

Ysgol Gymraeg Penygroes

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents



"Tyfu drwy'r iaith,
dysgwn ar y daith"



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Designated Welsh medium primary school for pupils aged between 4 and 11 years

Number of pupils on roll at the end of the 2024/2025 academic year: 182



YSGOL GYMRAEG PENYGROES



Foreword from the Chair of Governors

Mrs Emma Parfitt

On behalf of the Governing Body, I am delighted to share our Annual Report, thoughtfully prepared in collaboration with governors and staff. This report provides a meaningful overview of life at Ysgol Penygroes, highlighting our achievements, challenges, and the progress we have made together as a school community.

At Ysgol Penygroes, we place pupil wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is to create an environment where every child feels safe, supported, and valued. Through a nurturing approach and a curriculum designed to inspire curiosity, we are helping our learners grow into confident, independent individuals who are ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities. The 2024–2025 academic year has brought continued—and increasing—financial pressures. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to making the very best use of the resources available to us. Through careful planning, creativity, and collaboration, we have ensured that our pupils continue to receive high-quality learning experiences and opportunities to thrive. Education at Ysgol Penygroes extends far beyond the classroom. We are proud to provide a rich and varied programme of extracurricular opportunities that inspire creativity, teamwork, and curiosity. Whether pupils are developing new skills in cooking, exploring scientific wonders in Mad Science, enjoying the challenge of board games, or taking part in sporting events and Urdd competitions, these activities help nurture confidence and a love of learning. Residential visits allowed pupils to discover new talents, build confidence, and form lasting friendships.

Our school community has shown tremendous generosity and teamwork in supporting charitable causes throughout the year. The Parent Teacher Association has been instrumental in organising a variety of events, including the Summer and Christmas Fayres, discos, and other special activities. The funds raised have not only provided valuable resources for the school but have also helped create memorable experiences for pupils and their families. The Governing Body deeply appreciates the dedication and hard work of the PTA in strengthening our school community.

This summer, we bid a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils in Dosbarth Derwen as they began the next stage of their education in local secondary schools. We wish them every success and extend a warm Croeso! to the new learners and families joining us at the school in Dosbarth Collen.

Reflecting on the past year, we can all celebrate what we have achieved together. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Lemon for his outstanding leadership, to the staff for their dedication, and to our pupils, families, and the wider community for their continued support. Your commitment and collaboration make Ysgol Penygroes an inspiring community to be proud of.

Mrs E Parfitt



MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Name	Status	End Date
Mr Mathew Lemon	Headteacher	
Mrs Emma Parfitt	Community	25-05-27
Vacant	Parent	---
Mrs Rhian Ceris Mann	Community	12-06-26
Miss Sian James	Local Authority	18-07-29
Cyng. David Thomas	Local Authority	03-09-29
Mrs Delyth Mainwaring	Local Authority	01-12-26
Cllr Julian Tandy	Additional Community	22-10-28
Mr Steven Kirkbride	Community	31-03-29
Mrs Kaitlyn Armstrong	Parent	23-10-27
Mrs Frances Flear	Parent	03-07-29
Mr Sion Williams	Teacher	06-11-26
Mrs Nicola Griffiths	Staff	31-10-25
Mrs Sioned Rees	Community	06-07-29

Chair

Mrs E Parfitt
Ysgol Pengroes
Heol Waterloo
Penygroes

Clerk

Mrs G Jones
Ysgol Penygroes
Heol Waterloo
Penygroes

The school's governing body includes a cross section of the local community, and the Chair is elected at the beginning of the new academic year. The full governing body meets once a term and the Headteacher prepares a detailed report for them.

Parent Governors

When parent governors need to be elected, election forms are distributed to all parents at the school. When there is more than one nomination, an election is held. Parents nominate and elect parent governors who represent parents' views on the body.

Contact

If you have any queries or comments that you would like to share with the governing body, please feel free to write to the Chair by letter or email through the school office. We always welcome your contribution.

An annual parents' meeting is no longer held, unless parents wish to hold a meeting. Three meetings can be held each year by submitting a petition with 10% of the school's parents' signatures and an explanation as to why they want to hold a meeting.

School Staff

Headteacher: Mr Mathew Lemon
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Sion Williams

<u>Classes</u>	<u>Class Name</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
Derbyn	Collen	Mrs Elin Rees	Mrs Suzy Davies + Mrs Lowri James
Blwyddyn 1	Celynnen	Mrs Amber Williams	Mrs Jayne Lewis + Mrs Julie Davies
Blwyddyn 2	Helygen	Mrs Lurna Lewis-Davies	Mrs Irene Evans
Blwyddyn 3	Bedwen	Mrs Catrin James	Mrs Vanessa Bennett
Blwyddyn 4	Onnen	Mrs Catrin Llywelyn	Mrs Angharad Jones (Returned Feb 25)
Blwyddyn 5	Ffawyddden	Mrs Ffion Lewis	
Blwyddyn 6	Derwen	Mr Sion Williams	

Mrs Nicola Griffiths – PPA Cover + ELSA Support

Peripatetic Music teachers

Mr Thomas – Brass

Mr Jackson - Woodwind

Lunchtime Supervisors

Mrs T Taunton

Mrs I Evans

Miss A Jones

Mrs L James

Mrs B Jones

Mrs S Davies

Language Policy

Category 3 - Welsh Medium School

Welsh is the main language for internal communication in the school. It communicates with parents and carers in either Welsh, English or bilingually as required. This is a school with a strong Welsh ethos, supporting and enabling learners to use Welsh in all social contexts within and outside the school. In an immersion setting all learners are fully taught in Welsh, with English used at times to ensure understanding during the early immersion period. From the age of 7 onwards at least 80% of the learner's school activities (curricular and extra-curricular) will be in Welsh.

Additional Learning Needs

In line with school policy, the principles of the Curriculum for Wales and the new ALN Code, support for pupils with additional learning needs is provided through additional support within the classroom. In order to meet the individual and specialist needs of our pupils, additional out-of-class support is provided by our teaching assistants as required. We also work with various external agencies to identify needs, agree on teaching and learning strategies and receive advice to cater for the needs of each individual.

Mr Sion Williams is the school's additional learning needs co-ordinator.

Health and Safety

We follow tight safety regulations daily. The Local Authority's risk assessments have been adopted and implemented by the school. Safety inspections of the site and its equipment are carried out annually.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school promotes the importance of a healthy lifestyle which is reflected in the educational provision within our classes. We have a Healthy Living council that includes elected pupils, and we have a Healthy Eating, Drinking and Fitness policy. We encourage the children to bring a healthy packed lunch and fruit as a snack, and the school lunch menu is in accordance with the Local Authority's healthy eating provision.

School Prospectus and Policies

You can contact the school for a copy of our prospectus. School policies and strategies have been reviewed in response to changes in the curriculum. The prospectus and some policies can also be viewed on our school website.

Toilets

The school has three toilet blocks for pupils and three toilets for staff which include one disabled toilet. We also have a new disabled toilet, shower and changing facility (Fitted Summer 2025), following a successful application through the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) for funding to support our pupils. The facilities are cleaned daily by the Education Authority's cleaning service.

Our Vision

ARWYDDAIR yr ysgol yw "Tyfu drwy'r iaith, dysgwn ar y daith"

Cyrraedd yr ysgol yn hadau pryderus
magwn ni wreiddiau i dyfu'n hyderus
anelwn i fyny, pob un brigyn bychan,
a'n boncyff yn gryf yn wyneb y daran.

Mae dail yn egino a dail yn syrthio
ond o dymor i dymor cawn ymfalchïo
fod gennym iaith sy'n bythol flodeuo
a'n hysgol yn gosod y sylfaen i lwyddo.

The history of Penygroes began from the ground at the Emlyn Colliery works. Following this important history, the Welsh Crew have decided to create names for every class across the school. The names have been created following a child's journey through the school which starts at the roots (roots to grow each tree) and then as they move through the school, the pupils grow while learning until they arrive at Derwen class – (The school's biggest tree). Please find below the new names for each class. It is also important for us to learn about the purpose of these new names while remembering our surroundings / History and Identity at Ysgol Penygroes.

