



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

Note from the Chair

I have just returned from an extended medical check-up at the local medical centre. I drive the village community minibus on a regular basis and if I am to continue to do so I need to ensure that the relevant categories stay on my driving licence after its renewal. My doctor's role is to confirm my continuing safety to drive such a large vehicle.

Having an enforced check on my state of health prompted me to think about how often Governing Bodies do health checks on the more boring bits of their work. I have just received a bunch of policies to read, comment on and agree to. Fortunately, we have a retired Civil Servant who has volunteered to keep an eye on them and there is a schedule of regular reviews, which means that these bunches arrive regularly, but not in such quantities as to be unmanageable.

The latest batch include such standard items as the Pay Policy and Admissions Policy, and the ARR policy (Assessment, Recording and Reporting in plain English.) But also, sad to say, the Visitor Unacceptable Behaviour Policy. One hopes this is not put into effect too often.

Does your Governing Body have a similar process for keeping policies up to date? It is

easy to forget them in the hurly burly of pressing business, and many are hardly ever used in anger, but they are vital to ensure that when they are needed in a hurry they are up to date and serviceable.

Similarly, make sure that the various committees' memberships are up to date, and you have proof in the form of minutes of decisions taken. Many years ago, a Governing Body I was on lost an employment tribunal on a technicality. One of the members of a vital committee had left mid-year, and we had no minute recording their replacement, invalidating our procedure. An expensive mistake, which has made me ultra-careful ever since about boring minutiae.

And I am glad to say that the doctor gave me a full bill of health, and I am allowed to continue driving the minibus so you can wave to me if you see me on the streets in a big purple Mercedes and be assured that a qualified professional has said I am safe to drive it.

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

Issue 51 Spring Term 2022

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
Civic Offices, Holton Road,
Barry CF63 4RU

All pupils, every ambition: Future work

Governors for Schools are pleased to launch term two of the 'All pupils, every ambition campaign: Future work'. Our focus is on what governors can do to help prepare young people for the world of work. We'll explore the concept of employability, and how schools can best help pupils regardless of background, develop skills that will equip them for the job market of the future. We hope to inspire more people to apply to become a governor and support those who are already governors with relevant, easy to access resources.

What is 'All pupils, every ambition: Future work'?

'All pupils, every ambition: Future work' is about getting people who care about giving all pupils the chance to reach their ambitions onto school boards. After what has been a turbulent time for pupils, now more than ever, we all have a role to play in helping our young people meet their full potential. Each term, we focus on a different area crucial to the success of young people. With the focus of this term being related to careers and employability, we have designed a package of events, resources and eLearning to support governors.

All of this term's campaign resources, were made possible through the support of Allen & Overy. Our short video, is a quick introduction to the campaign and can be shared on social media and within your networks.

Resources for schools

Our school resource page lists an array of work-related opportunities and learning for young people provided by some of our collaborative partners, including information about apprenticeships with our term two sponsor, Allen & Overy. The resources are free and we hope that they will help to enhance your in school Career and Guidance offering for all students.

We'll be updating our website with further resources for schools throughout the term and we will also be posting related articles on our social media channels.

Resources for governors

In addition to resources for schools, we'll share materials throughout the term for governors. These include articles, questions to ask at meetings, webinars featuring specialists in careers education and we have produced eLearning modules for governors to expand their knowledge.

How can my school get involved?

1. Sharing this newsletter with the governors at your school is a great way that you can help to spread the message.
2. Share this newsletter with your CEIAG, Pupil Premium and SEND leads who may be interested in our resources section.
3. Sharing our official term two video is an easy way to showcase the campaign to your governors and school community who may be interested in governance.
4. Check out our free resources for schools to discover a range of relevant materials to enhance your Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance offering.

We hope you enjoy the new term of the All pupils, every ambition campaign. If you have any questions, please get in touch and we would be happy to help

**Thank you for your support,
Governors for Schools**

Childrens Wales Act - Final version Information Factsheet - Education

Please find below a link to a fact sheet for the education workforce on ending physical punishment in Wales. Please could you distribute to your staff and networks.

Ending Physical Punishment in Wales: factsheet for the education workforce | [GOV.WALES](#)

"ASK ME"

Do you want to help end violence against women?

Why not attend a free online Ask Me training?

Ask Me is a scheme being run by Welsh Women's Aid in conjunction with Atal Y Fro and Cardiff Women's Aid, for people who want to raise awareness about violence against women, share information about domestic abuse and sexual violence in their communities as well as know how to give the right response to survivors. To join you need to be 18 or over, live in a funded area and successfully complete our free "Welcome to Ask me" course. After joining Ask Me, we'll help you in your activism by giving you resources you can share with others, telling you about events and campaigns you can take part in as well as helping you to connect with other community activists in your area.

