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Note from the Chair

We live in interesting times, with a shiny new Government in Cardiff Bay and a completely new set of politicians in charge.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of listening to two of the new Ministers outlining some of their vision for how they will make Wales a better place. Their passion and commitment is very evident and I am encouraged but am reserving judgement until I see things actually happening.

I am heartened by the appointment of Anna Brychan as Education Minister. Some of you may recall her work at Central South Consortium and the National Association of Head Teachers, before she moved to the Education Department at University of Wales Trinity St David's. The idea of choosing an educationalist as Minister for Education seems a very positive step.

There are moves afoot to change school governance in Wales, as those of you who joined the VSGA Education Update in June will be aware. This was started under the last government, but will no doubt be carried on by the new one. The session was an important part of Welsh Government officials gathering information about how the current system works and how it might be reformed, so they can advise Ministers, based on hard evidence. Vale Governors were very forthright and constructive in airing their views. We await firm proposals for consultation in due course.

The second presentation on Religion Values and Ethics in our schools was also illuminating. Schools obviously focus on Teaching and Learning and ensuring that learners in our schools are fitted with the right qualifications for their future careers, but we must not forget that schools have an important role in equipping learners with softer thinking skills, as they navigate a complex and worrying world. May I encourage you to find out how your school is implementing the concepts in the RVE requirements at Primary and Secondary level. We all want a Wales informed by strong informed ethical values.

May I wish you a good break over the school summer holidays. I am sure you will return revived to face the challenges of the new academic year.

Dr Martin Price

Chair VSGA and Vice Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry

New guidance on the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements (Wales) Regulations

The [Guidance on the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements \(Wales\) Regulations 2026](#) has launched. The consultation will run until **19 June 2026**.

This consultation is gathering views on the clarity and usefulness of 2 guidance documents in relation to the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements (Wales) Regulations 2026. These draft guidance documents are:

- guidance for local authorities on the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements (Wales) Regulations 2026
- statutory guidance on local authority schemes for financing schools

The aim of the guidance is to support implementation and consistency.

We look forward to hearing your feedback on the 2 draft guidance documents, which are included in the consultation.

Working Together to Make School Budgets Go Further

Over the past year, schools across the Vale have continued to benefit from dedicated procurement support, helping them get better value from everyday spending and free up funding for what matters most in the classroom.

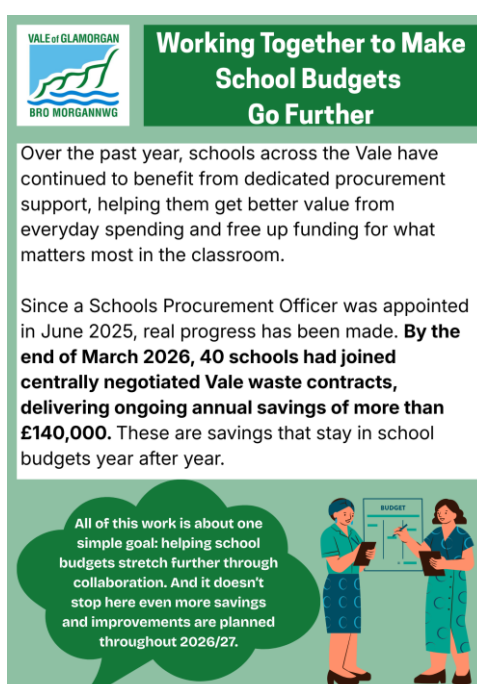
Since a Schools Procurement Officer was appointed in June 2025, real progress has been made. By the end of March 2026, **40 schools** had joined centrally negotiated Vale waste contracts, **delivering ongoing annual savings of more than £140,000**. These are savings that stay in school budgets year after year.

There's also lots of new work underway. A **grant-funded digital booking system** is being developed to help schools hire out their facilities more easily to local community groups. This should make bookings simpler to manage and help schools generate additional income from their buildings and spaces.

At the same time, a **single photocopier tender** is in progress for all 53 schools. Instead of each school negotiating separately, this shared approach will bring consistent pricing, less paperwork, and better value for money across the board.

Behind the scenes, work is also taking place with other Council teams to improve internal service contracts for schools, aiming for better service, competitive prices, and a stronger return for the Council overall. Options are also being explored to bring key suppliers of everyday school equipment into centrally managed arrangements, taking advantage of our collective buying power.

