



YSGOL ABERCONWY GOVERNING BODY

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS: JULY 2024

The Governing Body consisted of (as of 02.07.24):

LEA Representatives*:	Dr. B. Bignold (2017), Cllr S. Grady (2022), Mr M. Neale (2023),
Parent Governors:	Mr P. Hughes (2014), Mrs K. Bond (2015), Mr M. Teasdale (2022), Mrs R. Jones (2024), Dr R. Walker (2024) and Ms S. Baldwin (2024).
Teacher Governors:	Ms J. Hughes (2012) and Mr R. Burrows (2012).
Staff Representative:	Mrs J. Meredydd (2015).
Co-opted Members:	Mrs P. Hart (2015), Mrs H. Roberts (2016), Mr T. James (2012), Ms E. Leighton-Jones (2023), Mrs S. Lesiter-Burgess (2024).

All governors can be contacted by writing to the clerk to the governors, Miss Lynn Jones at the school.

The Governing Body met as a Full Governing Body on 4 occasions. Committees for Personnel & Finance met on 3 occasions.

The Governing Body determined the budget, the curriculum and the staffing establishment of the school in the light of the budget allocation made by Conwy LA. The budget statement is attached. **Appendix A.**

Individual members of the Governing Body have attended Governor Training sessions. These include: GDPR, Modern Slavery, Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk, Violence against Women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The Governing body has reviewed the following policies during the course of the 2023/24, and as such fully endorses the school's practice in the following areas: Strategic Equality, More Able and Talented, Malpractice, Subject Access Request, Information Security, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations, Data Protection Consent, Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation, Flexible Working, Exams Contingency, Exam and Non-Exam, Managing Staff Attendance, Initial Teacher Training, Language Communication and Literacy, Conflict of Interest, Special Consideration, Learning Walks, Charging, Pupil Behaviour and Discipline, Release for Moderating and Marking, induction of NQT's, Whistleblowing, Admissions, Pay, Gender Identity, Complaints, Child Protection, Uniform, Reimbursement of Expenses and Critical Incidents.

Exam Summary

A summary of the school examination results for 2023 is attached as **Appendix B.**

The School Curriculum

The School's Curriculum meets the requirements of the National Curriculum; Curriculum for Wales and incorporates policies of the Governing Body and the Conwy Education Authority. Copies of National Curriculum orders, school policies, and the curriculum statement of Conwy County Borough Education Authority are available for inspection at the school. There are 25 lessons in the week; 5 lessons per day, each of 60 minutes' duration

Year 7

The Curriculum for Wales is new to schools and has been implemented this year in Year 7. It is driven by the pursuit of 'Four Purposes' which are common to all schools in Wales. The Four Purposes are our vision for every child; that they become ambitious, healthy, creative and ethically informed citizens. The curriculum builds on learning undertaken in partner primary schools and develops further students' knowledge and skills.

INSPIRE | SUPPORT | SUCCEED

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BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Subjects are grouped into AOEs – *areas of learning and experience*. There are six AOEs – *Languages, Literacy and Communication; Maths and Numeracy; Humanities; Expressive Arts; Health and Wellbeing and Science and Technology*. In Year 7, pupils have weekly lessons in Languages, Literacy and Communication (*English, International Languages and Welsh*); Maths, PE and PSHE. The other AOEs deliver their curriculum through a project-based approach. Pupils will study two projects concurrently for 10 weeks before moving onto the next two projects. This means through Year 7 they will have completed eight projects across the areas of learning experience (AOE).

Year 8 and 9

In Years 8 and 9 the curriculum is built around the requirements of the National Curriculum. All pupils study: English, Maths, Science, Welsh, Design Technology, a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Music, Physical Education, History, Geography, Religious Education, ICT and Personal Social and Health Education.

Years 10 to 11

All pupils continue to follow the core National Curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Welsh, Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal Social and Health Education and the Welsh Baccalaureate. Pupils also have the opportunity to continue to choose courses to be followed in Years 10 and 11.