To learn more visit <http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/change-that-lasts/ask-me-project/> or email us at <mailto:askmeWales@welshwomensaid.org.uk>

Deborah Lewis
Adult Education Development Officer / Swyddog Datblygu Ardal
Strategy, Community Learning and Resources / Strategaeth,
Dysgu yn y Gymuned ac Adnoddau
Vale of Glamorgan Council / Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

VSGA Management Committee 2020-22

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	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comp
3	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Romilly Primary
5	Mr	A	Hennessey	Oak Field Primary & Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Sant Baruc
7	Mrs	S	Jenkins-Welch	St Andrews C/W Primary & St Cyres Comprehensive
8	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St Athan Primary
9	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary
10	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
11	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Prim
12	Mrs	T	Vaughan-Taylor	Cowbridge Comp
13	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Fairfield Primary & Victoria Primary
14	Vacancy			
15	Vacancy			
Parent Governor Representatives' (PGRs) terms of office				
Parent Governor Representative Prim - Lucy Barrowclough - Llandough Primary School				
Parent Governor Representative Sec - Cathy Williams - Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg				

Ongoing Pupil Voice Support.

The Vale Rights Ambassadors project which is facilitated by the Vale Youth Service has continued to support pupil voice work in schools this term.

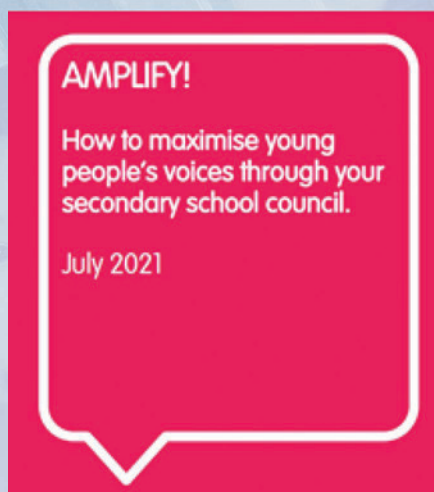
Pupil voice is defined as pupils having their voice heard when decisions are being made that affect their education through participation opportunities such as school council.

At the beginning of October, we facilitated school council link teacher training digitally through Microsoft Teams. 13 teachers from both primary and secondary schools attended, many of whom were new to the role.

- The aims of the training, to provide necessary knowledge and understanding to support the development of effective pupil participation linked to Estyn's Common Inspection Framework.
- To cover relevant legislation, how to implement pupil voice in a school setting and explore the duties that schools have if enabling children and young people accessing their rights.
- Discuss recommendations from School Council Audit and Children's Commissioner for Wales "Amplify" Report

The Rights Ambassadors Project will again facilitate Pupil Voice Training on the 22nd March 2022. We would encourage any School Governor who links in with the work pupil voice to attend the training to further support your knowledge and understanding.

We would encourage school governors to support pupil voice work being undertaken in schools, and to read the "Amplify Report" which can be found on the Children's Commissioner for Wales website - <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/amplify-how-to-maximise-young-peoples-voices-through-your-secondary-school-council/>



School Council Network

Launched in Spring 2020, the school council network is an initiative that brings pupils from all our secondary schools together to share best practise, promote the work they are undertaking and have an opportunity to hear more about education matters in the Vale of Glamorgan. Supported by Cllr Lis Burnett, pupils from 6 secondary schools attended a digital meeting in July 2021.

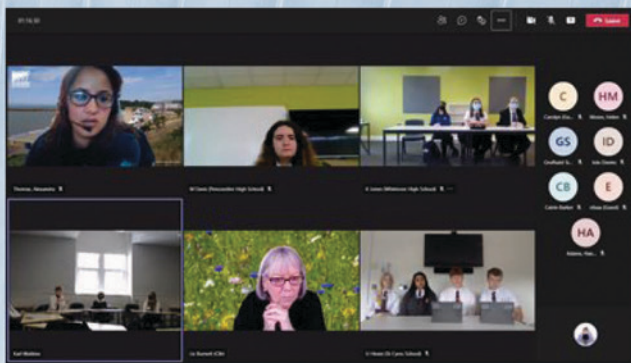
A third meeting took place on the 5th November with 5 secondary schools in attendance. We have welcomed guest speakers at the network meetings, pupils have had the opportunity to find out more about Project Zero, hear about School Counselling Services, which is led by Barnardo's as well as hearing about the process of registering to Vote.

School council network meetings will take place once a term to provide pupils from all our secondary schools an opportunity in the academic year to attend the meetings. School Governors are encouraged to speak with school senior leaders to gain pupil feedback on the meetings attended. The next meeting will take place on the 4th March 2022 where we look forward to hearing pupil voice news.