<u>Dosbarth / Class</u>	<u>Enw / Name</u>	<u>Uchder / Height</u>
Derbyn / Reception	Collen / Hazel	10M
Blwyddyn / Year 1	Celynnen / Holly	15M
Blwyddyn / Year 2	Helygen / Willow	25M
Blwyddyn / Year 3	Bedwen / Birch	30M
Blwyddyn / Year 5	Ffawyddden / Beech	38M
Blwyddyn / Year 6	Derwen / Oak	40M



Curriculum

There are four purposes at the heart of all our school activity, to give every child the opportunity to develop into:

- ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world;
- healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Pupils are taught through themes mainly, where pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills, together with their understanding and knowledge, are developed across the curriculum. Pupils' voice is included in the planning, which encompasses the six areas of learning and experience, which are :

- Languages, Literacy and Communication;
- Mathematics and Numeracy;
- Science and Technology;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Humanities;
- Expressive Arts;



We assess pupils' progress in all aspects of their work and provide pupils with constructive feedback on their attainment, as well as purposeful opportunities for them to respond to teachers' feedback, in order for them to improve their work and attainment.

Pupils are taught within their year groups where possible. When there is a high number of pupils within a year, it is possible for pupils of different years to be taught together. This can sometimes be the case in the lower year groups as we have three intakes a year at the reception class, which means our numbers increase throughout the academic year.



School Development Plan

The development plan addresses the priorities that have arisen from the school's self-evaluation procedures and national and local priorities, together with an analysis of pupil progress and standards. The school follows a robust system of self-evaluation to identify strengths, areas for improvement and the way forward, and the Governing Body is also involved in monitoring the school's progress.

Main Priorities 2024-25

- **Teaching and Learning** – To build on skillful teaching and learning to ensure complete provision for all pupils.
- **Assessment** – Further develop our formative assessment and purposeful feedback processes that guide teachers planning and support pupils progress.
- **Language and Communication** – Ensure that pupils speak Welsh regularly in class and at other times, considering their age and ability. Supporting pupils to improve their Welshness in informal situations.
- **Mathematical and Numeracy Skills** – To develop a CPA (Concrete Pictorial Abstract) approach to deepen and sustain pupils understanding of number, and as a result, raise standards of Mathematics across the school.

Main Priorities 2025-26

- **Mathematics and Numeracy - Strategic competence** - Developing pupils' ability to be increasingly independent in recognizing and applying the mathematical structures and ideas that are at the heart of a problem, to be able to solve it.
- **Independence** - Developing the ability of older pupils to choose independently the way of presenting their work. (Focus in year 5 and 6)
- **Schools as Learning Organisations** - Promote meaningful school-to-school collaboration by identifying areas of focus and joint development.
- **Welsh Oracy** - To ensure the progress, richness and accuracy of our pupils' Welsh Oracy skills.

Safeguarding Policy

The school has a safeguarding policy which is based on national guidelines. The designated safeguarding staff members are Mr Mathew Lemon and Mr Sion Williams.

There is also a designated member of the governing body with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection – Mrs Emma Parfitt (Chairperson).

Destination of Leavers

There are two secondary schools within our catchment area where our pupils continue their education at the end of Year 6, namely Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth and Ysgol Bro Dinefwr. Some pupils also go to Ysgol Dyffryn Amman. Pupils have transition sessions during Year 6 in order to familiarise themselves with their new schools. Parents are required to apply online for a secondary school place for their child. Full details can be found on the Carmarthenshire County Council website.

Pupils Experiences

The following experiences, among many more, were provided for our pupils during this academic year:

- Christmas Carol Service at Capel Calfaria.
- Year 4 trip to the Urdd Campus Cardiff Bay.
- Year 5 and 6 trip to Urdd Campus Llangrannog.
- Numerous assemblies by Impact 242.
- Competed at Local and National Urdd Eisteddfod
- School Eisteddfod;
- Playground games, language awareness and street dance sessions held by Menter Dinefwr;
- Fundraising for Children in Need, Poppy Appeal, Red Nose Day, Save the Children and World Mental Health Day.
- Welsh Language, Sports, Eco, Choir, games and cookery After school clubs throughout the year.
- Breakfast Club in conjunction with Carmarthenshire Catering Service;
- Elections for the School Council, Healthy Living Council, Eco Council, Language Charter Council and Digital Council;
- Competing in the Urdd Eisteddfod- performing, literature and poetry, arts and crafts, and ICT;
- Breaking the Rules Day;
- Welsh Music Day celebrations;
- Arad Goch Theatre Company's 'Tu Fewn – Tu Fas' performance and workshops for year 5 and 6;
- Sports Day;
- Visits by Police, school nurse and the fire brigade;
- Part of the Urdd's successful venture to break a world record;
- Taking part in the Urdd's 100th birthday celebrations;
- Derbyn classes' Teddy Bears Picnic;
- Attended several sports events and competitions throughout the academic year.
- Cross Hands Cinema – Christmas Film (Whole School)
- Years 3 and 4 – Attended Pendine Outdoor Centre and took part in climbing, abseiling, zip lining and other outdoor activities.

The School and the Community

The school has close links with the community which have been further developed this year. We continued to maximise the use of facilities, buildings and expertise within our community to enhance the learning experiences of our pupils.

Termly Governing Body meetings.
Governing Body sub-committee meetings.
Visits to the school by members of the Governing Body.
Governors' attendance at school activities.
Governors' reports.



Seasonal parents' evenings are held in order to:

- set individual targets for pupils ; (Person Centred Plan approach – One Page Profiles)
- provide an opportunity for parents to see their child's school work.
- discuss progress and end of year progress reports.

Please remember to contact the school immediately if you have any concerns about your child's education.



Sporting Experiences

We endeavour to ensure that all pupils have a positive experience and enjoyment when participating in sporting activities. We provide a combination of fun and competitive activities throughout the school provision, and emphasis is placed on encouraging healthy and active living as well as promoting effort, co-operation, fair play, perseverance and personal development. External sporting provisions are planned to support lessons, engagement and to encourage participation in external sports clubs.

- Meetings, training and activities with our Sports Ambassadors;
- Playground games sessions with Menter Dinefwr;
- School Sports Day;
- Rugby sessions by Rhys Davies, WRU (Scarlets);
- Urdd sporting competitions – rugby, girls' TAG rugby, football for boys and girls, netball, cricket;
- Year 5 + 6 outdoor activities at Llangrannog;
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 taking part in Ammanford's cross country challenge;
- Swimming lessons for all pupils in year 3 and 4;
- Cricket session for KS2 pupils with Cricket Wales;
- EFL's cricket competition at Ammanford;
- Year 3 taking part in outdoor activities at Pendine Outdoor Activity Centre;
- Girls Football competition at Ysgol Pontyberem.
- Lyn Broderick – Supporting our Young Sports Ambassadors to deliver daily sports lessons.



Financial Statement 2024/2025

Net expenditure 2024/25: £777,971
Formula funding allocation 2024/25: £753,094
Deficit carried forward to 2024/25: £39,007

Dates for Academic Year 25/27

Term	Term begins	Half Term	Term Ends
Summer 2025	Monday 28 April	Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May	Monday 21 July
Autumn 2025	Tuesday 2 September	Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October	Friday 19 December
Spring 2026	Monday 5 January	Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February	Friday 27 March
Summer 2026	Monday 13 April	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May	Monday 20 July
Autumn 2026	Wednesday 2 September	Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October	Friday 18 December
Spring 2027	Monday 4 January	Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February	Friday 19 March
Summer 2027	Monday 5 April	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Tuesday 20 July

Designated INSET Days

- ✓ Monday 1 September 2025
- ✓ Tuesday 1 September 2026

Note also that additional INSET days are arranged by the school. You will be notified of these dates by the school.

School planned INSET Days so far -

01.09.25 – Designated Day

02.09.25

05.01.26

13.04.26

01.06.26

20.07.26

A Word to finish

It is a pleasure to contribute to this report, which is a summary of the wide variety of experiences and activities held at the school over the past year. Our aim is always to provide a range of rich experiences for our pupils, and we pride ourselves as a school in what we provide.

I would like to sincerely thank all our enthusiastic staff who ensure that our pupils can enjoy these experiences. Thank you as parents too for your continued support. The close collaboration between us all is key to ensure success and happiness for our children.

Many thanks to our Governors and PTA for their tireless support and commitment over the past year again. A very heartfelt thank you to you as parents for your cooperation and support as always, and to our fantastic team of staff for their endless energy and dedication. And most importantly, thank you to all our pupils for their wonderful enthusiasm. We look forward to another year of working together for the benefit of all our pupils.

Kind Regards,
Mr Mathew Lemon
Headteacher



YSGOL GYMRAEG PENYGROES

