



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

Note from the Chair

May I commend to you an illuminating document - the Business Plan of the Central South Consortium. You can find it on the Consortium website www.cscjes.org.uk. The plan shows the challenges facing education in our part of Wales. For example, there is the continuing huge discrepancy between the attainment of children on free school meals and those who are not. This is true in the Vale as well as in the other local authorities in the consortium.

The document is also useful in clarifying the overall strategy for school improvement which is based on moving schools from dependency on central support to a model which is led by schools and for schools. This is the basis of the Central South Wales Schools Challenge of which your school is a part, through its involvement in its School Improvement Group (SIG). As a Governor, you should be aware of what your school's role in

its SIG and how you can help it succeed. Perhaps the SIG should be a standing item on your Governing Body Agenda.

Another major plank of school to school support is the hub model where schools which have become hubs of best practice and have developed high quality programmes of support for others. It is important that Governors give full backing to initiatives like this, and are fully briefed on how it benefits their school and the wider community of schools.

As your representative on the Governor Steering Group at the Consortium, I am happy to take your ideas back to the Consortium. Contact details below.

Martin Price

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

Issue 33 Summer Term 2015

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

Contact Details:

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Administrator

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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

Breakfast at Llansannor School

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and if you're having breakfast in school it can be fun eating with friends. Llansannor School is the 39th school in the Vale of Glamorgan Council to commence a free breakfast club and as you can see from the picture above children and breakfast supervisors enjoy a social time together. If your school has not yet joined our free breakfast club initiative and you require information please contact Mary Hesford, Client Officer in the catering department on 029 20673037 mhesford@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk and we will be happy to engage with you.



Principles of Conduct for Governors of Schools in Wales Update

Please note that the Principles of Conduct for Governors of schools in Wales have been updated to include a paragraph on Social Networking (last paragraph) here:

http://www.governorswales.org.uk/search_en.html?q=Principles%20of%20Conduct%20for%20Governors%20of%20Schools%20in%20Wales%20update

This term's update from Governors Wales provides the latest educational news and summary information of recent and future publications and events.

We hope you will find it useful to assist you in your role as governor.

You can view this term's newsletter by clicking the link below

<http://www.governorswales.org.uk/publications/2015/04/30/governors-wales-e-bulletin-summer-term-2015/>

If you would like to subscribe to receive regular news from Governors Wales, then please let us know by e-mailing: contact@governorswales.org.uk

AUTUMN TERM EDUCATION UPDATE & BRIEFING SESSION DIARY MARKER

Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 6.00pm

John Sparks
Head of Governor Support

Procurement Guidance for Schools

Please find enclosed a link which Head Teachers and Governors should refer to where they may be exploring potential outsourcing (and insourcing) of contracts and management of such projects. The guidance and supporting documentation available via the link has been developed following a request from Learning & Skills colleagues to assist in these circumstances. Please note that this link is only accessible via StaffNet.

<http://staffnet.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Schools/Procurement-Guidance-for-Schools.aspx>

Should you have any queries, please contact Nicola Monckton on 01446 709444.

Rob Thomas, Managing Director, Vale of Glamorgan Council

Rob Thomas started in Local Government in 1989 as an Assistant Planner with the City Planning Department at Cardiff City Council.

He moved to the Vale of Glamorgan in 1996 to work within the Planning Department, before being appointed to the post of Head of Planning and Transportation in 2000, a post which he held for 12 years.

During this time Rob led on several major projects and was also Planning Advisor to the Welsh Local Government Association for over 10 years. He was also Chair of the Planning Officers Society – Wales for 2 years. He was appointed to the post of Director of Development Services in May 2012 and was responsible for a range of services including Planning, Transport, Regeneration, Leisure Services, Tourism and Regulatory Services. As Director he oversaw the regeneration of Barry Island and played a lead role in various regeneration partnerships.

Rob was appointed as the Council's Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) on 1st May 2015 following the retirement of his predecessor Sian Davies.

As Managing Director, Rob is responsible for providing strategic direction to the Council's Corporate Management Team and leading a significant change programme within the Council, which will see the reshaping of all services that the Council currently provides to citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Rob currently sits on the St. Athan/Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone Board. He is also the Council's representatives on the Barry Regeneration Area Partnership Board and previously represented the Council on various partnerships relating to planning, economic development and tourism. He is very interested in the developing regional dimension relating to the work of the Cardiff Capital City Region and promoting the role of Barry within the region.

In his spare time Rob's interests include cycling and walking on the wonderful Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast.



Sense of Play Project

The Children & Young Peoples Partnership provides a Sense of Play project aimed at pre-school and reception aged children with special or additional needs. The sessions run for a period of 6 weeks in the family home which meets the individual needs of the child and family.

Sessions:

- An hour spent with the child and parent where they can experience new ideas and developmental play activities together.
- Expands and builds positive relationships between parent and child through play.
- Offer ideas, share knowledge and information regarding children's development and play.



Assisted Places Scheme

The partnership also provides an Assisted Places Scheme to support the improvement in the welfare or quality of life of a child with a disability/additional need, or a child in need by providing good quality childcare to support the child's needs.

Support is available to children aged 18mths – 11years who have a range of needs including:

Emotional & behavioural difficulties, learning and physical difficulties, speech, language and communication difficulties.

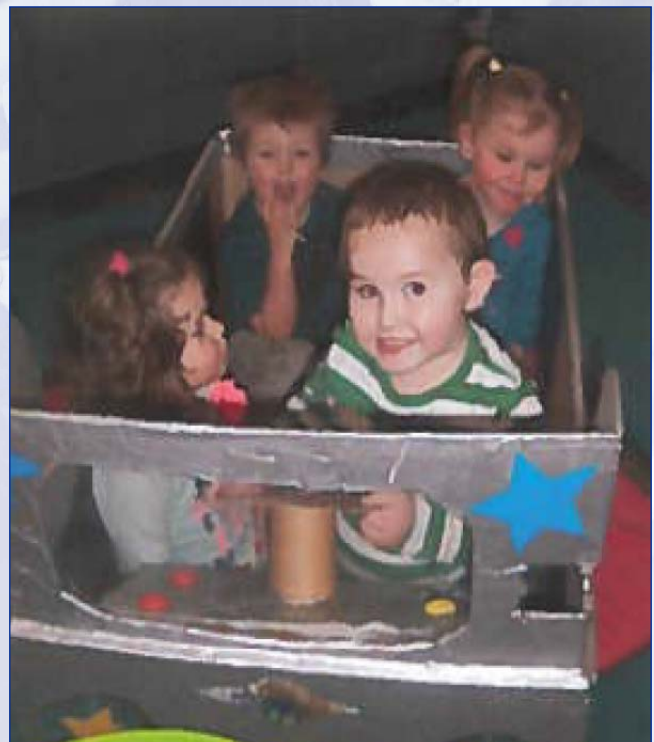
Children from low income families and families in receipt of out of work benefits are also eligible for the scheme.



Adventure Rangers @ Ty Robin Goch, Robin's Lane, Barry

A pop in and play session held every Monday evening, 4pm – 3:15pm during term time for children with a disability and/or additional need aged 4 – 11years to attend with their parent/carer.

A range of activities are on offer such as: arts crafts, den building, fire pit, planting seeds & gardening, cooking etc. A sensory room is available at Ty Robin which the children are able to use.



The session provides the opportunity for children to meet new friends and take part in the activities provided.

Parents/carers are able to gain advice and support from professionals who run the group and who also have the opportunity of meeting new friends.

For further information on any of the above services and a referral form, please contact Candice Ringer on 01446 709269 cringer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Vale Catering Services Salad/Fruit Cart Options

Pupils at High Street Primary School enjoy another Summer term of opting for their own choices of salad and fruits to accompany their lunch. Pupils have enjoyed this provision and said "it's like being at the Harvester". Pupils are encouraged to help themselves to the salad/fruit items that are their favourites. The catering team led by Linda Gill have quickly learnt which items they need to produce in large quantities.

10 primary schools have opted for this provision for pupils and talks are taking place with Headteachers who want to trial this exciting and healthy option in their schools.

For more information please contact: Carole Tyley, Catering Manager by email ctyley@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by telephone 029 20673037/07739192432.



Governors' Responsibilities Relating to Healthy Eating in Schools

Food and drink served in local authority maintained schools must meet **The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013**. These Healthy Eating Regulations are part of the wider **Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009** and are based on the previous Appetite for Life Guidelines. Governors' responsibilities include the following:

- Ensure that food and drink provision across the school day (up to 6pm) meets **The Healthy Eating Regulations**. This includes (and is not limited to) breakfast, lunch, tuck shops, vending machines, sixth forms, youth centres, leisure centres and after school clubs on the school premises.
- **Promote** healthy eating and drinking by pupils in maintained schools.
- **Encourage** the take up of schools meals and milk.
- Take steps to **protect the identity** of pupils receiving free school meals or milk.
- Include in a **governors' report** information about the action taken to promote healthy eating and drinking by pupils of the school.

Obvious breaches will be noted by **Estyn** and this could affect the overall judgement for Quality Indicator 2.3 relating to care, support and guidance.

The following resources have been developed and may be useful for governors:

- **A Guide for Head Teachers and Governors** – further explains governor's responsibilities relating to healthy eating in schools. Available from www.wlga.gov.uk
- **Healthy Eating in Schools Evidence Toolkit** – provides templates to demonstrate compliance with The Healthy Eating Regulations. Available from www.wlga.gov.uk
- **Healthy Eating in Maintained Schools: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies** – provides guidance on complying with the Healthy Eating Measure and Regulations. Available from www.learning.wales.gov.uk

For further advice and support please contact Gareth Thomas, Food in Schools Coordinator for the Welsh Local Government Association, on 029 2046 8684. If your school is opted out of local authority catering and you would like to receive a certificate of compliance please submit your completed Healthy Eating in Schools Evidence Toolkit to gareth.thomas@wlga.gov.uk



Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Schools Scheme

The Vale of Glamorgan network of Healthy Schools Scheme is part of the national Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes. The aim of the scheme is to promote and protect the physical, emotional and social health and well being of children and young people in Wales. We work with my partners and organisations as well as the schools themselves to achieve this goal.

100% of the maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units in the Vale of Glamorgan, as well as Headlands Action for Children School, participate in the Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Schools Scheme. The Vale scheme is managed by Public Health Wales, and actively supported by the Local Education Authority and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

Schools work through a series of phases of the scheme and are required to develop an action plan, focussing on whole school activities and programmes that will improve the health of their school and community. The ultimate aim for schools is to achieve the prestigious National Quality Award (NQA) which demonstrates an outstanding commitment to health and wellbeing of pupils, staff, parents / carers, and the community. So far, 4 schools in the Vale of Glamorgan have achieved this award; Cadoxton Primary, Barry Island Primary, Gladstone Primary and Llantwit Major Secondary School. Currently many more schools are working towards achieving the NQA.

The team would be delighted to provide you with more information about the scheme. Contact: Christine Farr, Senior Health Promotion Specialist and Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Schools Co-ordinator, Cardiff and Vale Public Health Team – Christine.farr@wales.nhs.uk 02920 336210

http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/education_and_skills/schools/healthy_schools/Healthy_Schools_Scheme.aspx

Waste Wonders

As we come to the end of the academic year I'd like to share some of the ways we've worked with Vale schools recently to raise awareness about waste.

For a school our visits can assist with ESDGC curriculum commitments or progress the Eco-Schools initiative, for example. For us as waste officers there is the opportunity to instil in our younger Vale residents a sense of responsibility; to try to make less waste, why and how to recycle, and not to litter, to name but a few benefits.

Thanks to a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government we were able to offer free of charge a visit from a professional theatre company to a further 23 primary, special, junior and infant schools during 2014/15. This complemented the same number visited the year before.

The Gregory Brothers are bilingual actors and teachers who provided a 45 minute show themed on recycling and looking after the environment, through a mixture of songs, characters and the dreaded audience participation. The initiative enjoyed positive feedback from our schools, with descriptions such as "an incredible, informative and entertaining show" being typical.

This year has seen the end of a popular initiative for practical reasons. Christmas card recycling has always been something much loved by our schools and we have serviced a scheme for many, many years. Pupils collecting tens of thousands of cards have been something we have come to expect. However, we are now in the new position where the majority of schools use other service providers for their recycling, and so for the Council to send a recycling vehicle to schools simply to collect cards makes no environmental or financial sense. Our youngsters were encouraged to recycle cards at home, still with the same unbounding enthusiasm.



■ The Gregory Brothers taught Tidy Ted how our recycling works in the Vale.



