



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

## Note from the Chair

As Governors, you are getting front-row seats to observe the transformation of the Welsh Education system.

The most obvious reform is the new Curriculum for Wales which is a radical new way of looking at how learning takes place and what is learned. You may be a Pioneer School with teachers developing the detail and considering what skills and facts young people in the twenty-first century need now and will need over their working lives.

For most countries, making a fundamental change to the curriculum would be more than enough to be going on with, but not in Wales. At the same time, Wales is also making fundamental changes the way teachers are taught, their professional development over their working lives and even how they are paid, as responsibility for terms and conditions has now been devolved.

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act is now being implemented. Its aim is to deliver a fully inclusive education system for the learners of Wales and will replace the Special Educational Needs system, with something more flexible and responsive. This is what a civilised society should aspire to do. The challenge is how to make it happen within existing resources and meet the raised expectations of parents for their vulnerable children.

Exams are changing too, as are the performance measures for schools. And, of course, Estyn is reviewing how schools will be inspected. We also await the results of the consultation on Governance of schools.

The Welsh Government's ambition is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. To quote the documents, "The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation." The vision is that all primary school pupils will leave at eleven being able to hold a conversation in Welsh.

Can our Governors, Civil Servants, Education professionals and most importantly Wales's children cope with it all? Is there enough "headspace" and "joined up thinking" to make sure it will all work?

For what it's worth, I think that all these changes are by and large a very good thing. I just worry about them all happening at once.

May I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

## Issue 43 Autumn 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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Administrator

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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

# Young Carers in Schools Programme

Carers Trust South East Wales has been working with a number of Secondary Schools across the Vale of Glamorgan since November 2016 funded in partnership by the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils & Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to deliver the Young Carers in Schools Programme.

The aim of the Young Carers in Schools Programme is to support the development of schools to better, 'Understand, Inform, Identify, Listen and Support' young carers. These form the 5 themes of the Programme. There are 3 stages to the Young Carers in Schools Programme 'The Basics, Beyond the Basics and Best Practice'. Schools are supported by the Young Carers Manager and Schools Development Worker at Carers Trust South East Wales to encourage a whole school commitment in working to support young carers.

The Vale of Glamorgan saw the first Secondary School, Barry Comprehensive, in Wales to receive Carers Trust South East Wales Award for achieving 'the Basics' of the Young Carers in Schools Programme. Barry Comprehensive have since progressed to achieve 'Beyond the Basics of the Young Carers in Schools Programme.

Six out of eight (75%) schools within the Vale of Glamorgan are working with Carers Trust South East Wales to implement the Young Carers in Schools Programme. Two (25%) schools have recently shown an interest in the Programme and are taking step towards implementation of the programme. Three (37.5%) schools have passed 'The Basics' of the Young Carers in Schools Programme. Working towards the Programme has assisted in the identification of young carers in the Vale of Glamorgan. One school has seen a 1600% increase in the number of identified young carers (from 2 to 34 young carers)

In order for schools to achieve the Award for the Young Carers in Schools Programme. A portfolio of evidence is created and presented to a Peer Review Panel; the participants of the Peer Review Panel are young carers from throughout 4 local authority areas.

**Ms Nielson from Whitmore High, formerly Barry Comprehensive, said:** "We are really proud of our young carers, who do so much to support their families. The Young Carers in School Programme, has enabled us to identify the young carers within the school, putting in place a variety of positive measures to support them both in and out of school."

**Connor, 15, who has started an Access course at Cardiff and Vale College this year, said:** "Being a young carer means people looking after their families. I help my dad at home and sometimes help my brother with homework. Young carers can have many problems, and they can lash out because of the stress at home".

Connor has helped to support other young carers by introducing a regular peer support group in his school and said, "It makes me so happy to help other carers and I didn't know (the person I peer support) before this scheme, and now we get along well. Ms Nielsen in school is great and can support you no matter what; she has helped me a lot."

**Tristan, 14 from Whitmore High, formerly Barry Comprehensive said:** "I help my mum out at home when she needs it and I help around the house. I found out about young carers in school, from a poster in my Maths lesson. I told my teacher and she asked Ms Nielson to tell me more about how the school can help."

