In total there were close to 2800 votes and the announcement was made at the Vale Youth Forum



■ Vale Youth Forum.

meeting on Monday 20th October at the Civic Offices, Barry.

Tom Chandler, aged 17 from Stanwell High School was announced as the Youth Mayor and Emily Peters, aged 15 from St. Richard Gwyn was declared as the Deputy Youth Mayor.

The Youth Mayor will continue to work with the rest of the Youth Cabinet and the Vale Youth Forum to ensure that young people in the Vale have a say on matters that affect them and further strengthen the communication links between young people and decision makers at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Since the election the Youth Mayor and the Youth Cabinet were invited to Westminster to meet local MPs Alun Cairns and Stephen Doughty, the Youth Mayor and Deputy joined councillors and officials at

the Memorial Service for Armistice Day to lay a wreath on behalf of young people in the Vale. On the 13th November 2014 the Youth Mayor met members from school councils from across the Vale in his first outing to find out what issues young people are discussing in their schools.

To watch the Youth Mayor manifestos and for more details please visit: www.swoosh.me.uk.

If you would like to get involved with the work of the Vale Youth Forum and Youth Cabinet and ensure young people's voices are heard at local, regional and national levels please contact valeyouthcabinet@gmail.com.

Bethan Watkins

Youth Participation Trainee



■ Vale Youth Forum.

Questions for Governors to ask the Headteacher/leadership team in their support and challenge role

A vital part of the role of school governors is providing effective support and challenge for their Headteachers and senior leaders. In order to assist governors in that role, the National Leadership Development Board (NLDB) has drawn up a list of the key questions for governors to use, please see the link below. Made up of successful current Headteachers and other senior educational professionals, the NLDB has a wealth of experience in this area. The use of 'we' in all of these questions is deliberate to emphasise that the governors are an integral part of the school.

Below are starter questions that would require follow up questions dependent on the answers provided to ensure accountability e.g.

- What do we know?
- How do we know?
- How do we monitor this?
- What effect has this had?
- What plans do we have in place to improve this?
- When will we review these?
- Who is responsible for this?

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolhome/fundingschools/school-governance/governors-training/?lang=en>

Management Committee Membership 2014-16

Following the elections held earlier this term details of the newly elected VSGA Management Committee are given below. The Management Committee is comprised of 15 elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
2	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Barry Comp & Holton Primary
3	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
4	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant & Ysgol Sant Baruc
5	Mrs	C	Hughes	Cowbridge Comp
6	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
8	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim, temp GB for new Primary in L Major & Ysgol Dewi Sant
9	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
10	Mrs	C	Roach	Llangan Primary
11	Mr	P	Sampson	Cadoxton Primary
12	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Prim & Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
13	Ms	H	Vallis	Bute Cottage Nursery
14	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
15	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
PGR - Prim	Mr	L	Kellaway	3-19 Federated GB of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg/Ysgol Nant Talwg
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the
Governor Support Unit*