All of this work is about one simple goal: **helping school budgets stretch further through collaboration**. And it doesn't stop here even more savings and improvements are planned throughout 2026/27.



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Learning & Skills Update – Summer Term 2026

In 2022, Welsh Government announced funding of £70m for a Childcare & Early Years Capital Programme across Wales. The purpose of this capital funding is to support and improve the existing childcare and Flying Start infrastructure. The main objectives for the capital programme are to ensure that the childcare sector in Wales is strengthened and supports the programme for Welsh Government commitments.

We have recently completed a development on the Cadoxton School site which will provide further childcare provision.

Cadoxton School Refurbishment

Contractors commenced work on site on 27 June 2025 and successfully completed the project on 19 March 2026. The development was delivered to programme and has resulted in the creation of a high-quality, purpose-built childcare facility.

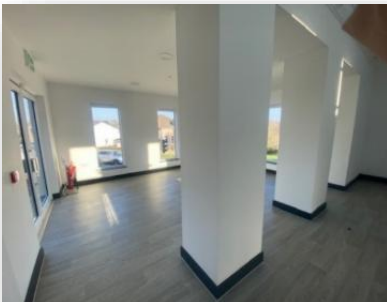
The commissioned childcare setting, Cadog's Corner-Little Inspirations, will operate Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., for 51 weeks of the year. The setting is designed to meet the needs of local families by offering flexible and accessible childcare provision.

Cadog's Corner -Little Inspirations is committed to delivering consistent, high-quality childcare within a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. The facility will support children's learning, development, and wellbeing, helping to give them the best possible start in life while strengthening early years provision within the local community.

Before Project Photos



Cadoxton School Refurbishment- Completed



Cadoxton School Refurbishment- Completed



EOTAS Provider Event – 30th January 2026

The inaugural EOTAS Provider Event brought together schools, partners, and specialist providers to strengthen the collaborative approach to supporting learners across the Vale of Glamorgan. Hosted by the Pupil Engagement Team, the event showcased the Local Authority's commitment to ensuring high-quality, accessible support for children and young people facing a range of barriers to accessing education.

Attendees were welcomed with breakfast before an opening address from Martin Dacey Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing, introducing a day focused on partnership, initiative, and learner-centred provision. The agenda featured a series of informative presentations, including Learning Links' insights into supporting care-experienced young people, overviews of Youth Service intervention pathways, and the journey to post-16 education presented by ALN officers. These sessions provided school attendees and partners with practical strategies and a deeper understanding of the graduated response framework, particularly for learners experiencing persistent absence, disengagement, SEMH needs, or risk of exclusion



With contributions from accredited and quality-assured providers, the event created a valuable space for professional dialogue and exploration of intervention pathways. The event highlighted the breadth of alternative and supplementary provision available to schools, with a wide range of providers in attendance, including:

CAVDAS	Cardiff City Football Foundation	Empire Fighting Chance
ACT Training	Prosperity Boxing	Academy21
Real Skillz	Grow @ Amelia Trust Farm	YMCA – SHOT
Aspire 2Be	No Isolation	



Overall, the EOTAS Provider Event proved to be both informative and refreshing, reinforcing the shared vision across services: to ensure every learner, regardless of their circumstances, has access to support that meets their needs and enables them to thrive. The engagement and collaboration demonstrated throughout the day reflect a strong foundation for continued partnerships and future developments across the Vale.

Should schools wish to connect and discuss learners and provision please reach out to PupilEngagement@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Introducing the new Communities Focused Schools Manager

The Learning & Skills Directorate are pleased to introduce **Nathan Cogbill** as the new Communities Focused Schools Manager. With a background working across education, community, and support settings, Nathan is looking forward to building on this experience within the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Nathan's role focuses on strengthening links between schools, families, and the wider community. Nathan will be working closely with Family Engagement Officers (FEOs) and staff leading community-focused approaches within schools. This will include providing support to improve engagement and reduce barriers, facilitating networking and sharing good practice opportunities, and arranging targeted training to enhance our collective impact.

Over the coming academic year, funding will be made available to provide enrichment opportunities within schools. This funding will particularly focus on activities that promote reading and literacy, aligning with the Council's priorities for improving outcomes for learners.

In addition, a networking event will be arranged in the Autumn term for professionals working with children and young people across the Vale, which Governors will be welcome to attend. This will provide an opportunity for schools to connect with a wide range of organisations working within this field.

