

# Ysgol Frongoch Denbigh



## Governor Report to Parents 2022- 2023

**DISTRIBUTION:**

It is appreciated that producing and distributing the full annual report to parents can prove costly for schools. The Regulations therefore allow for schools to make available the full report only to those parents who request it, and to issue a summary report for distribution to all parents.

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**A MESSAGE FROM Jon Bowcott – CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report to Parents which describes the work, activities and achievements of the school for the academic Year 2022 to 2023.

It has been good to see school life at Ysgol Frongoch returning to 'normal' after a global pandemic. The impact is still being felt and the school continues to adapt as necessary. The school has been very busy with all staff ensuring children experienced a wide range of events and activities over the academic year. It has been pleasing that governors have been able to spend money on replenishing outdoor resources for use at break and lunchtimes and by continuing to improve the outdoor learning environment. The school has also further developed IT provision over the last 12 months by using Grants and school funds. We continue to raise money to upgrade our adventure playground which has been the main focus of the School Council.

The governors are always most appreciative of the staff's willingness to partake in additional out of school activities and this complements school life and develops the child as a whole, and we know all children gain great experiences from such activities. We are extremely proud of the way our staff have continued to adapt to various challenges over the last academic year. This year we have returned to both year 5 and 6 children having residential and we thank the staff for giving their time.

We are always grateful to all those who help in school on a voluntary basis, especially in light of the Curriculum For Wales being implemented. Having members of the community coming into school will allow us to develop links further and also to give real life examples to our children of what they are able to achieve and further develop skills and knowledge across all year groups.

We continue to work closely with both Ysgol Y Parc and Denbigh High School, our feeder infant and secondary schools respectively, and also the whole Denbigh Cluster.

Yours sincerely

*Jon Bowcott* Chair of Governors

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*What is a Governor?*

The school is managed by the Headteacher and Senior Management Team. Our role is to act as representatives of the community. We are able to put the interests of the children ahead of all other potential considerations. We support the school out in the community, making the most of the successes and its good name, and keeping parents and others informed of developments. We do our best to broadcast any difficulties imposed on us from outside. We support the school by giving whatever help we can to promote and develop the children's school life. We have a wide range of legal responsibilities. We appoint staff, ensure the Curriculum is being delivered, and we are responsible for policy in areas which have some community sensitivity, such as discipline. Perhaps most of all, we make sure that the school makes the best possible use of resources. All this makes for a somewhat tricky job. It is impossible to please everyone all the time, and that means well-established relationships between Governors and the school community are very important.

**GOVERNING BODY**

Name and type of Governor

Mr Jon Bowcott (Chair)	- Parent Governor
Mrs Laura Martin (Vice Chair)	- Parent Governor
Mrs. June Hughes	- L.A. Governor
Ms Ffion Owens	- L.A. Governor
Mr Mark Jones	- L.A. Governor

Mr. Graham Davies	- Community Governor
Ms Kim Richards	- Parent Governor
Ms Zoe Clark	- Parent Governor
Mrs. Emma Jones	- Teacher Governor
Mrs. Wendy Cooke	- Staff Governor
Mr. Dylan Thomas	- Head Teacher
Mrs. Simone Delany	- Clerk

#### Meetings:

The full Governing Body meets at least once every half term. In addition there are several sub committees, again which usually meet each term.

The Full Governing Body met 6 times during the last Year.

#### **STAFFING CHANGES**

Miss Lucy Featherstone has been appointed as a permanent full time teacher and Miss Seren Williams has been appointed on a fixed term contract until Summer 2023.

#### **PREMISES AND CLASS ORGANISATION.**

The school is a predominately English medium Junior school only and Welsh is taught as a second language. Each class has at least one hour of Welsh a week and incidental Welsh is encouraged by all pupils, teachers and support staff. Incidental Welsh includes basic commands, instructions and general conversation by all pupils from Year 3 to Year 6. The school has achieved the Bronze award for Cymraeg Campus and is aiming to achieve Silver in the next academic year.

The school shares the site with 2 other schools, Ysgol Twm o'r Nant and Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. There is additional outside education space for Year three. There are eight full-time classes in the school.

All children are organised into mixed ability, flexible groups, changed to suit tasks or needs of the children. Classes work mainly with their own teacher but, on occasion, some collaboration/team teaching takes place. Teachers work closely together planning and discussing work to ensure continuity and progression for all children throughout the school.

The school has 2 separate sets of toilets for boys and girls within the school - one in the Lower Juniors for Year 3 and one for Upper Juniors for Years 4, 5 & 6. There are 2 disabled toilets for pupils with disabilities. All toilets are cleaned on a daily basis.

#### **SESSION TIMES**

Children should not be on the premises before 8.35 a.m. for safety reasons. (unless attending breakfast club)

8.45 a.m. Children enter school, registration.

Session 1.

