



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

Note from the Chair

It is half term as I write. I have just returned from a short break in Pembrokeshire with family: sunny, but not too hot, weather, a spacious house with impressive sea views, board and card games with children and grandchildren, messing about on the beach and a castle, savouring a decent pint of beer while surveying the sea from a pub terrace.

Why am I telling you this? Because my wife tells me that I needed this break for my general wellbeing. She says I have been working too hard and too long. She works in a school and needed a break for much the same reasons.

The school holidays are vital for the wellbeing and well-running of schools. Education in Wales prioritises wellbeing. Wellbeing is not just a convenient buzzword; pupils need to be rested and feel good about themselves if they are to be able to learn things and make the most of their time in school; so, do Headteachers and school staff, not to mention Governors.

But this cannot be left to chance. Wellbeing must be worked at. How is your school dealing with this challenge? Are your pupils and staff happy? Has the

school asked them? Have you seen the results of the latest surveys of staff and students' wellbeing? Have you seen the action plan put into place to make your school a better place to work and learn in? Does such a plan exist?

You do not all need to rush to book a holiday in West Wales, although I do recommend it highly, but Governors need to keep an eye on the other things than the academic progress data: the things that make life worth living for the young people in your care.

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

Issue 52 Summer 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

Contact Details:

John Sparks

Head of Governor Support

Tel: 01446 709106 Fax: 01446 701820

Email: JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Janine Hoare

Governor Support

Administrator

Tel: 01446 709107 Fax: 01446 701820

Email: JHoare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



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

Curriculum Adoption: Advice for Governing Bodies

In readiness for the implementation of the curriculum, for all primary schools in September 2022 and secondary schools according to their plans for roll-out, it is mandatory for the headteacher and the governing body to jointly adopt their curriculum and assessment arrangements and to publish a summary of it.

Adoption of Curriculum

Please note that this does not apply to those Vale secondary schools that have deferred this adoption until September 2023.

Adoption of the curriculum for September needs to be an agenda item on the summer term full governing body meeting with the minutes showing it having been formally adopted.

The level of detail schools go into with their full governing body on this will vary. Many will have been sharing the detail and developments through subcommittee meetings (curriculum/teaching and learning/progress etc) so the full governing body may receive a recommendation from a subcommittee to adopt based on the information that has been shared with them. Others may do this entirely through the full governing body.

If schools follow the guidelines in the links given below, they will be satisfying the legal requirements.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#maintained-schools-and-maintained-nursery-schools>

Published School Summaries

The Welsh Government recommend that published summaries include:

- information on how practitioners, learners, parents, carers and the wider community have been engaged to inform the curriculum's development;
- The how the curriculum meets the required elements set out in this national framework, starting from the four purposes;
- The information on how the school is approaching learning progression and its arrangements for assessment; and
- The how the curriculum will be kept under review, including the process for feedback and ongoing revision'.

Taken from <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#maintained-schools-and-maintained-nursery-schools> and also within Central South Consortium's March 2022 CSC CfW FAQs pack

The summary guidance can be found here: latest flyer from Welsh Government

It is suggested that schools need to offer a sentence or two on each of the points in the guidance above to cover themselves legally in terms of the requirements for the summaries.

Many summaries will be very general and high level in the first instance as most schools have not finalised their curriculum, it will evolve over the course of the year. As a result, the published summaries will evolve and be updated accordingly.

Central South Consortium have asked the Welsh Government to share an example of what they consider to be an appropriate level of detail, but they say as long as a school covers the points above, it is up to them how detailed it is as this is the school's own curriculum based on national guidance.

The summary statement can be published and shared as soon as the governing body have adopted the curriculum.

If you require any further information, please contact your school improvement partner.



New e-library and e-resources

Vale Library online and e-resources are available 24/7 to all library members and could be useful for governors, teachers and pupils. An exciting new addition is Pressreader. This allows you to access newspapers and magazines on your PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone. It includes national newspapers such as the Guardian, the Telegraph, the Express and the Mirror. It has Welsh titles such as the Western Mail and Y Cymro. It also includes a wide range of international titles such as the Wall Street Journal, the South China Morning Post, Le Figaro and El Pais. There is a Pressreader app to use on tablets and smartphones and you can also download titles to read when you don't have access to the internet. To find out more about Pressreader and the other resources available via our e-lending library go to the Vale Libraries webpages:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Libraries/e-Lending-Library.aspx>

Anyone who lives, works or studies in the Vale can join our libraries. You can join the library immediately via our online catalogue:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Libraries/Online%20Catalogue.aspx>

You will be given a number and pin which will enable you to access our e-resources straight away. To borrow books and access PCs in our libraries please then just pop into your nearest library with some form of official I.D. displaying both your name and address on and we will upgrade you to a permanent library card.