Schools in the Vale of Glamorgan took part in Young Carers Awareness Day in January 2018 by raising awareness during tutor time encouraging any hidden young carers to identify themselves to the operational leads at the school. Information will be circulated prior to Young Carers Awareness Day on the 31st January 2019 for schools to promote and participate.

The exemplar tools supporting the work of the Young Carers in Schools Programme suggest governors should do the following to fulfil the role effectively:

- Acknowledge that many pupils attending their school have caring responsibilities and therefore have specific needs for which the school should be making adequate provision.
- Ensure the needs of young carers are reflected in whole school planning and, where appropriate, are included in the whole school improvement plan.
- Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge about issues relating to young carers and their families, as well as relevant national and local developments, including changes in legislation and guidance.
- Ensure they regularly receive and evaluate reports from the school's senior leadership team about how the school caters for young carers. Reports should identify strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for further improvement so that young carers enjoy school and make good progress. Such reports may be discussed as discrete agenda items on young carers or as part of wider discussions, for example, on inclusion.
- Consider the needs of young carers, many whom are eligible for free school meals, when agreeing and reviewing use of Pupil Deprivation Grant Funding.

If you want further information or wish your school to become involved, please contact

**Lisa Thomas – Young Carers Manager - Carers Trust South East Wales**  
[Lisa.thomas@ctsew.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.thomas@ctsew.org.uk) / 01495 769996 / 07787 413969

# Whitmore High Awards



Llantwit Major Award

# Activities and Opportunities for Young People

There are a number of youth provisions across the Vale of Glamorgan open to young people aged 11-25. The Vale Youth Service offer plenty of opportunities for young people to make friends and have fun in a safe and friendly environment. The Youth Service offers a variety of activities and opportunities that teach young people new skills. This includes both national and local accreditations alongside the Duke Of Edinburgh award scheme. The Youth Service works in partnership with local communities to run provision from local venues and offers a mobile provision that can reach communities where there is no current provision. The Youth Service is proud to run a diverse range of youth provisions, including a provision through the medium of Welsh in partnership with the Urdd.

If you require further information about the team or projects please contact **Hannah Adams - Engagement and Development Officer: 01446 709 308** and follow the Vale Youth Service on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - @VYSVALE

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## Draft Statutory Guidance on School Uniform and Appearance Policy

Please see attached a link to the Welsh Government's consultation on draft statutory guidance to school governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies:

<https://beta.gov.wales/guidance-school-governing-bodies-school-uniform-and-appearance-policies>

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## VSGA Management Committee 2018-20

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

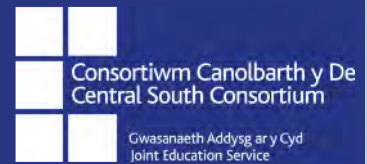
No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	R	Bailey	Peterston-Super-Ely C/W Primary
2	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
3	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Romilly Primary
4	Mr	A	Hennessey	Oak Field Primary & Ysgol Sant Baruc
5	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
7	Mrs	A	Males	St Cyres Comp
8	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary
9	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
10	Mr	R	Smith	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
11	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Prim
12	Mrs	T	Vaughan-Taylor	Cowbridge Comp
13	Mrs	L	Warren	St Illtyd 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 Comp

### Parent Governor Representatives' (PGRs) terms of office

Sector	Name	Initial	Surname	School
Primary	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St Athan Primary
Secondary	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comp

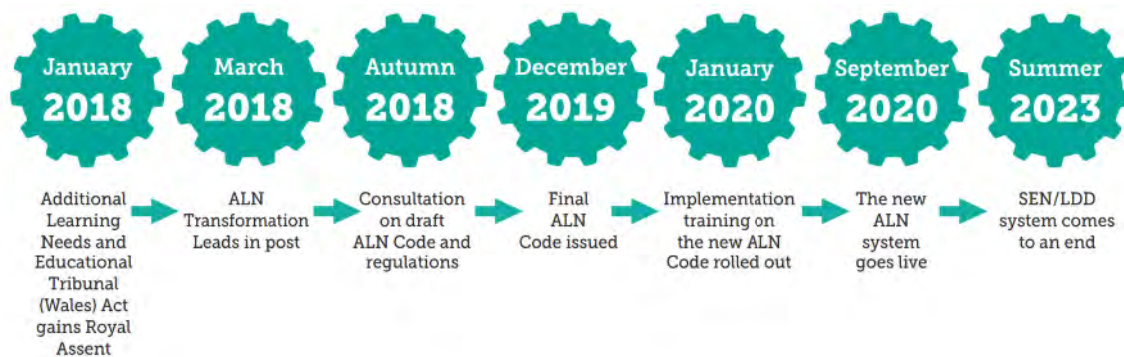
# Governor Spring Term Briefing Sessions

## Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act



Presented by Liz Jones, ALN Transformation Lead, Central South Consortium

In January 2018 the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act received royal assent alongside a mandatory timeline for implementation. Implementation of the new system will commence in September 2020 with completion expected by the end of 2023.



The Welsh Government is supporting the transformation of the new system through five key themes:

- **Legislation and statutory guidance**
- **Workforce development**
- **Implementation and transition support**
- **Awareness raising**
- **Supporting policy**

This session will provide an opportunity for governors to develop their understanding of the implications of the ALNET Act for schools and local authorities and what progress has been made within the region against the five key themes.



To book your place at one of these sessions please contact your Local Authority Governor Support Team or contact us directly at [cscgovernor@cscjes.org.uk](mailto:cscgovernor@cscjes.org.uk)



# CURRICULUM FOR WALES: KEY INFORMATION FOR GOVERNORS

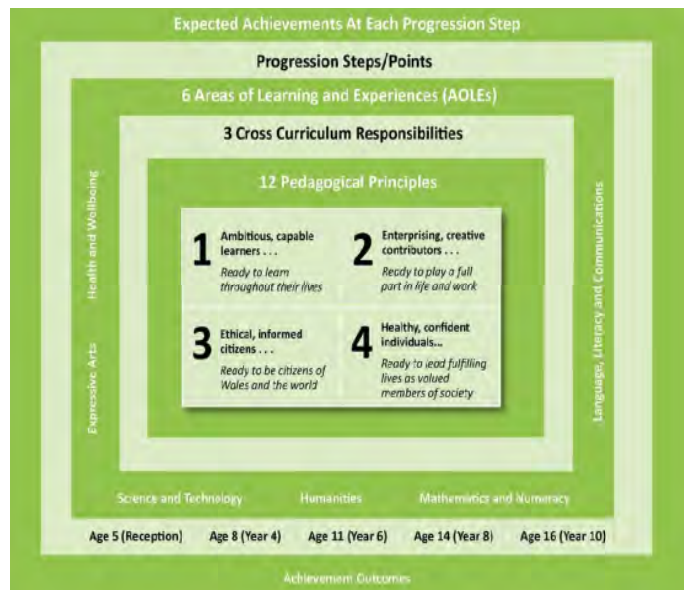
*"A good education is something that is experienced by young people; it is not delivered. Delivery implies that education is a product, rather than a process. It implies transmission, rather than experiential learning."  
(Priestley, 2012)*

## What do I need to know?

- » It will be based on a nationally described continuum of learning for learners (3 -16)
- » Learning will be an expedition, not a straight line
- » Progression steps will be at 5,8,11,14,16
- » Achievement outcomes will be child facing in the form of 'I can for outcomes' and 'I have for experiences'
- » By emphasising achievement in a broad sense, these outcomes broaden the scope of what we value in children and young peoples learning and will contribute to achieving the four purposes.
- » In this way learning and progression go hand in hand bringing a purposeful approach to sequencing learning. (curriculumforwales.gov)

Each AoLE will comprise of:

- » An explanation of how it supports the four purposes
- » What Matters statements and Rationales
- » The Knowledge skills and experiences relating to each What Matters
- » Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes



## What is different?

The new curriculum is less prescriptive, in order to be enacted to the benefit of learners it is dependent on quality teaching that responds to pupil needs. To support this the pedagogical principles in chapter 5 of Successful Futures along with knowledge of pupil needs. They are not an exhaustive list nor are they a tick list to be used at all times.

