



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

## Note from the Chair

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has decided I am an undesirable person and it does not wish to talk to me. To be more precise, the IT department, in the person of its email system, has decided that all my emails to important people at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, like the Governor Support Unit, are to be returned as undeliverable. This happens even when I am replying to an innocuous email sent to me by the Governor Support Unit. I have been resorting to the old-fashioned phone system. I should add that no-one else with whom I correspond has noticed any change in my status. They are all happy to receive my emails.

This makes me wonder about Governors and their involvement with the IT in their schools. Are you on top of what the hardware and software is being used in your school? Is there a Master Plan? Is everything up date? Are the proper safeguarding measures in place? How are you equipping the children in your care with the skills to survive in a digitally -run world?

For the past few months, I have been sitting in as Governor with a group of

teachers in a Learning Group at St Richard Gwyn, which has been considering the implications of the Digital Competency Framework. I have found it fascinating finding out how developing digital skills can be incorporated in history or food technology lessons, just as the Literacy and Numeracy Framework have been integrated across the curriculum.

Then there is the whole problem of sorting out what is true and valid from the vast quantity of information we all now have at our fingertips. Can your pupils spot fake news when they see it?

Time for Governors to ask some challenging questions.

I will be sending in this note to the Vale using my wife's email address. They haven't noticed her undesirability yet.

Have a good summer rest.

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

## Issue 42 Summer Term 2018

### 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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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.  
It's [VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

**VSGA**  
Governor Support Unit  
Learning & Development Dept.  
Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Civic Offices, Holton Road,  
Barry CF63 4RU



# A Whole Education Approach to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales

This guide recognises the importance of education settings as environments where positive attitudes towards gender equality and healthy respectful relationships can be fostered through a rights based approach.

To download the document click [here](#)

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## Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Guidance for Governors A Practical Guide for School Governors

The Welsh Government have produced a guide to inform school governors of the issues surrounding violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, and the need to have an appropriate policy in place to help staff to recognise the signs of abuse and how to get help for themselves, to assist their colleagues and the young people in their school. The guide contains a number of actions which governors can take to make their school safer. There is a checklist at Annex C which will enable you to determine how well your school is equipped to support children and young people on issues of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Please click on link [here](#) this will take you to the Guidance.

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## Management Committee Membership 2016-18

The Management Committee is comprised of elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	R	Bailey	Peterston-Super-Ely C/W Primary
2	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
3	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comprehensive
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Romilly Primary
5	Mr	W	Hennessey	Oak Field Primary & Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
8	Mrs	A	Males	St Cyres Comprehensive
9	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary & St. Nicholas C/W Primary
10	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
11	Mr	R	Simpson	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
12	Mr	R	Smith	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
13	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Primary
14	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
15	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Fairfield Primary & Victoria Primary
PGR-Prim	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St. Athan Primary
PGR-Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

**Nominations for 2018-20 will be invited in early September 2018**

## 2018-20 School Term Dates

The 2018-20 School Term dates are now confirmed until Summer 2020. Full details can be accessed [here](#).



# 'Show Racism the Red Card' Teacher Training Workshops

Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism education charity which was established in 1996. Our experienced team of educators work in schools throughout the UK delivering anti-racism workshops to over 40,000 young people and deliver training to thousands of teachers.

Please find below their current offer for teachers as an example of what could be offered, I think it would be a good opportunity for us to help them pilot this offer of specific training.

Our team of educators can visit your school to deliver an anti-racism educational workshop with teachers on a range of topics.

## Workshop Aims

- Raise awareness of the consequences of racism and the effects on young people.
- Empower teachers through improving their knowledge and upskilling them so they are more confident discussing racism with young people.
- Offer teachers practical help and classroom activities to challenge common stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudice attitudes in society.
- Inform teachers of the increasing 'extreme far-right' ideology in young people and how to recognise, respond and support affected pupils.
- Enable teachers to recognise, respond to, and report racist incidents.
- Equip teachers with knowledge, classroom activities and resources to promote equality in their classroom and the whole school

## Structure

We currently deliver teachers training with Universities across Wales as well as being registered training providers for Global Learning Program for Wales

Our teacher training workshops can be delivered in school and in other educational settings. There is a selection of modules to choose from and we can offer a tailored session to meet any needs upon request.

## Survey for Governors

We have been asked by Show Racism the Red Card to share with you a link to a survey for Governors.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TR6NQ7T>

This survey should only take 5minutes to complete and is aimed at measuring the perceptions and knowledge of governors in schools across Wales in regards to racism.

The survey strives to identify if there is a need for funded training on anti-racism for governors, as part of a whole school approach to eradicating racism in schools.

## Central South Consortium 6 June 2018

### Conference Materials

The **Materials** from the recent Governor Conference can now be found in the Cronfa Knowledge Bank.

#### *Materials include:*

- Introduction to the Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership
- Curriculum for Wales update for governors
- Education in Wales: Our National Mission
- The Right Way - Children's Commissioner presentation
- ALN Transformation – presentation



# Parent Governor e-Elections - Autumn Term 2018

As from September 2018 all future parent governor elections will be held electronically to ensure the best use of both school and Local Authority resources and your school will need to hold an e-Election this Autumn.

## What's the process?

This will now all be done electronically (except where you do not have parental email addresses). The Governor Support Unit (GSU) has devised a process and will run it for you.

## What does the school need to provide to make this work effectively?

Prior to each election the GSU will send your school a report for you to run against SIMS to capture all the email addresses of parents/carers. This is absolutely key to ensuring that the maximum number of those eligible to both stand as a candidate and vote are reached.

## How does the school contact those parents/carers for whom they don't have contact email addresses?

These will need to be contacted with hard copies of papers/envelopes as before but they will now need to be provided by the school, not the Local Authority. Therefore the more parent contact email addresses you have the less hardcopy work will be required.

## Some of our pupils have several parents/carers' contact email addresses, will they all be contacted in these elections?

No, parents/carers' contact email addresses will be restricted to 2 per pupil. The report will extract email addresses for the parent/carer listed as Parental Responsibility (PR) 1 and 2 on SIMS.

## Who should provide/confirm school information?

Each school must identify a named contact for liaising with GSU for the parent e-Election process.

## Will GSU produce the nomination forms and ballot papers as before?

Yes and these will be distributed electronically. The GSU will share with schools a master hardcopy of the nomination form, and if necessary a ballot paper. However, schools will be responsible for any copying/envelopes for those parents requiring hard copies.

## Will materials for Welsh Medium Schools be bilingual?

Yes.

## What happens if we have got more parent governor vacancies than indicated in the table overleaf?

Please contact GSU immediately as this will impact on the elections materials.

## Who should I contact if I have any queries about this process?

If you have any questions please contact Jeremy Morgan via email at [jmorgan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:jmorgan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or by telephone at 01446 709108 (direct line) if you have any questions about your Parent Governor e-Election. Thanks for your support with the introduction of this new process. We have piloted it in a number of schools and it has worked well so far. I'm sure it will evolve with time and more schools using it but it will mean a much more effective use of resources, both for schools and the Local Authority than the former hard copy method.

## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next Education Update & Briefing Session will be held  
**TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2018 at 6 to 7.30pm**

There will be a Challenge & Support session  
held at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on  
**TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2018 at 6 to 8pm**

*The Critical Friend aspect is one of the most important parts of the Governors role,  
yet it can also be one of the most difficult to accomplish.*

*This course will look at the different ways that Governors can provide Challenge & Support,  
using the Estyn framework as a guide, providing practical advice & examples of good practice.*