Pupils have provided feedback on the meetings they have attended:

St Cyres - "The Pupils Voice Network meeting was a terrific way to collaborate and develop an understanding of what our peers in other schools are doing. The concepts that were discussed were interesting and significant such as matters regarding the 'everyone's invites list' and the environment. It was also amazing to hear about the recent affairs of the Vale developments from Counsellor Burnett and I look forward to hearing more".

Cowbridge School - "We attended the Vale of Glamorgan joint School Council meeting on Friday 9th July. We found this meeting a good opportunity to hear from school councils across the Vale and to be able to share ideas. This way of working allowed us to feel part of the community and know that we are staying on track by completing proactive projects throughout the year.



Meeting in July 2021



Meeting in November 2021

UNCRC School Support

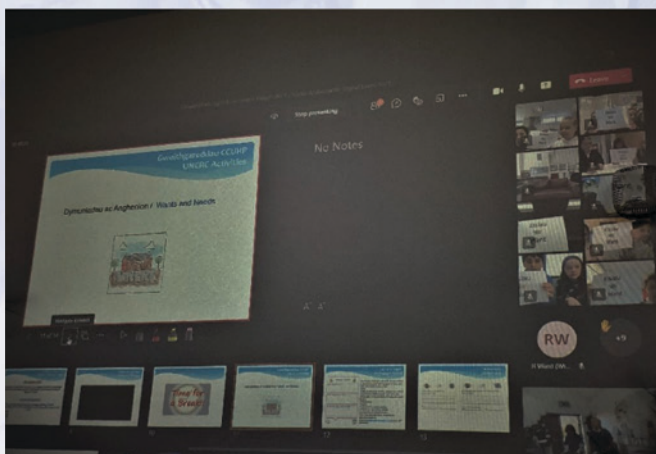
The Super Ambassadors and Student Ambassador Schemes are initiatives of the Children's Commissioner for Wales' Office. These schemes aim to promote children's rights and specifically raise awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in primary and secondary schools across the country.

Sign up to these schemes is actively promoted by the Rights Ambassadors project and support offered to the schools at various times throughout the academic year. Sign up to the schemes are free and school governors are encouraged to find out if their schools are signed up.

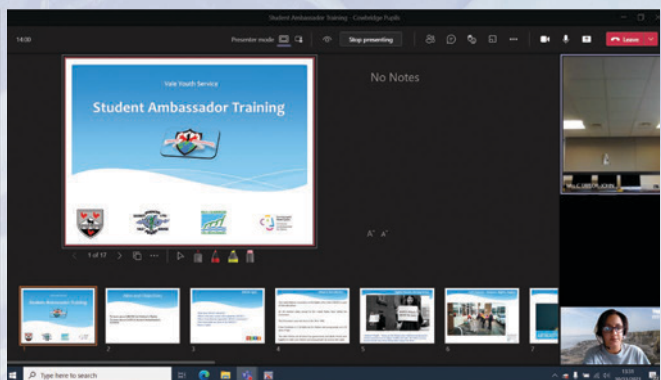
<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/our-schemes/>

This term the Rights Ambassadors project delivered a digital Super Ambassador event on the 21st October to 17 primary schools. The event provided 34 pupils to learn more about their role as Super Ambassador pupils as well as understanding the importance of children and young people's rights.

We have also delivered Student Ambassador training to pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive school to support the work pupils do in school. This was also delivered through Microsoft Teams. It's great to be able to adapt our delivery model ensuring that we can continue to provide pupils the opportunities to find out more about their rights through this challenging time. It would be great to have more schools signed up to both schemes and School Governors can promote the work done in the Vale of Glamorgan Council at their next meetings.



Super Ambassador Event October 2021



*Student Ambassador Cowbridge School
November 2021*

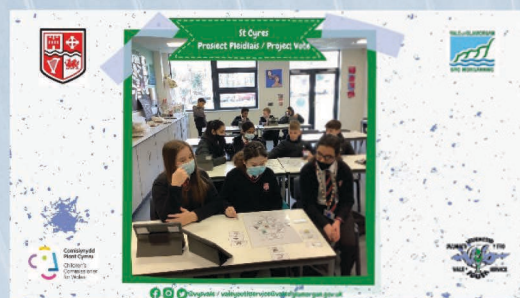
Project Vote

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is again facilitating Project Vote, a Parallel Election for 11–15-year-olds to coincide with Local Council Elections taking place in May 2022. All secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan are being encouraged to take part in the scheme.

Lesson plans have been created by the Children's Commissioner for Wales Office to equip pupils with the knowledge of why voting is important and to gain an understanding of local authority powers.



