

Annual Report 2024-2025 YSGOL GYMRAEG DEWI SANT



Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant

Rhodfa Bryndulais,

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A dedicated Welsh primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years.

Number of pupils at end of 2024-2025 academic year: 454

As we embark on a new year here at Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, it's great to have the opportunity to look back on last year's successes and celebrate our development and progress to date.



A word from the Senior Leadership Team and the Chair of the body

The year has been a busy one and full of successes. Pupils' standards in literacy, numeracy and language have continued to rise, and we as an Organisation are very proud of the progress. This is all a result of the hard work of the teaching staff and assistants, who give their best every day so that every child reaches their full potential.

During the ESTYN inspection in November, the school received high praise on all aspects of its work. It was a matter of great pride for us to receive a very positive report in January.

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the new sensory garden, which will greatly benefit the wellbeing and mental health of our pupils, especially those with additional learning needs. Our next goal is to create a sensory room in the school to offer more opportunities for the children.

I would like to thank the acting Headteacher, Mrs Helen Garland, for her excellent leadership, and all staff and parents for your continued support. We hope you will take the time to read the full report and to be proud of our school's vision and achievements.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Bassett

Chair of the Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant



School Language Policy

Welsh is the official language of Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant. Teaching is taught entirely through the medium of Welsh until the children start in year 3 and English is introduced as part of the Languages, Literacy and Communication learning and experience area at that time. Welsh is the medium of the school's language and all services, meetings or activities are held before, during and after school hours through the medium of Welsh for all pupils and members of staff. Our aim is to ensure that all children are fluent bilingual by the time they leave school and our pupils are expected to continue education through the medium of Welsh after transferring to their secondary schools as well.



Members of the Governing Body

Chair: Mr. M Bassett

Vice Chair: Mr. Kevin Roberts

Clerk: Mrs. L Davies

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

Name	Category
Mrs Helen Garland	Acting Headteacher
Mr. Michael Bassett	Chair
Mr. Kevin Roberts	Vice Chair – Parent
Mr. Steven Davies	Staff – Teaching staff
Mrs Rhian Evans	Staff - Teaching staff
Miss Michelle Fisher	Staff – Teaching Assistant
Mrs. Heulwen Jones	Local Education Authority
Mrs. Sara Elizabeth Jenkins	Parent
Mrs. Rhian Rees-Thorne	Parent
Mr. Geraint Kemp	Parent
Mr. Lee Davies	Parent
Miss Claire Mackerras	Parent
Dr. Lauren Blake	Parent
Mrs. Sara Jermin	Local Authority
Parchedig John Treharne	Community
Mr. Euros Jones	Community



Parent Governors

When it is necessary to elect a parent governor, digital election forms are distributed to all parents in the school and when there is more than one nomination an election is held. Parents nominate and elect parent governors and represent the views of parents 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 board. admin@dewisant.schoolccc.wales We always welcome your contribution.

An annual meeting for parents is no longer held, unless parents want to hold a meeting. The right to hold three meetings each year by submitting a petition with 10% of the school's parents signing the petition and stating why they want to hold a meeting.



School Staff

September 24 - July 25

Acting Headteacher: Mrs H Garland

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs S Davies a Miss R Evans

Senior Leadership Team: Mr S Owen, Mrs R Rees, Miss E Roberts a Miss H Land

Teachers

Miss E Phelps
Miss R Evans
Miss S Johnson
Miss F Anderson
Miss K Necke
Miss K Evans
Miss E Roberts
Mr R Llewelyn
Mrs E Owen
Miss C Thomas
Mrs S McCue
Miss K Thompson

HLTA

Mrs C Montinaro
Mrs L Ashford
Mrs G Rees
Miss M Fisher

Teaching Assistants

Mrs S Hanbury
Miss M Davies (A)
Mrs A Osbourne-Yip
Miss J Hopkins (A)
Miss A Morgan
Mrs R Peregrine
Mrs E Griffiths
Mrs K Hillier
Mrs B Pound
Mrs D Phillips
Mrs R Purdue
Miss A James
Miss E Latham
Mrs G Bowen