The Sixth Form Years 12 and 13

A large proportion of Year 11 pupils return to the Ysgol Aberconwy Sixth Form to undertake one- or two-year courses. The majority undertake courses which lead to three A level or Btec subjects plus the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. An extensive range of courses are offered including courses in collaboration with other providers. Conwy LINC provides an extensive range of vocational and non vocational courses in addition to this.

Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

The Learning Support policy aims to build upon an ‘Inclusive’ approach to meeting the needs of students. Current structures in place to do this include:

- Learning Support intervention programme.
- Catchup programme for development of literacy and Numeracy skills
- Social Inclusion – Student Support Centre (Hafan)
- Designated in-class support across the curriculum
- Aberconwy Centre for Dyslexia (ABCD)
- ASD Hub ‘Pontio’ offering tool box, registration and break/lunch clubs.
- 1:1 and small group support.
- County provision for pupils with ASD (Tegfan)
- Nurture registration group in year 7 – Morfa Bach.

The school is in the process of transferring to the new ALN system and are currently on track in transferring the mandated years to the new system where learners with additional learning needs that require additional provision to that which is available to all via universal provision will move to an IDP (Individual development plan). The remaining pupils will move on to the new system by the end of the summer term 2025.

The ALN register has totals as indicated in the table below for the year 2023-2024:

Year	Old SEN System				New ALN System		Totals
	A	P	Contract	St	C IDP	L IDP	
7	0	0	0	0	16	13	29
8	11	5	2	1	6	9	34
9	5	1	0	0	12	11	29
10	6	1	0	1	6	11	25
11	2	0	0	1	7	11	21
12	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
13	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	24	8	3	3	47	56	141

The school uses Eclipse which is the software designed to ensure accurate recording and evidencing of ALN documentation that feed into the new IDPs (Individual development plans) which will replace the old IEPs (individual education plans).

The new ALN system emphasises increased collaboration, and the importance of providing support and information to ensure that children, and their families participate as fully as possible in decisions that affect them.

The Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator is Mrs Medwen Brookes and the named Governor for Special Educational Needs is Ms E. Leighton-Jones.

Pupils with Disabilities

The needs of pupils with a particular learning need or disability are considered in organising and managing the environment for learning at Ysgol Aberconwy. Differentiation in the content and method of curriculum delivery for identified pupils is utilised as appropriate.

All areas of the school are accessible to disabled students with disabled access points in place. The building is fully DDA compatible. A full accessibility plan is available from the school.

Statement on Welsh Language Provision

Ysgol Aberconwy is an English medium secondary school, with Welsh taught as a second language across all ages and ability ranges. The school conforms with the requirements of the National Curriculum in Wales and delivers a programme to study Welsh as a Second Language (Full Course) up to the end of KS4.

Outside formal Welsh lessons, Ysgol Aberconwy aims to ensure an ethos which realises the communicative potential of both spoken and written Welsh and creates opportunities to emphasize Wales' heritage. As such, developing a bilingual school community is a priority.

Pupils have the opportunity to continue to study Welsh as a 1st language up to GCSE level. Lists of good/fluent learners identified are circulated to encourage all staff to communicate in Welsh in informal situations and staff are encouraged to greet pupils in Welsh. All assemblies contain some Welsh language content and the annual Christmas service and musical events are bilingual. The Welsh language and culture have a particular whole school focus during the annual St David's Celebration week with assemblies, activities and competitions.

The school website has a Welsh language option and all parental letters, newsletters and the school promotional material are bilingual.

Bilingual signs and posters are displayed prominently around the school, e.g. canteen, main entrance, hall, library etc. and the Welsh Phrase of the Week is promoted on the pupils' information screen. Visitors to the school are greeted in Welsh by office staff.