The Rights Ambassador Project is on hand to support PSE Lessons in delivering Project Vote Lessons and have recently been invited to deliver lessons at Whitmore School and St Cyres School, pupil response to the lessons was positively received. We will also be delivering PSE lessons at St Richard Gwyn School in the Spring Term. School Governors are encouraged to find out if their secondary schools are signed up to Project Vote, more information can be found on the website - <https://www.projectvote.wales/>



Taking Action on Bullying – Free Information and Training for Governors in Wales

Bullying is a serious concern for children in Wales. That's why this Children's Mental Health Week, we've teamed up with anti-bullying charity Kidscape to highlight practical information and advice on what governors in Wales can do to take action against bullying.

In September 2020, the Welsh Government launched Rights, respect, equality: statutory guidance to assist school governors, staff and relevant professionals working within a school environment in developing and implementing anti-bullying policies and strategies.

The Welsh Government is funding Kidscape to provide support to school leaders and governors to embed the guidance and improve their anti-bullying policy and practice.

Read the Kidscape Blog on the Governors for Schools Website

In this guest blog Taking action against bullying: advice for governors in Wales, Kidscape outline key actions that all governors in Wales can take.

Join the Rights, Respect, Equality Schools Support Webinar

This free monthly webinar, running until July 2022, is open to all school leaders and governors in Wales. Including information on the Rights, Respect, Equality guidance, as well as bespoke anti-bullying training for governors in Wales.

Find out more and register

We hope that you, or those in your network, will find these resources useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Loren.Nadin@governorsforschools.org.uk

You can also find further resources for governors on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of pupils on the Governors for Schools website.

The Index for families with children and young people 0-18 with a disability or additional need living in the Vale of Glamorgan



The Index sits within the Vale of Glamorgan Councils Family Information Service and is funded by Welsh Government's Families First grant. It is the Vale of Glamorgan's voluntary register of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. Working with key partners to keep families up to date with services, support and activities.

Click the link to view our animation which explains The Index and it's benefits in a visual and accessible way:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX5nSx082PU&t=7s>

We encourage families to sign up to the Index to get a bigger picture of need in the Vale of Glamorgan and for those signed up we send a quarterly newsletter jam packed with information on activities, childcare, support groups, education, events, wellbeing and services as well as our frequent ebulletins to keep families informed. To see an example of the type of information we send to families please find our latest newsletter: The Index Newsletter - Winter edition

We request feedback from anyone who has reached out to The Index with an enquiry or request to sign up to our voluntary register on a quarterly basis. Here is an example of some recent feedback from a parent: ***"Very accessible and friendly, the team are a credit to the VOGC"***

We are working closely with Additional Learning Needs Coordinators (ALNCOs) within schools across the Vale to promote the Index to families who would benefit from our information. In light of the phased implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act, we have provided updated electronic and physical copies of our resources to schools across the Vale to support them when approaching parents/carers about this. We have recently filmed a question-and-answer session with key professionals working on this implementation. The film was published in January 2022 across our social media platforms and sent directly to our 880 families signed up to the Index. We also sent it to ALNCOs with a request to upload to their websites for families to access.



The film should help families better understand the changes as a result of the new law and associated new ALN system; and the differences between the Special Educational Needs system / Statements and the new ALN system.

The film can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QmZ8_H6kWA

We are also working closely with our colleagues in Health. We have resumed our outreach service at Llandough Hospital and are attending outreach opportunities in the community again following a pause as a result of the pandemic.

As always, we are striving in as many ways as possible to reach as many families in the Vale with a child or young person 0-18 with a disability, additional need or emerging need in order to provide our much needed information and support.



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The Big Fresh Update February 2022



Well, it's been another very busy 6 months for us at The Big Fresh catering company. With the struggles of COVID still affecting us within the service, our staff have been the pillars of the company working tirelessly to serve the pupils, staff within our schools and the people of the Vale of Glamorgan from our café provision at Penarth Pier

We have continued to grow our customer base at the Penarth pavilion Café, with every penny of our profits being reinvested into the schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. We managed to put on some amazing events in the lead up to Christmas starting with pumpkin carving at Halloween, to Polar Express showings with an afternoon tea and a brunch with Santa experience with Santa after the film. This was a heart-warming event that was a success over the 3 events it was on. One of our staff managed to make a scaled down version of the Polar Express train which greeted our guests through December. We have lots to look forward to this year as we continue to look in partnership with the Pavilion staff to create events. Keep your eyes peeled for forthcoming events that you may want to attend.



Our school kitchen staff have also been busy making sure all our pupils and school staff continue to enjoy the service we provide. We have 2 new secondary school site's which has been a massive change for our teams in those schools. Whitmore High and Pencoedtre High have moved into a brand-new state of the art building over the last 6 months and our teams have done a brilliant job setting up a new kitchen and new types of service to be able to feed pupils onsite. We are very proud of the work our staff continue to produce to help us grow as a business. Remember to come and visit us in Penarth and check out our Facebook page.

School Governors in Wales Bulletin Issue 9 – February 2022

Dear Governor,

Please click on link [here](#) to view the School Governors in Wales Bulletin from Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language.