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				



Free Governor Recruitment Service

Governors for Schools is a charity which finds, places, and supports skilled volunteers as governors on school governing bodies.

Since launching our service in Wales in November 2020 we have helped over 90 skilled and committed volunteers to be appointed as governors.

We work with a range of partners, including universities, volunteering sites and local businesses to find volunteers who are looking for opportunities to use their skills to support education in the local community.

Who is the service for?

We support all types of state-funded schools, higher education colleges, pupil referral units (PRUs) and state-funded nurseries in finding governors free of charge.

If you have a vacancy on your governing body, you can register your vacancy with us for free. We'll connect you with suitable local volunteers who are looking to become governors.

How does the service work?

1. Register your governor vacancies online. Here you can specify the desirable skills or expertise you're looking for in volunteers.
2. The local area manager will find volunteers in your school's local area who best match your requirements.
3. If both you and the volunteer are interested in moving forward, we'll make an introduction via email. We'll provide you with an outline of the volunteer's skillset, as well as information on why they wish to become a governor.
4. You can then arrange a meeting with the volunteer at the school or online to talk more about the role.
5. If the volunteer is a good fit for your governing body, you will follow your usual appointment process.

Diversity on governing bodies

A diverse governing body is a stronger governing body, reflecting school communities and the wider country. Read more about how we're working to improve diversity on governing bodies. For any questions, or to find out more, please contact loren.nadin@governorsforschools.org.uk

Tips for choosing your Welsh class – Tasters starting now.



If you have never done any Welsh at all before you can start a beginners' **ENTRY** class, but some learners say they found the pre course Taster really helped them build a basic understanding. They are **FREE** and run for 3 weeks. Email us now to see if you can book onto a taster.

Most people who went to school in Wales have done some Welsh before and the first level **ENTRY** is a great way to fill in the gaps by starting at the beginning. Our experienced tutors are trained to help people of various abilities to work together and learn as a team. We know some people remember basic phrases but cannot hold a conversation.

For those who did GCSE you can get in touch for a free level check. Many find joining part way through **ENTRY** works well as they can look over the early units and catch up easily. If you did the full course and your teachers got you speaking the next option would be **FOUNDATION**.

We enjoy supporting people who are returning to Welsh. We have helped many who spoke Welsh when younger and those who went to Welsh medium education. If that is you, you may understand a lot but need a class to help get you speaking with more confidence. If you want, try an **INTERMEDIATE** level you'll be very welcome. Sometimes after a few months people move up to the **HIGHER** level. For fluent speakers who want to gain confidence and maybe understand the grammar a little more give a Proficiency class a try.

Courses are flexible so learners can change classes including level. We have classes in buildings around the Vale and online using Zoom. We also offer different times from morning to evening. If you want to learn more quickly you can even attend a class more than once a week.

Interested? Email learnwelsh@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk for more info about learning and if your employer offers funding.

Did you know that Vale Council and all Vale schools' staff can apply for a funded place? They enrol, complete a short form and we do the rest. Look out for the free Tasters we offer in the spring on www.learnwelsh.cymru/thevale and give it a try. The team looks forward to meeting you.



Supporting the Period Dignity initiative!

We've been playing a key role delivering on the Welsh Government's Period Dignity initiative, ensuring all learners in the county have access to free period products.

At its core, the initiative seeks to challenge the stigmas and taboo around periods. By encouraging more conversations, pupils will better understand periods, what is normal and where to seek help. Pupils can request free period products, which are delivered to them in a practical and dignified way. Whilst the scheme is open to all, there has been particular focus on promoting it to lower income households and vulnerable students.

As well as providing the products, our officers have delivered ongoing support to schools to raise awareness and understand their role in supporting pupils. Officers also undertook an audit to gauge current access to products and where the service could be improved.

We have been working closely with Rethink Periods to offer training to teaching staff around reducing plastic in products and challenging period taboos.

The Welsh Government requires that a minimum of 50% of funding is spent on eco-friendly products, and as such, there has been an emphasis on promoting reusable products where possible.

Our officers are now developing partnerships across the authority to provide products to all service users, such as with the library service, youth service and housing - including hostels, refugees and supported housing. This has also been extended to third-sector organisations, including food banks and family centres.

Pupils can access free period products by visiting:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/Period-Dignity.aspx> or emailing perioddignity@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. They will need to provide their name, school, year group and address in order to ensure we can respond as quickly as possible.

For more information:

Mark Davies

Prevention and Partnership Manager MDDavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Lisa Lewis

OM Strategy and Resources LLewis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk