

To be my 'Bynea best' I must...				
	To be organised I must...	To be effective I must...	To be a thinker I must...	To be creative I must...
Nursery and Reception	- Know where things are - Get what I need - Know what is next - Know what I need to do - Tell you what I am doing	- Listen to ideas - Ask if I don't know - Help my friends - Make mistakes - Try my best - Talk about what went well - Be kind	- Ask questions - Try to make things better - Choose my own activities	- Be brave - Try new things - Be imaginative - Be curious - Explore
Years 1 & 2	- Find the equipment I need - Plan and talk about my ideas - Check my work - Use what I know to help me	- Listen to others - Work with other people - Ask for help - Share my ideas - Understand that I learn from mistakes - Help my friends - Be kind, even when I don't agree with others	- Ask questions - Try new ideas - Say when I am stuck - Say what I have done well - Make my own choices - Understand what I need to do to get better	- Be curious - Think up new ideas - Have a go - Explore something new - Share your ideas
Years 3 & 4	- Look where the equipment is kept - Check my work against the success criteria - Learn to organise my work in a variety of ways - Record my ideas in different ways - Ask questions if I don't understand	- Respect others' opinions - Listen to people in my group - Have a go at new things - Listen and follow instructions - Understand making mistakes is essential to learning new things - Use what I already know - Take turns	- Always have a go - Ask questions - Learn from mistakes - Know when I need help - Check my own work - Discuss my work with my friends - Make my own choices about my work - Explain how I have done my work	- Identify my own ideas - Value my ideas - Think of different ways to do things - Explain my choices - Be brave with my work - Present my work in different ways
Years 5 & 6	- Collect appropriate equipment for the activity and return it afterwards - Identify the skills and knowledge I need to apply to the new work - Plan my own work using the success criteria - Set myself high expectations - Adapt my work and make changes to improve it - Effectively research information that I do not know - Be ready for my learning	- Activate Prior Knowledge to apply skills I have learned before - Choose relevant information from my research - Appreciate and respect the views of others - Ask for help when I don't understand - Help others if they don't understand - Use self and peer assessment to improve my work - Recognise when I have worked hard and achieved my targets - Focus on minimising distractions so I can be the best I can be - Understand that different tasks require different learning environments	- Ask questions - Have a growth mindset - Be resilient - Focus on key information - Understand the difference between opinions and information - Plan out my work first - Be flexible and adaptable - Use what I already know to help me - Assess my learning honestly - Reflect on my own progress	- Explain my ideas to others - Magpie the ideas of others- then make them my own - Try something that I haven't done before - Step outside my comfort zone - Develop my skills by not just relying on what I am good at - Use a range of different strategies such as pictures, text, number, digital, graphs etc

YSGOL Y BYNEA

HEADTEACHERS AUTUMN TERM

REPORT TO GOVERNORS



Dear Parent/Guardian

On behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Bynea, I am delighted to present this annual report to you. This report provides important information on how the school has performed in 2022-23 and how, as governors, we shall continue to ensure it is the very best it can be in the coming school year. You will find here important information on a wide range of our school's plans, activities, policies, and practice.

This year we do not propose to hold a separate AGM with Parents/Carers based on the contents of this report. However, should you wish to take up any issues relating to the school with governors we can provide you with the opportunity on an individual basis by contacting either myself or Mrs. T Morgan.

I hope you find this report interesting and informative.

Regards

Mr Dafydd Charles
Chairperson of Ysgol Y Bynea Governing Body

Autumn Term 2023

Staffing

Mrs T. Morgan	Head teacher
Mrs C. Jones	Assistant
Ms H Lewis	Head teacher
Mr G. Stephens	Nursery/ Rec
Year 1	Reception/
Mrs C. Jones	Year 1/ 2
Miss V Lewis	Year 3
Mrs C. Cole	Year 4 &
Mr T. Williams	ALENCO
Mrs R. Penfold	Year 5
Mrs M Morgan	Year 6
Mrs C. Rowe	ALN
Mrs D Willock	support
Ms J Gravelle	Foundation
Mrs L Daly	Phase
Mrs L.A. Evans	FP ALN
Miss H. Johnson	FP PDG
Mrs R Wright	Foundation
Mrs F. Matthey	Phase
Mrs H. Scott	Foundation
Mrs C Kriescher	Phase
Mrs Kelly Rees	PPA
Mr G Davies	SEN support
Mrs W Hughes	PDG support
Mrs S. Rose	Administrator
Mrs E. Hughes	Administrator
	Caretaker
	Cleaner
	Catering
	assistant
	Cook