The new curriculum is designed to give schools the autonomy that the over prescription has inhibited. Schools will take the new curriculum and design it into their school curriculum. Curriculum design and development should be an integral part of teaching and learning in all schools.

## Healthy Living Team

The Healthy Living Team (Sports Development) within the Council deliver a number of training opportunities for pupils to help increase physical activity opportunities and improve well-being. We also organise a calendar of festivals throughout the year for schools to participate in. Anyone wanting further information and / or wish to be included in mailing we send directly to schools can contact **Rachel Shepherd, Healthy Living Officer on 01446 704808 or [rlshepherd@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:rlshepherd@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

### Mini Disability Inclusion Training

Mini Disability Inclusion Training (DIT) helps pupils gain the knowledge on how to include their disabled friends in everyday activities during school hours and at home. The course aims to remove barriers that prevent disabled people taking part in sport and physical activity with their friends thus creating a healthy lifestyle for everyone. Mini DIT is free for schools to access and involves a one hour session led by Disability Sport Wales. The pupils will be in an active learning environment where they will delve in to perceptions of disabled people, what each individual can do to include their disabled friends, correct terminology and they will set up a game to include a number of different impairments. Each pupil will receive a certificate at the end of the course.

### Bronze Young Ambassadors

The Young Ambassador programme is all about improving confidence, self-esteem and creativity of your pupils to get more pupils active. The Bronze Young Ambassador scheme is a leadership programme suitable for year 5/6 pupils who are ready to take their next steps in their leadership journey and through a Vale-wide one day training workshop, workbooks and one to one support, your pupils can reach their full potential and improve the well-being of your school.

### Playmakers

Playmakers is a fantastic way to bring more pupil led physical activity opportunities into your school to help improve well-being. The one day school based training day is a great way to develop older pupils (yrs 5/6) confidence, personal and thinking skills so they can be role models in the school leading physical activities at break/lunch-times for younger pupils. Training is delivered around a school day and it's free.

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## HR update Teachers Pay and Conditions

From 30 September 2018, the powers to determine the pay and conditions for Teachers has been devolved from Westminster to Wales. Consultation ended in March 2018 and the independent review panel published their report in September. The report makes a variety of recommendations in addition to the pay arrangements for teachers and you can view the document via the following link. A summary of the recommendations can be found from page 74 onwards

<https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/teaching-a-valued-profession-report-of-the-independent-review.pdf>

At this time we do not have details of the proposed implementation arrangements but we will ensure these are communicated to Headteachers/Governors at the earliest opportunity.

### Policy Development

There were minimal changes to the Pay Policy this year in view of pending changes as outlined above. Central South Consortia HR colleagues and Trade Unions are currently undertaking a review of the Schools Disciplinary and Dismissals Procedure, Performance Management and the Capability Procedures. We do not anticipate any major changes and again, we will send communications to Schools once finalised.

In relation to the Disciplinary and Dismissals Procedure, just a reminder that Governors need to set up two groups of Governors, one for the Disciplinary & Dismissal Committee and one for the Appeal Committee (these are mandatory Committees). If required to meet, each Committee must include 3 governors (different for each Committee) and we strongly recommend that you appoint a larger group of people for each Committee to ensure you have sufficient governors to cover in case of unavailability.

There are also some changes to the Schools Redundancy Procedure in particular about actuarial pension costs for early retirements. All requests are subject to approval by Education Finance via a Business Case from Governors. The costs come from the School's budget but Finance will allow a repayment period of up to five years, subject to interest charges.

**If you have any questions about these matters, please contact:  
Sue Alderman, Principal HR Business Partner 01 446 709870**

**SAVE**

**THE**

**DATE**

Governors Summer Conference 2019

# WELLBEING IN EDUCATION

*This year's keynote speaker:*

*Sophie Howe,*

*Future Generations Commissioner for Wales*

**Tuesday, 4th June 2019**

**Further details to be announced**



Consortiwm Canolbarth y De  
Central South Consortium

Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd  
Joint Education Service

[www.cscjes.org.uk/governors](http://www.cscjes.org.uk/governors)



*Merry Christmas*

*and a*

*Happy New Year*

*from the*

*Governor Support Unit*