Peripatetic Teachers

Mr J Morgan

Miss S Rees

Mr P Shingler

Mr R Walters

Mrs G Conock-Evans

Mrs H Evans

**Administrative
Officers**

Mrs S Arthur

Miss A Rees

Caretaker

Mrs A James

Lunchtime Supervisors

Mrs S Hanbury

Mrs J Hopkins (A)

Mrs A Osbourne-Yip

Miss M Davies(A)

Miss A Morgan

Mrs R Peregrine

Mrs K Hillier

Mrs B Pound

Mrs D Phillips

Mrs R Purdue

Miss A James

Miss E Latham

Miss M Fisher



Estyn

Estyn carried out a full inspection during the Autumn 2024 term. We were as a school very proud from the report. As a result, we have been sharing our successful practices with other schools across the education authorities in Wales.

<https://www.estyn.llyw.cymru/app/uploads/2025/01/Adroddiad-arolygiad-Ysgol-Gymraeg-Dewi-Sant-2025.pdf>



Additional Learning Needs

We are here to support children and young people with additional learning needs by promoting achievement and well-being for all. The system for supporting children and young people with additional educational needs and disability in Wales has changed. The Welsh Government has introduced a more flexible and responsive system of meeting the needs of children and young people with additional educational needs or disabilities and is striving to provide a fully inclusive education system for Welsh learners. The new Additional Learning Needs system has been phased in from September 2021.

Our aim is to give each child the opportunity to develop to their full potential, keeping in mind the needs and abilities of the individual. For most pupils, those needs are met in the classroom. However, we recognise that a small number of children need additional support. We believe that early recognition and appropriate intervention improve the expectations of children with Additional Learning Needs. Our aim is to create a school environment that fosters encouragement, acceptance, respect and sensitivity so that all children with Additional Learning Needs can experience success within their own individual limitations. We have a number of support strategies that can be designed to meet the needs of an individual child, including the needs of Looked After Children. If necessary, we will seek professional support from external agencies to fully meet the child's needs. Miss Elliw Roberts is the school's additional learning needs co-ordinator.



Health and Safety

We follow tight security arrangements on a daily basis. The Local Authority's risk assessments have been adopted and implemented in order to comply with their guidance. Health and safety meetings are attended occasionally. Annual surveys are carried out from equipment and from the site.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

The school promotes the importance of a healthy lifestyle and is included in the educational offer within the classes. We have a Healthy School Council made up of elected pupils who meet regularly to discuss issues on the importance of a healthy lifestyle. We encourage children to bring a healthy packed lunch to school and fruit as a snack, and the school lunch menu is in line with the Local Authority's healthy eating provision.

Prosbectws a Pholisiau'r Ysgol

Our prospectus can be read on the school's website. The school's policies and strategies were reviewed as necessary in response to national changes.

Toilet Facilities

The school has six blocks of toilets for the pupils and five toilets for staff which includes one disabled toilet. The facilities are cleaned daily by the Education Authority's cleaning service.

Our Vision

Ymdrech a lwyddda

Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant is a happy, vibrant and welcoming school where everyone works together to provide a range of experiences and a range of opportunities with the aim of laying a solid foundation for each child's future.

We inspire our pupils by delivering a broad and exciting curriculum. Our aim is to encourage all pupils to build self-confidence in their personal ability: we have high expectations that put an emphasis on everyone to try their best.

Children learn best when they feel happy and safe so all school staff are committed to supporting our pupils and their families to ensure they are ready and able to learn. We aim to ensure that pupils' learning experiences are relevant, exciting and purposeful and based on the development of basic skills.

Our Vision

We foster a positive ethos and a warm, welcoming environment that supports confident, healthy pupils. Our aim is to nurture lifelong learners who are curious, resourceful, and respectful of the moral values of both our nation and the wider world. Guided by the School's core values—taking pride in their Welsh identity, showing respect, and striving for ambition—our pupils grow into principled, informed citizens prepared for the future.

Our Values

Respect and Trust

Wellbeing and Care

Happiness and Enjoyment

Resilience and Confidence

Wales and Welshness

Community and Habitat

Risk Taking and Innovation

Support and Collaboration

Curriculum

The four purposes are at the heart of all school activity in order to give every child the opportunity to develop into being:

Ambitious, capable learners: Learners are supported to be ready to learn throughout their lives, embracing challenges and striving for success.

Enterprising, creative contributors: Learners are encouraged to be creative and to contribute to society, ready to play a full part in life and work.

Ethical, informed citizens: Learners are guided to be informed citizens of Wales and the world, ready to engage with contemporary issues and values.

Healthy, confident individuals: Learners are supported to be healthy and confident, ready to lead fulfilling lives and to be valued members of society.

Pupils are taught primarily through enquiry-based learning and questions, where pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills, as well as their understanding and knowledge, are developed cross-curricularly. Pupils' well-being is included in planning and the activity is based on the statements within the six areas of learning and experience, namely:

- Expressive arts
- Health and wellbeing
- Humanities (including Religious Education should remain compulsory to age 16)
- Languages, literacy and communication (including modern foreign languages in Wales, which should remain compulsory until the age of 16)
- Maths and numeracy
- Science and technology (including computer science).

We assess and track pupils' progress in all aspects of their work and provide constructive feedback to pupils on their achievement regarding bespoke opportunities for them to respond to teacher feedback in order to improve their work and attainment.

Pupils in the school are educated by curricular year.

School Improvement Plan Targets

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

Priorities 2024-25

1. Consistently develop effective assessment and feedback practices across the school, ensuring that our learners have a solid understanding of their strengths and are confident to be able to improve their learning independently.
2. Reform our system of providing suitable and appropriate interventions to support the needs of our learners and ensure that all diverse groups of learners make the best possible progress.
3. Leadership - Develop AOLE co-ordinators to evaluate the impact of teaching on pupils' progress and strategically plan within their AOLE working groups for ensuring progression and continuity across the school.
4. To strengthen pupils' mathematical fluency across the school including supporting parents with their pupils.

Priorities 2025-26

1. To develop systematic methods to ensure that pupils use and apply their writing skills effectively across the curriculum.
2. Improve the ease and effectiveness of reporting and tracking pupil attendance.
3. Further develop 'Assessment and Feedback' systems across the school.
4. To improve pupils' understanding of diversity within society in order to develop them into principled and informed citizens.

Child Protection Policy

The school has a child protection policy based on national guidelines. The designated members of staff for child protection are: Mrs H Garland, Mr S Davies Miss E Roberts and Mrs G Rees. There are also designated members of the governing body with responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children.

Year 6 Leavers

There is one secondary school in the catchment area of the school where our pupils continue their education at the end of year 6 which is Ysgol Gyfun Y Strade. Pupils are given transition sessions during Year 6 in order to familiarise themselves with their new school. Your child needs to apply online for a place in a secondary school. Full details can be found on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

The School and the Community

The school has close links with the community which have been further developed again this year through various activities including:

- Presentations by 'Walk the Bible'
- Monthly services from Tabernacle
- Yr 10 Stradey pupils on work experience at school
- Rugby sessions by the 'Scarlets'
- Sport and skills sessions from Coleg Sir Gar
- Yr 6 visits to Ysgol Gyfun Y Strade
- Visits to Llanelli Library
- Pupils visit Ty Mair home
- Heol Goffa School pupils lead fitness sessions
- Numerous trips to the Local area to enrich our classroom work



- Governing Body termly Meetings
- Governing Body sub-committee meetings
- School visits by members of the Governing Body
- Attendance of governors at school activities
- Reports submitted by governors

Termly parents' evenings are held to:

- Setting individual targets for pupils
- An opportunity for parents to see their child's schoolwork
- Discuss progress and progress reports

A termly open evening will be held for new parents with children starting in the Nursery Unit in order to introduce them to the school.

Remember that you are always welcome to contact a school if you have any concerns about your child's educational development or well-being.

Achievements and Events

Community Links:

- Big Bocs Bwyd
- STEM Cymru
- Visit to Tŷ Mair home
- Rugby skills- Scarlets
- Visits by PC Ali
- Visit by the Fire Brigade
- PE sessions with Heol Goffa School
- Cwis Dim Clem quiz
- Raising money for Children in Need, Poppy appeal, Red Nose Day
- Juniors Traders Project in Llanelli Town
- Action for Children
- 'Cwis Llyfrau'

Experiences:

- Harvest Service/Assembly
- Ffa-la-la
- Cyw show – Martin Geraint
- Christmas Show
- Eisteddfod Yr Urdd
- Class Assemblies
- Scooter training
- Bike training
- Taith yr Iaith
- Working with CISP
- Lowri Sion - Story

Sporting Events:

- Cross country (Pembrey)
- Netball
- Athletics
- Football Tournaments
- Rugby Tournaments
- Cricket Competitions
- Scarlets rugby skills sessions
- Swimming lessons
- School Sports
- Parc Y Scarlets

Trips / Residential Tours:

- Cardiff
- Dinosaur Park
- Dan yr Ogof Caves
- Botanical Gardens
- Pembrey Park
- Llanelli Wetland
- Ffonmon Castle
- Ysgol Gorslas
- Swansea Theatre
- Pendine
- Heatherton

After School Clubs:

- Clwb Hwyl Dewi
- 'Mad Science'
- Clwb Yr Urdd Club
- Sports Club
- Reading Club
- First Aid
- Gardening
- Board games

Financial Statement 2024/2025

Net Expenditure 2024/25: £1,768,669

Funding allocation by formula2024/25: -£1,823,290

Reserves brought forward from 2023/24: -£2,320

Cash reserves carried over: 2025/26: £ 52,301

Dates for the Academic Year 2025/26

Term	Term begins	Half Term Holidays	Term ends
Autumn 2025	Tuesday 2nd September	27/10/25 – 31/10/25	Friday 19th December
Spring 2026	Monday 5th January	16/2/26 – 20/2/26	Friday 27th March
Summer 2026	Monday 13th April	25/5/26 – 29/5/26	Monday 20th July



A Final Word

It is a privilege to contribute to this report, which highlights some of the highlights of the past year at the school. As you can see, a wide range of activities were carried out in order to provide our pupils with rich and valuable experiences. As a school, we take pride in these opportunities, and I extend my sincere thanks to all staff members for their commitment and hard work to make it possible. Thank you also as parents for your continued support of your children – the close collaboration between us is all vital to success.

During the year, we had an inspection by Estyn, and it was a great pleasure to share the positive report with you.

The year has been full of excitement once again. Our sensory garden was officially opened, our outdoor areas were further developed, and the Big Bocs Bwyd continued to support our families. Our links with the wider community continue to be a key part of our work – and this year we saw notable successes such as Year 6 pupils taking first prize in the Llanelli Young Traders Competition once again, and Year 4 pupils winning the national book quiz competition.

It has also been a busy year of performances and competitions – on stages and on fields, locally and nationally. I am extremely proud of our pupils for their diligent preparation, dedication and enthusiasm, whether in sport, cooking, music, singing, dancing or performing. They had the opportunity to showcase their talents not only in Llanelli, but also on national stages such as the Urdd Eisteddfod in Margam. In addition, pupils took part in a host of sports competitions and festivals, showcasing their diverse talents in a number of areas. Congratulations to all of them – it's a pure pleasure to represent them everywhere, and we're very proud of them.

A big thank you to our governors and the Parent and Teacher Association for their tireless support and dedication over the past year. We also thank you as parents for your continued co-operation and support, and to our pupils for their energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to another year of working together for the benefit of all of our children.

Sincerely,
Helen Garland
Acting Headteacher

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