Curriculum for Wales

We continue to make progress with our new curriculum for Wales. To recap our curriculum at Bynea is based on the science and technology curriculum which consists of IT, Design Technology, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We use these as the main pillars of our curriculum to ensure that children get a wide range of exciting and meaningful science and technology experiences. By having these at the centre of their learning there can naturally be many exciting topics and themes running alongside them. It also ensures coverage, consistency and progression whether we have straight or mixed age classes as is often the case at Bynea. The curriculum runs over a two year cycle and follow the main headings of

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Cycle 1	Theme: Communication	Theme: Earth and Spaces	Theme: Ourselves
Cycle 2	Theme: Forces	Theme: Buildings and Structures	Theme: The Environment

Other areas of the curriculum are then allocated where they best suit, this ensures that the curriculum makes sense for the children. The children also get a say in what they would like to learn around their theme. They often have interesting and modern takes on what they are being asked to do. Whilst the curriculum is tailor made to Bynea there are many elements of the curriculum that are non– negotiable and we have to ensure coverage of these. There is also a need to have high expectations as it is easy following certain paths but we have to ensure that key skills are being learned along the way.

Every class has three themes a year and an overview of the themes are sent to parents every term. They can also be seen on the school website, alongside any photos or work the children have produced. Alongside the termly overview there are enhancement weeks that take place periodically that focus on parts of the curriculum and allow the children to use and apply the skills that they have learned. These are usually mini projects that look at specific elements like science/ technology, culture, creativity etc.

During our evaluation of the curriculum last year we found that there were certain key elements of the curriculum that needed closer tracking and planning to ensure that they were covered in enough depth. We therefore now have a third element of our curriculum planning that takes into account things like diversity, Religious Education, different genres, use of our local area etc. With so many changes to the curriculum in the last few years by Welsh Government it is easy to lose important elements that are necessary for a broad and balanced curriculum.

Assessments

Alongside the new curriculum we have assessments that help keep us on the right track. We have tailor made our assessments so that they ensure that the basics are being done and that pupils are progressing in these. We track progress with our school tracker and Taith 360, which is a tracking tool looking at all AOLEs and progression steps. Last year we inputted our termly curriculum so that we could measure the progress children made in line with our curriculum and identify possible gaps in learning. We are still evaluating this for effectiveness and manageability.

We have a range of assessments that we carry out at the start of the school year which help inform the teachers planning. Teachers use the information gathered to help plan and differentiate their teaching and learning. The National tests are now completed online but are not as useful as the older paper tests were. The old tests often showed where children had gone wrong but with no workings out available now it is either right or wrong. The old tests also showed where we needed to possibly teach more as you were able to see if lots of children had the same question wrong you could concentrate on that to ensure the children understood it better. Now children are asked questions from a massive bank of questions so this feature is no longer available. The children are also now asked questions from all different age group tests and are only expected to get about half right? Welsh Government seems confused as to whether they want children to learn at their own pace or if they should have a prescriptive curriculum that runs alongside the tests as I don't believe it is possible– or fair to have both.

When you look at the younger pupils in the school they are encouraged to pick activities that they would like to learn and be inquisitive. They are also expected to learn at their own speed, within limits obviously. Then when they get to the end of year two they are expected to sit National Tests online– in a format they are unfamiliar with and answer set questions– whilst there needs to be some standardisation this is confusing and difficult for some children.

ICT (Welsh Assembly Government Scheme)

The school is part of the above scheme which will replenish old/damaged ICT equipment depending on pupil ratios, availability and requirement. We are currently looking at ICT as a whole this year and looking at the efficiency, safety and cost implications moving forward. It is not enough having the hardware we also need to look at the cost of maintaining and storage of data etc.

Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) Grant

The school is utilising its ALP Grant by employing teaching assistants to support identified gaps in learning and hopefully closing those gaps to ensure comprehensive coverage in learning moving forward.

New Website <https://www.ysgolybynea.co.uk/>

We have invested in a new website as the old one was outdated, clunky to use and not compatible with some apps and phones. The new website has an app attached so that parents can download to their phones and get updates as soon as they are released from the school. They can also get the school calendar that will keep them up to date with activities and events at the school.

Nearly all parents now use the app and we will shortly be disconnecting our text alert system. We also use Twitter @Byneaschool (or X as it is now known) but again this will be looked at as part of our ICT review. It is worth following the school on X as there are some wonderful pictures of what the children do at school. There are also links to other education sites.

Reading Eggs and **RMeasimaths** continues to be available for all children. They can log into these sites both in school and at home and are fantastic for supporting the children's development in maths and language. Unfortunately many parents report that they have some difficulty using RMeasymaths so we will look at this. We will be monitoring the use of these sites at home as to whether the money spent here is best used elsewhere?

FIRM FOUNDATIONS—HIGH EXPECTATIONS

WELSH IN EDUCATION PLAN (WESP)

Welsh Government have an inspirational target of 1,000,000 Welsh speakers by 2050. They aim to do this by encouraging more Welsh in schools and communities. Carmarthenshire has its own WESP and they have recategorised all schools in Carmarthenshire. Ysgol Y Bynea continues to be categorised as an English medium school with a category 1 status. There is an expectation however that all category 1 schools work towards teaching at least 3 and 3/4 hours of Welsh a week which is a big ask.