Nathan is keen to work collaboratively with schools and Governors to further develop community-focused approaches that support pupils and families. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this work, please contact Nathan at: ncogbill@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

School Governing Bodies in Wales Reference Group

Provided by Welsh Government, the reference group provides input to inform potential options and actions for the review of school governing bodies in Wales.

School governing bodies in Wales have a wide and varied range of responsibilities set out in legislation and Welsh Government guidance. They play a pivotal role in the school system, supporting learners and school staff. The school system in Wales has seen vast reforms over the last decade, often with additional or amended duties imposed on governing bodies, but the role of school governing bodies has not altered in any fundamental way.

The reference group will be representative of the school sector in Wales and will not make policy decisions or recommendations, but will provide input to inform potential options and actions for the work.

[School governing bodies in Wales reference group | GOV.WALES](#)



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

In-service training (INSET)

Six INSET days will be provided each academic year from 2026 to 2027, building on the arrangements that have been in place temporarily since 2019.

Until 2025 to 2026, the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (Wales) Document (STPC(W)D) provided that there were 5 INSET days. The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2003 provided ad hoc additional INSET days. An additional day was provided in this way from 2019 to 2020 until 2025 to 2026.

The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 amend the 2003 Regulations. The amended 2003 Regulations now provide a total of 6 INSET days on an ongoing basis.

For more information and Guidance, it can be viewed [here](#)

Governor Training Survey

We are currently undertaking a review of our governor training programme to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our governors and supports them effectively in their role. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us shape future training opportunities and ensure they are relevant, accessible and of the highest quality.

We would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to complete the short survey below. Your views and suggestions will play an important part in informing the development of our training programme. Thank you in advance for your time and support.

[Vale of Glamorgan Governor Training Survey](#)

The Index Newsletter – Summer Edition

The latest edition of The Index Newsletter is now available to view. The newsletter contains information, services, activities and support available to families of children and young people with additional needs across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Find out about:

- The latest news from The Index
- Activities and support for local families
- Benefits, discounts, grants and schemes
- Family Toolkit resources
- 16+ pathways and opportunities for young people.

Click the link below to view The Index Newsletter – Summer 2026, Issue 50

[Index Newsletter Summer 2026](#)



About the Vale School Governors Association (VSGA)

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

VGSA Management Committee 2024-26

The Management Committee is comprised of elected Governors plus the two parent Governor Representative (one each from the Primary and Secondary Sectors)

No	Name	School
1	Mr Peter Cate (Vice-Chair)	Jenner Park Primary
2	Mr John Duxbury	St David's CiW Primary School
3	Ms Jodie Evans	Gladstone Primary and Ysgol Pen y Garth
4	Mr Gwynne Griffiths	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant & Ysgol Sant Curig
5	Mrs Jackie Griffiths	St Joseph's RC Primary
6	Cllr Andrew Hennessey	Rhws Primary and St Helen's RC Primary
7	Mrs Sarah Jenkins	St Cyres Comprehensive
8	Mr Gordon Kemp	St Nicholas CiW Primary and South Point Primary
9	Dr Chris Lee	St Cyres Comprehensive
10	Cllr Julie Lynch-Wilson	Llantwit Major Comprehensive and St Athan Primary School
11	Dr Martin Price (Chair)	St.Richard Gwyn RC High School
12	Mrs Ghislaine van der Burgt	FGB Pencoedtre and Whitmore High Schools
13	Mrs Terri Vaughan-Taylor	Cowbridge Comprehensive
14	Mr Owen Williams	Ysgol Sant Baruc
15	Cllr Mark Wilson	Fairfield Primary & Victoria Primary

Parent Governor Representatives (PGR's)

Parent Governor Representative Primary – L Barrowclough- Llandough Primary School

Parent Governor Representative Secondary – K Riddick – FGB Pencoedtre and Whitmore High Schools

Vale of Glamorgan Governor Support Unit

Email: governors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Contact Details:

John Sparks
Head of Governor Support and School Complaints
Tel; 01446 709106
Email: JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Francesca Maus
Senior Governor Support Officer
Tel; 01446 709125
Email: fmaus@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

VSGA has an email address that you may contact them on. It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at: VSGA Governor Support Unit, Learning & Skills Directorate, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