All pupils that have followed a Welsh medium education in the primary are placed in LLC form groups and are assigned a Welsh speaking form tutor giving them the opportunity to use the language on a daily basis. A 'Cic i'r bore' resource has been developed for year 7 and 8 registration periods raising awareness of important dates and events on the Welsh calendar and increasing the use of Welsh using a variety of engaging strategies. 'Clwb y Caban' takes place every lunchtime, with regular visits from the Urdd giving pupils the opportunity to socialise using the Welsh language.

The school continues to introduce Welsh names for key areas of the school ensuring that Welsh words become a normal part of the language used on a daily basis at the school. We have most recently introduced Welsh mountain names to the different classes in Tegfan including Aran, Arennig, Tryfan and Siabod, and have named the two main yards 'Y Sgwar' and 'Glanrafon'. We have commissioned the work of a local Welsh artist to design and paint murals for key areas of the school such as 'Y Porth'. Luned Davies Parry, one of the Welsh teachers, has written a poem that highlights the significance of each key area and these feature on the murals.

The school has been working on the 'Siarter Iaith' scheme and has become the first secondary school in the North Wales GwE region to achieve the silver award. This is designed to further develop the use of the Welsh language across the school by both pupils and staff as well as in the local community.

Details of arrangements for pupils to participate in sport and extra-curricular sports activities.

- Once again, in Ysgol Aberconwy there was a wide range of diverse activities available during the curriculum and extra curricular. We have expanded and reviewed our programme to offer a wide range of sports every term.
- During 2023/24 we have expanded the range of activities we have to offer for all, but especially girls. We have continued to develop successful links with Conwy Cricket and Golf clubs to provide opportunities for students to try their hand to these sports.
- Nationally recognised leadership qualifications and opportunities are offered during curriculum time (1st4Sport Level 2 in Activity Leadership) These are beginning to be delivered in conjunction with Achieve More Training. This provides students with the exceptional skills required to be successful in leading activities that support our PE department, such as sports day.
- As a part of our developments for our implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, our aim has been to provide a wide range of diverse opportunities, developing confidence & motivation to participate in lifelong sport. From this all Year 7 students have had sessions in Water safety and lifesaving at Llandudno Swimming Pool; Experienced use of the Olympic Trampolines we have to offer at school and tried new emerging sports such as KinBall.
- 2023/24 has continued to be an outstanding year for individual and team sporting success for students of Ysgol Aberconwy, owing to the outstanding excellent extra-curricular program. During the academic year, there has been 50+ fixtures for students across a variety of sports.
 - Team successes were seen in the Welsh Cup Football with all age groups progressing through rounds 1 & 2. Notably the Year 10 boys were eliminated in a close Eryri finals match before the national stage. Our Year 7 Boys side show incredible promise, as they bowed out in the last 16 of the Welsh Cup to Connah's Quay High School in a game that could have gone either way, with the storm conditions making the game a difficult challenge.
 - Our u13 & 15 girls Cricket sides enjoyed success, by reaching the final rounds of the indoor and outdoor North Wales Tournaments respectively.
 - U16 Boys Athletics team were crowned Conwy County Champions in June, just falling short of national qualification at the Eryri stage.
 - Netball Teams continued their dominance across the county with our U15 and U16 Conwy Champions. Our U16 qualified for the Eryri Ann Smart Championships, finishing 3rd.
 - Middle Boys Cross Country side were dominant and were the team champions in the competition with top 5 finishes for 3 students crowning them county champions.
 - In the Urdd 7s the U13 boys lost in the plate semi-final in their first tournament.
 - Our mixed Y9 rounders side finished 2nd in the Conwy Inter School Competition.

Individual Successes

- Jaxen Winmill - Wales Football - 2011 Age Group
- Zach Jones - Welsh Weightlifting Gold Medal x 3
- Shana Kelly continues to Represent Wales Cricket throughout the summer term and through the winter programme.
- Sam Stewart Ball - GB NSR Programme; Youth of Scotland Winner; 3 x Welsh Silver Track Medals
- Lacey Williams : Wales U15 Netball National Squad representing the country continuously throughout the year notably at the European Championships in Gibraltar against Scotland, England, UAE & Ireland. Also, North West Wales Regional Academy U17
- Lucas Thomas - Easter Nationals Swimming Qualifier, Bronze 200m Breaststroke in Summer National 2023
- Ewan Leonard - Easter Nationals Swimming: Gold Medal 200m Fly; Bronze 800M FC; Bronze 1500m FC; 100m Fly Medal. Welsh Triathlon Team
- Alfie Shiland - Eryri Schools U15 1500m & U17 3000m, Welsh Indoor Championship 2023 - Silver in 3000m U15, Welsh Indoor Championship 2024 - Bronze in 3000m U17"
- Lucian Barnett - Wales U18s Hockey International
- Martha Jones - North Wales Swimming Championship – Regionals; Easter Nationals Qualifier in: 100m Fly; 50m Fly; 100m Free; 200m IM & 50m Free
- Enzo Shiland Griffiths - North Wales Swimming Championship 2023 & 24 - Gold, Silver & Bronze Medalist; Qualified for Easter Nationals 2024 - 200m BS; 200m IM; 200m Free; 50m Free; 50m Back; 100m Free; 100m Back
- Amalie Jones - Wales U15 Netball National Squad; North West Wales Regional Academy U17 (netball)
- Keira Williams - Qualified for Summer Nationals 2023+24 U13 (swimming) - 200m BS; 100m BS; 50m BS

- Lyla Williams - Qualified for Summer Nationals 2024 U13 – (swimming) 200m IM; 200m BS; 100m BS; 50m BS; 50m Free.
- Nell Shannon - U16/U18 North Wales (v South England development and Cheshire), Club National Finals 3rd.
- Spencer Parry - Tri Nations Boxing for Wales, Welsh National Championships x2 (silver medal)
- Olivia Jones - North West Wales Regional Academy U15
- Macie Williams - Won the under-16s female Welsh Championship in Karate in Cardiff



Health and Well-being

Ysgol Aberconwy's iACH Health and Well-being provisions are widely regarded as a model of best practice. We were one of the very first schools to employ a health and well-being lead and since then we have responded to the health and well-being needs and behaviors of both our whole school student and staff body. We adopt a preventative approach to our work and the 5 ways to well-being is at the heart of everything that we do. Student groups such as the iACH group, school council and Tîm Chwaraeon Aberconwy inform and lead strategic health campaigns that address specific health needs of specific year or social groups.

The Youth Sport Trust 'Well School' award was achieved last year with Ysgol Aberconwy selected as one of only 9 schools across the whole of United Kingdom meeting the standard required to be a 'Well School'. We are extremely proud to be the only school (both primary and secondary) in Wales to be awarded this school status.

In the Welsh Government's 'Whole School Approach to Mental and Emotional Health' report Public Health Wales reported that "Ysgol Aberconwy is an exceptional school that is making a significant impact in the education sector. Their proactive approach to the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Well-being self-assessment and their work in the area of emotional and mental health and wellbeing is a model for other schools to follow."

Mr Rhydian Jones (Health and Well-being lead) is the first full-time teacher to be trained as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor. He has since trained and accredited 92 Conwy council and Ysgol Aberconwy teaching and non-teaching staff members as Mental Health First Aiders. All year 7 students have been trained as mini-mental health first aiders during their new curriculum iACH health project. GwE invited Ysgol Aberconwy to present our work on staff wellbeing across the entire region and were extremely complimentary of the work that led 'Corporate Health Standard' reaccreditation and how our iACH programme was focal to our school priorities and was apparent in the whole school ethos.