PARENT / TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTFA have been really proactive this year and have come up with some lovely ideas. We now have a great PTA logo designed by Sophia and a regular newsletter. Hopefully we can all support them and the last meeting was well attended. I am looking forward to some fun out of school activities.

FIRE DRILL

There have been a number of changes made to our Fire Evacuation policy and practice due to the building work. These are now back to normal and all glitches have been sorted.

Fire Drills have been conducted regularly and the building continues to be evacuated in less than two minutes. The appropriate information is recorded in the fire drill record book.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is currently a real concern for Welsh Gov, the LA and school. We have had more term time holiday requests than ever before and illnesses that don't seem to be going away. There have also been a small number of children who's parents are reporting that they will not come to school due to the after effects of COVID.

We are disseminating absence to see how much we can really change. This coming year we will have to revert fully back to our usual attendance policy even though it is difficult to navigate because if children are ill we want them to stay home to reduce the spread but we also need children in school to learn?? Carmarthenshire County Council have issued attendance letters and now we need to refer into the EWS service at 85% attendance as opposed to 80% previously. The School Educational Welfare officer continues to work closely with the school.

Ysgol Y Bynea INSET Days planned for 2023/2024 so far: Friday September 2nd 2023– Safeguarding and School Evaluation , Monday 9th October Trauma Informed Schools and Friday October 27th Maths Reasoning and Using Practical Apparatus.

There are at present 191 pupils on Roll which is 10 more than this time last year and we are expecting 8 new pupils in January.

Provision for Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Ysgol Y Bynea puts the child at the centre of planning, teaching and learning. The school's ALN Policy is continually evaluated and reviewed, and arrangements are made for both teachers and support assistants to attend training courses. While at Ysgol Y Bynea the progress of each child is closely monitored. If at any time a child needs significant, long term support, we will work with parents and outside agencies to put in place an Individual Education Plan and/or Individual Behaviour plan with targets. Children with any Additional Learning Needs (ALN) receive universal learning provision (ULP) and additional learning provision (ALP) from teachers and teaching assistants who work with children in small groups and on an individual basis.

Sometimes children only need a little support to ensure that they understand a concept and are back on track whilst others need a bit more concentrated support over a longer period of time. Most children who have received extra support during their time at Bynea and have made expected progress and achieved expected progression steps by the time they leave us. The Headteacher and ALNCo liaise with Secondary Schools, Specialised Unit staff and families so that transition is effective. Referrals for multi-agency support are made, with assessments and meetings held both virtually and face-to-face. Looked After Children (LAC) and Children on the Child Protection Register are supported with multi-agency meetings attended. The school is following Carmarthenshire County Council's guidelines for ALN Transformation. All staff have undertaken ALN Transformation training in line with the new ALN Transformation and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 training and the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and ALNCo continue to undertake up to date ALN training.

Teaching and Learning

We continue to strive for quality teaching and learning at Bynea, we endeavour to make lessons as relevant and engaging as possible. Parents continue to help with spelling, reading and supporting the school whenever possible. There have been limited amounts of interaction between the school and families for the last two years and this year we hope to get back to more activities and meetings. Our school self-evaluation process is comprehensive and has run along the more normal lines this year. We have had limited observations by the LA due to high levels of sickness and anxiety. We had our school advisor and the Early Years team as that was a priority last year. This year we will be engaging with the mathematics team, ICT and our new challenge advisor who will be helping with questioning and pupil voice.

Mathematics is obviously an important key skill and one that seems to be almost disappearing before our very eyes. Using money in everyday situations is almost an obsolete thing– everything is done by card or phone. Measuring and weighing is hardly used nor is wearing a watch. Many people find maths a challenge but it is essential particularly at a time when we need to watch our money and spending. We would ask parents to play money games, measure things at home and generally use number in a purposeful way to help their children understand the purpose of maths. This will help them get a strong grasp of this subject as many of the jobs of the future will be looking for these skills.

School trips are back on and we have identified some wonderful places for the children to visit. As a school we are acutely aware of the cost of living crisis at the moment and do not want anyone to worry about having to go without something vital to pay for a school trip. Obviously without parental contributions to trips we would not be able to run them as we don't have enough money in the budget. However, we do have a small pot that has been put aside to help ensure that we can support where needs be. If anyone has a problem paying for anything we put on give us a ring and we can see what we can do to help. This is available for anyone as Covid-19 has changed so many situations that everyone is feeling the pinch.