■ Easter bunnies Jessica and Daniel from Gwenfo C/W Primary helped us promote foil recycling at Easter.

Waste awareness has always been included in the curriculum in a variety of ways by our schools, and this year was no exception. Our youngest residents at Bute Cottage Nursery made simple recycling the focus of story circle, whereas Jenner Park Primary used their 'supermarkets and packaging' project to look at both reducing and recycling waste. The year 4 pupils at St Andrew's Major Primary demonstrated real enthusiasm and knowledge of practical recycling under their 'our sustainable world' umbrella.

Thank you to those schools we've had the pleasure of working with so far, please contact us if your school would benefit from our involvement next year.

Sam Harrison
Waste Awareness Officer
Tel: 01446 700111 Email:
visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Management Committee Membership 2014-16

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	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comp
3	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Barry Comp & Holton Primary
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
5	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant & Ysgol Sant Baruc
5	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
8	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim & 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	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
15	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
PGR - Prim	Mr	L	Kellaway	Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg/Ysgol Nant Talwg
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

Any governors interested in becoming a member of the VSGA Management Committee should contact John Sparks by email at JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Welsh Government School Uniform Grant Scheme 2015/16

Pupils entering Year 7 of maintained secondary schools in Wales in the 2015/16 school year who are eligible for free school meals will be eligible for the school uniform grant; as will pupils in special schools, special needs resource bases and pupil referral units in Wales who are aged 11 at the start of the 2015/16 school year and who are eligible for free school meals.

More information can be found on the Welsh Government website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolhome/parents/uniform/?skip=1&lang=en>

Paul Davies

Schools Management and Effectiveness Division/Adran Rheolaeth ac Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion
Department for Education and Skills/Yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau
Welsh Government/Llywodraeth Cymru
Cathays Park/Parc Cathays, Cardiff/Caerdydd CF10 3NQ

Qualification Reform in Wales

Information about qualifications reform is available from:

<http://qualifiedforlife.org.uk>

All the information is available bilingually and is updated on a regular basis. To give you a flavour of the information provided, extracts covering GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications, the Welsh Bacc and Vocational Qualifications are attached.





KIDS SUMMER ART CAMP

Mon 27 to Fri 31 July 2015

Jewellery Making (Mon): Design and create trendy necklaces, bracelets and keyrings.

Fabric & Fashion (Tue & Wed): Create iphone/ipad/book covers. Make bags from rags. Learn how to use a sewing machine.

Papercrafts & Tye Dye (Thu & Fri): Be creative using fabric and paper. Design t-shirts and canvasses.

10am to 4pm

Cowbridge Community College

Annexe 5, Old Hall, High Street Cowbridge CF71 7AH

All materials will be provided.

Please bring along a packed lunch.

To book call Vale Courses

01446 773831

Book early as places are limited.

NOTE: We reserve the right to cancel if insufficient numbers.



£38/day,
book 2 or
more days
£30/day



8 to 14 yrs
All sessions
fully
supervised





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

PARTICIPATION WORKERS

UPDATES

Wendy Thomas
Uwch-reolwr Polisi/Senior Policy Manager
Is-Adran Plant, Pobl Ifanc a Theuluoedd/Children Young People &
Families Division
Ffon/Tel 029 2082 6002
Ebostr/email: wendy.thomas2@wales.gsi.gov.uk

SCHOOL COUNCILS

Governing bodies are responsible for setting up school councils and the headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the school council meets on six occasions during the school year and that at least one member of staff supervises the meetings. Both the headteacher and governing body staff are required to consider any matter communicated to them by the Council.

The following link is a document which helps highlight the role of school governing bodies in ensuring effective operation of school council.

[CLICKHERE](#)

Local Authorities have a duty to ensure that governing bodies and schools comply with the law and can now intervene, issue warning notices or direct them when they are not.

Welsh Government will put in an article in Dysg (the official education and skills newsletter) reminding governing bodies and schools of their legal duties and responsibilities relating to school councils. We will also email our Governor Support Officers reminding them of the LA's responsibilities.

The Department for Education and Skills have already promoted (via Dysg) the school council sessions in the old debating chamber at the National Assembly. They refresh the [Pupil Voice Website](#) on an ongoing basis and are hoping to host some additional case studies on the website this year.

[To sign up for the DYSG newsletters click here](#)