We have presented our iACH work at the Public Health Wales National Conference in Cardiff as well as to all of Conwy's secondary and primary schools' healthy schools' representatives. We share our health and well-being work with our primary feeder schools so that there are consistent messages about what a healthy and balanced lifestyle looks like. The year 7 new curriculum work focuses on the importance of a holistic approach to the equal importance of My Body (Physical Health), My Life (Social Health) and My Mind (Mental Health). Ysgol Aberconwy has also featured as an International School Health Research Network (SHRN) Case Study in how we incorporate food education and forest school into our iACH work. The new curriculum allows us the opportunity to further develop our iACH, PSHE and RSE provisions and we are very excited about the prospect of continuing to offer personal survival swimming, trampolining, indoor/outdoor cooking and Bod-silin cottage visits in our curriculum provision.

Community Fundraising

Ysgol Aberconwy's fundraising appeals continue to go from strength to strength. Last year we raised an incredible £3,257 towards Children in Need as part of our national charity appeal. We are now in our second year leading a year 7 Local Charity FirstGive appeal where every year 7 form class select their own local charity to support. St David's Hospice, Crest, DPJ agricultural mental health, Cancer Research, Blind Veterans and Conwy Foodbank were selected and invited to plan a social action and a range of awareness and fundraising activities. This year are looking to build on the incredible social actions, awareness raising and the £3000 raised in conjunction with our whole school sponsored walk on behalf of our local charities.

In addition to these appeals we have established a strong partnership with Conwy Foodbank with regular appeals and collections. We have also partnered with the Church in Conwy with over 50 of our most in need families benefitting from monthly 'Bags of

Love' food hampers being delivered to their door. We have student and staff volunteers that help with the food packing, distribution and who raise funds to ensure the continued success of this invaluable support.

Confucius Classroom

The school's programme funded by the Chinese Government allows pupils in the school to study Mandarin and Chinese culture. A teacher is provided by the Chinese Government. Local Primary Schools also benefit from the facility.

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

*Staff Training Days	*02/09/2024 *03/09/2024
Term Start	04/09/2024
Half Term Close	25/10/2024
Half Term Open	04/11/2024
End of Term	20/12/2024
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	

SPRING TERM 2025

*Staff Training Day	*28/03/2024
Term Start	06/01/2025
Half Term Close	21/02/2025
Half Term Open	03/03/2025
End of Term	11/04/2025
EASTER HOLIDAYS	

SUMMER TERM 2025

*Staff Training Days	*30/06/2025
Term Start	28/04/2025
May Day	05/05/2025
Half Term Close	23/05/2025
Half Term Open	02/06/2025
End of Term	18/07/2025
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	

Toilets

The school has extensive toilet facilities maintained to a very high standard by the PFI contractor. Its new block, designed in consultation with the school council, provides a high quality easily supervised, open access toilet facility that has proved very popular with pupils.

Budget Update

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Outturn

2022-23

2023-24

Staff Costs	5,724,834	6,338,564
Premises	774,884	793,151
Transport	10,267	14,079
Supplies & Services	632,127	663,651
Total Net Expenditure	7,142,112	7,809,445
Total Resources available	7,516,912	7,976,093
Reserves carried forward	374,800	166,648

Resources

2022-23

2023-24

Reserves brought forward	319,450	386,835
Pre 16 Allocation	5,960,183	6,199,346
Post 16 Allocation	667,019	695,612
EIG Allocation	68,616	63,075
Professional Learning Grant	27,511	27,854
Other Grants	474,133	603,371
Total Resources available	7,516,912	7,976,093
Total Net Expenditure	7,142,112	7,809,445
Reserves carried forward	374,800	166,648

Destinations Information

Destination of Year 11 (2022 – 23)

Category	Number	%
Continued in full time education, training or work based learning	128	87.7%
Went on to employment	10	6.8%
NEET	5	3.4%
Unknown	3	2.1%

Destination of Year 13 (2022 – 23)

Category	Number	%
Continued in full time education, training or work based learning	54	77%
Went on to employment	7	70%
NEET	2	2.9%
Unknown	7	10%