



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

Note from the Chair

It has been a busy week here with the birth of twin Grandchildren to my eldest daughter. Their mother has already taken precautions about their education and for some time has been a Governor of the Vale school they will hopefully go to.

The Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams has published a consultation document with some radical proposals to change the way Governing Bodies for schools in Wales are made up.

The document is available on the Welsh Government website or you can access it from the Governors Wales site. Responses are due by 17th February 2017. Please submit your views direct to Welsh Government. VSGA will be sending a coordinated response and I would be grateful if you could send me views via John Sparks at the Governors Support Unit at the Vale Council.

The main thrust in the proposals is an emphasis on smaller Governing Bodies with an emphasis on skills rather than representation. The idea is "making it

a requirement that all appointed governors have – in the opinion of the person or body making the appointment – the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of their school."

There are other proposed changes such as that Chairs could be appointed for up to four years rather than annually, and that there be appointed Parent Governors as well as elected ones. There will also be a requirement to have independent members of Disciplinary, Complaints and Grievance Committees.

These are wide-ranging proposals and I would urge you to make your views known. Governing bodies could look very different in future, which should bode well for Ffion and Tomos when they embark on their first steps in formal education.

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

**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:

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

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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



Managing Director congratulates Vale Catering on their awards success

The Council's Managing Director took time out to personally congratulate the members of staff who helped Vale's Catering Service win big at the annual Lead Authority for Catering Education Awards.

Rob Thomas met those responsible for the service winning Welsh Management Team of the Year for their success in transforming four dining centres in the Western Vale into full-production kitchens, and for the team at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School finished as runners-up in the Frontline Catering Team category.

Rob said: "The management team more than deserve their award. Their programme of work to upgrade kitchens across the Vale shows all the qualities that drive success in the Council, initiative and commitment when devising and implementing the business strategy, and great management skill in delivering it. Most importantly their success means that hundreds more pupils can now enjoy a freshly-prepared cooked meal each day.

"Meanwhile the team at Bryn Hafren have been recognised for the enthusiasm, initiative, and commitment that sees them maintain a consistently high level of service for pupils and staff."

Also in attendance, although sadly without any of his prize winning creations, was Gareth Humphries, kitchen assistant at St. Cyres Comprehensive School, who won first prize in the Celtic Creations Competition for his selection of four biscuits: parmesan & chive, Viennese whirls, Christmas cake cookies and custard creams.

Entry into the competition was open to all catering staff from across the 22 local authorities in Wales, with another Vale of Glamorgan representative – Hayley Fellows from Ysgol y Deri – receiving a merit for her cupcake entry.

The Council's Catering Service provides 4610 meals each day at 49 Primary Schools and 2100 meals at 6 Comprehensive schools in the Vale. More information about their work can be found on the Council's website.

Opportunity for Primary Schools Delivering Parenting Programmes.

Welsh Government, the Money Advice Service and Big Lottery Wales are working together to develop a world leading piece of research, based in Wales, to understand how best to support parents in understanding their role in building financial capability in their children.

Parents are the most trusted messenger in childhood and they provide the environment for children to see, experience and learn about money on a daily basis. Parents are therefore likely to be the strongest factor in influencing their children's financial capability in adulthood. Despite this, there is minimal provision to support parents and little evidence from across the world about what works and what doesn't.

This research (which is only being pioneered in Wales) hopes to develop that evidence and will help parenting practitioners across the world understand how best to support parents with this topic. The pilot finishes in March, so if you want to get involved you need to act now.

If your primary school is delivering any of the following parenting programmes:

- Family Links Nurturing Programme
- Incredible Years
- Families and Schools Together (FAST)
- Handling Children's Behaviour (delivered in groups)
- Parent Plus
- Solihull Approach
- Triple P
- STEPS
- Supporting Family Life

...you can take part.

For more information please contact Karen.mcfarlane@childreninwales.org.uk. Telephone: 02920 342434

Lee Phillips

Wales Manager
Money Advice Service

Welsh Government Consultation on the Reform of School Governance: Regulatory Framework

The Consultation document can be accessed here

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/consolidation-and-revision-school-governance-regulatory-framework-wales>.

Please note the closing date for responses is 17 February 2017

The Governor Support Unit has emailed all Heads, Chairs and Clerks to governing bodies to encourage them to consider this as an agenda item at their next full governing body meeting.

Elected Parent Governor Representatives – Primary & Secondary

Following the recent elections for the above positions, Mrs J Lynch-Wilson (Primary) and Dr C Brown (Secondary) have been appointed to the Council's Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture). The appointments are for a four-year term with effect from 29 November 2016.

Dr C Brown has been re-elected for a further four year term and Mrs J Lynch-Wilson has been elected for the first time.

Mrs J Lynch-Wilson (Primary) and Dr C Brown (Secondary) are also entitled to sit on the Management Committee of the Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA) which is chaired by Dr Martin Price from St Richard Gwyn R.C. High School.

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 Comp
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
5	Mr	W	Hennessey	Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
8	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
9	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary
10	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim & Ysgol Dewi Sant
11	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
12	Mr	R	Simpson	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
13	Mr	R	Smith	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
14	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Primary & Ysgol Gwaun-y-nant
15	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
16	CLlr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
PGR - Prim	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St Athan Primary
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next LA Governors advert will appear on the Council's Education website on

Monday 30 January 2017

The Update & Briefing Session will be held on Tuesday 20 June 2017 at 6pm
in the Civic Offices, Barry

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