10.30/10:45 a.m. Morning Break. Year 3 and 4

10.45/11:00 a.m. Morning Break. Year 5 and 6

Session 2

12.00 - 12.45 p.m. Lunch. Year 3 and 4

12.10 - 12.55 p.m. Lunch. Year 5 and 6

Session 3

1:45/2:00 p.m. Afternoon Break. Year 3 and 4

2:00/2:15 p.m. Afternoon Break. Year 5 and 6

Session 4

3.00 p.m. Home Time  
Collective Worship is held each day although time and format vary.

### *School Term Dates 2022-23*

#### **Autumn Term 2022**

*Staff training day - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September*  
*Staff training day - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September*  
School opens for pupils - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
School closes for half term - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
*Staff training day - Monday 07<sup>th</sup> November*  
School reopens - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
School closes for Christmas - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

#### **Spring Term 2023**

School opens for pupils - Monday 09<sup>th</sup> January  
School closes for half term - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
*Staff training day - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February*  
School reopens - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
School closes for Easter - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

#### **Summer Term 2023**

*Staff training day - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April*  
School opens for pupils - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
*May Bank Holiday - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May*  
School closes for half term - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
School reopens - Monday 05<sup>th</sup> June  
School closes for Summer - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Parents, Schools and LAs share legal responsibilities in respect of school attendance.

A child may be absent on any day:

1. When prevented from attending by sickness or any **unavoidable** cause.
2. Exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parents belong.
3. On the grounds that suitable transport has not been provided, and the school is not within walking distance.

By law we have to tell you about authorised and unauthorised absences.

Attendance at Ysgol Frongoch has been very good but we need the support of every parent if we are to maintain this. Punctuality is also very important.

We would urge parents to ensure non urgent medical appointments are taken after school and if possible that family holidays are not taken during term time. All unauthorised attendances are followed up closely by the Senior Management and the school works closely with the Educational Social Worker.

#### **TRANSFER TO HIGH SCHOOL**

We are a feeder primary school to Denbigh High School.

#### **CURRICULUM**

The school has worked hard to ensure that staff and learners are ready for the implementation of Curriculum For Wales in September 2022. Stand alone subjects have been replaced by 6 Areas of Learning Experiences [AOLE's] this year: Expressive Arts, Health and Well-being, Humanities, Languages, Literacy and Communication, Mathematics and Numeracy and Science and Technology. LNF and DCF have been embedded and the work the school has undertaken for the Curriculum For Wales has allowed us to tailor a specific Curriculum which meets the needs of our learners here in

Denbigh. Regular updates have been shared with parents/carers and all stakeholders views have been sought and acted upon when completing Ysgol Frongoch's Curriculum offer.

#### ENGLISH: LITERACY

The basic skills of writing are constantly taught and re-taught throughout the school. Vocabulary is continually extended with spelling fostered at an early age. Listening skills are especially important as it is essential to all language development. The art of communication is the chief means of expressing thoughts, feelings and experiences. We believe reading well is the key to success across the curriculum and consequently have invested greatly in new materials in recent Years.

#### MATHEMATICS: NUMERACY

School has invested in Investigational books to develop pupils using and applying of maths in areas other than maths lessons. Staff have been trained in how to use the resource and every class uses it weekly.

#### CURRICULUM REVIEW

The Governing Body reviews the school curriculum through both its full Governing Body. The Governing Body review both curriculum and management policies / procedures. School Improvement/Development plans are discussed as well as policy/scheme documentation.

#### SCIENCE:

Objectives are defined in terms of skills, concepts and attitudes to be developed. We aim to implement a scientific approach to learning, which develops the processes of observation, data collecting, classification, experimentation, interpretation and recording.

#### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Recognising its historic foundation, Frongoch will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales. Religious Education is taught following the Agreed Syllabus. It promotes spiritual development and contributes to moral and social development. We aim to help children attain spiritual awareness and to become familiar with the religious beliefs and practices of our society. Regular visitors include 'Open the Book' group who work with Years 3 to 6.

## **ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS**

We endeavour to provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum in our **SUPPORT TEACHING (A.L.N.)**. Deliberate efforts are made to ensure that curriculum development caters for children with ALN and that no pupil is excluded from any area of the Curriculum. Children receive support either within the mainstream class or by withdrawal. All pupils with ALN are fully integrated within the school as a whole. The ALN reform bill is being implemented and staff have been trained in the completion of IDP's.

The schools ALNCO is Ms Adele Gregory.

### **AIMS**

- a) to identify and respond to the additional educational needs of children.
- b) to monitor the children's progress so that adequate provision can be made for their needs.
- c) modify such programs as and when the need arises.
- d) endeavour to help such children employ strategies which can help them cope with their difficulties.
- e) endeavour to encourage the parents of such children to be involved in their education.

Regular review meetings are held, involving all parties concerned, to assess and monitor progress and establish new targets. Support or guidance may be sought from:

- School Nurse
- Educational Psychologist
- Speech Therapist
- Behaviour Support
- Teams around the School

### **Pupils with Disabilities**

The school will admit all pupils whose educational needs can be met from the resources provided to it and whose admission will not significantly detract from the needs of other pupils. Where children have a statement of ALN maintained on them, their admission must be negotiated via the LEA's Statementing Officer. Pupils with disabilities will not be treated less favourably than other pupils.

Guidelines are followed as laid down in The Disability Discrimination Act.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

This area is taken very seriously by the school. Staff attend regular updates on curriculum initiatives other courses according to the requirements of the school. They visit other schools to learn and share best practice. During the 2022-23 school year the following courses were attended: ELSA, Seasons for Growth, Kiva, Curriculum For Wales, Curriculum Design, Planning, ALN reform, RSE, RVE, IT, Shirley Clarke, Adobe, Safeguarding, EVOLVE, Reading for Pleasure, Phonics.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Many extra-curricular activities take place during the school day. Some take place before school starts and some take place after school finishes at 3pm. Some activities also take place during school time to ensure all learners are able to take part if they wish

### **MUSIC TUITION**

Denbigh Music Co-operative work closely with Ysgol Frongoch to provide music lessons for any child/ren who wish to take part. Please note: parents will need to contact Denbigh Music Co-operative direct to arrange these lessons.

## **SCHOOL VISITS**

This year has allowed the school to increase the number of visits and year 5 and 6 have been able to go on Residential. It is impossible to name all of the events and activities of the year but here is a selection:

- Several transition events at Ysgol Y Parc, Ysgol Frongoch and Denbigh High School
- Choir has attended several events/local community Nursing homes
- Gardening club and Nurture group has worked closely with Denbigh in Bloom and Dementia Friendly Denbigh
- Visits from PC Llinos, Viking longhouse company, Dino lab, Science Explore, URDD.
- Trips have included: local visits to Denbigh castle and the local area, Chester Zoo, Science explore in Wrexham, Flip out, Year 5+ 6 residential to Open Door adventure/Glanllyn.

## **FINANCE**

Each school receives its funding from the LA. The amount is based on pupil numbers and it pays for the general running costs of the school- payroll, books, equipment and maintenance works. The Headteacher meets and consults with the Governing body and the staff to prioritise specific requirements, especially those laid down in the School Development Plan. We also have a school fund, where donations and money from special fund-raising ventures are deposited. The money donated to school by the Friends of Frongoch makes a huge impact on our spending plans, enabling us to buy equipment and resources we would otherwise have been unable to have.

The school currently has the following 3 year forecast: 23/24 deficit of £58,000, 24/25 deficit of £167,000 and 25/26 deficit of £250,000, The Governing Body will work to address the projected deficits with DCC, as they are a result of matters out of our control.

## **COMMUNITY / LOCAL / NATIONAL ISSUES**

### **PARENTS**

Parents play an invaluable role in Ysgol Frongoch and help in many ways: sporting activities and educational visits. We are especially grateful to the Friends of Frongoch for the social events that they organise as well as the fundraising, without which our pupils wouldn't benefit greatly.

### **STUDENTS**

Ysgol Frongoch welcomes students and works in partnership with: University of Wales [Bangor], Llandrillo College, University of Chester and Denbigh High school.

### **VISITORS TO SCHOOL**

Local Clergy, GWE, Secondary Teachers, Groundwork, Students from Higher Education, LA Advisors, Educational Psychologist, Health Service, School Nurse, Governor, EAL service.

Fire Service, Police Liaison, Football coaches, Pandemonium Theatre and many more.

## **THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

The school incorporates local studies in the planned curriculum. Local visits take place, and the Curriculum for Wales work has allowed us to review and improve the work we do in the locality. Community work has included the school working with Dementia Friendly Denbigh, local artists, Denbigh in Bloom, local infirmary, local nursing and care homes and several transition events at Ysgol Y Parc, Frongoch and Denbigh High School. PC Llinos is the school's community PC officer and the school nurse is Kim Graham. Both visit regularly to provide sessions and advice to children, staff and parents/carers. Open the Book have worked closely with the school by providing videos of many biblical stories across the year.

## **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

Royal British Legion Poppy appeal and Red Nose day were among national charities supported. The school has raised money through a Summer Fayre and several cake sales. We are proud to continue to support local charities and this year we again took part in Move a Marathon for Ethan.

### **PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

The school retained its ECO platinum award this year, recognising the work we have done to improve our immediate and wider environment as part of the Eco Schools Award Scheme.

The school continues to enter the School Gardening competition and retained the trophy again this year. The school is committed to working within the locality to support Denbigh in Bloom. Frongoch is committed to Cymraeg Campus and is now aiming to achieve the Silver award.

The school has policies and procedures for all aspects of school management and the Governing body reviews and adopts Denbighshire County Councils' policies as they become available. Policies, including disability equality and accessibility are all on the school's website and can also be made available upon request.

### **CHANGES TO THE PROSPECTUS**

The school continues to adapt the Prospectus as necessary and in light of all Welsh Government Guidance.

### **POLICIES REVIEWED DURING 2022/23**

Safeguarding, Fire safety, Emergency plan [including Lockdown], Health and Safety, Learning environment, Complaints policy, Engagement and behaviour, Managing Medicines, Data protection policy, Use of reasonable force, Assessment.

Please note: ALN and SRE policies are under review and school will adopt once they have been received from DCC.