The school is part of ATHROFA partnership, with placements undertaken by BA and PGCE trainee teachers. We are an employer School for the Open University and in its infancy we have had one member of staff complete the PGCE school based qualification. Visits have been made by Childcare students and tutors undertaking GNVQ qualifications from Coleg Sir Gar. Police– All Wales School Liaison Core Programme– direct educational input on a range of subjects, general visits and activities when the need arises from Reception to Year 6. These face to face visits by PC Courtney have included Staying Safe, Anti-Bullying, Anti-social behaviour, E-Safety (Internet safety and Cyberbullying), Drug Awareness, Stranger Danger, People Who Help Us , Playing Safe, Race, Religion and Online Bullying and Safe Relationships Year 6.

We have participated in a number of sporting events and will be looking for more opportunities to join other schools for other areas of the curriculum. We also have been awarded our Third Green Flag which Miss V Lewis led. We have been looking at Healthy eating and living but there has been changes in the way that Healthy Schools accreditation works. Mr Williams will be leading this again this year and hopefully we will have a totally healthy and happy school.

All staff have received Trauma Informed, Safeguarding and Maths Problem Solving training since September. Mrs Morgan has qualified as a Trauma Informed Practitioner. Mrs R Wright qualified as a Teacher this year after completing her PGC through the Open University. Ms Michelle Morgan is completing an ICT apprenticeship and is working closely with CYCA on Social Prescribing. Miss Johnson and Mrs Daly completed ELCAN qualifications last year and Mrs Matthey is doing the primary age qualification this year. All staff will attend courses on their AOLE specialism.

Overview of SDP priorities 2023-2024

Graham Donaldson has set out four main purposes for education:

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

In order to ensure our children are ready to accomplish all this these are our identified areas of current needs at Ysgol Y Bynea

Priority 1: Curriculum Mapping and Assessment

Priority 2: To further develop Pupil Voice opportunities within the school

Priority 3: Using Reasoning to ensure number skills are embedded

Priority 4: To further develop oracy skills in Welsh 2nd Language, and to develop a Modern Foreign Language at the school

Priority 5: ICT Audit and Action Plan

Priority 6: To improve Attendance

Safeguarding

The school has robust Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures in place including Safe Recruitment– Staff and Governors receive the required and appropriate Safeguarding and Child Protection training. The school has an up-to-date Safeguarding Audit which was described as comprehensive by the LEA safeguarding officer in August this year. The school receives and acts upon Operation Encompass notifications. The children take part in a range of activities to ensure that they feel safe. We have a comprehensive PSHE curriculum addressed through class activities, assemblies and circle time. The school continues to embed Restorative Approaches as a common strategy throughout the school. The school undertakes an annual well-being/anti-bullying survey with the children and the results are analysed and followed-up with whole class, group and individual activities. The school has a proactive School Council, Healthy School Council, Eco-Council and Digital Team. The development of healthy lifestyles is a priority for our school. Pupils have access to drinking water throughout the day.

We are completing a thorough assessment of all our digital learning, devices and policies. This area of school life has moved at such speed it is difficult to know what is what. We will look at GDPR, safeguarding, E-safety, storage of data, how to manage school devices amongst lots more– it is a MASSIVE undertaking.

Parking continues to be an issue at the school during drop off and pick up times. The school receives many complaints from parents and other visitors to the school regarding inconsiderate parking and people not giving way. Dog mess is another problem and we regularly have to clean up dog mess from the pavement outside the school and from the school field before we use it for sport and such like.

A small number of parents were sending their children into breakfast club without seeing them to the school door. This was a major issue as they needed to be registered properly to ensure no children were unaccounted for. This has improved and is being closely monitored.

Financial Position of the School

Formula funding and grants

Formula funding 2022-23 -£722,121

2023-24 - £755,556

Surplus carried over into 2023-24- £78,488– nearly all of this is needed to maintain staffing levels sufficient to meet statutory requirements for the financial year 23-24.

Prif Grantiau / Main Grants			
Enw'r Grant / Grant Name	Côd Swydd / Job Code	Dyraniad 2022/23 Allocation £	Gwariant / Expenditure £
Cyfnod Sylfaen/ Foundation Phase	039297	-59,850	80,750
GDD / PDG	050337	-25,300	33,805
GDDBC/ EYPDG	050838	-14,950	17,939
GDD – Ysgolion heb PYDd / PDG – Schools with no FSM	050588	0	0
GGA / EIG	050545	-10,145	14,054
Grant Lleihau Maint Dosbarth Babanod / Infant Class Size Reduction Grant	050583	-15,808	52,880
Dysgu Proffesiynol /	050590	-3,969	5,786
Rhaglen Dysgu Carlam / Accelerating Learning Programme	050629	-11,112	13,038
Ethnig Leiafrifol Sipsi Roma Teithwyr / Minority Ethnic Gypsy Roma Traveller	050635	-1,290	1,290
Saesneg Iaith Ychwanegol /	050636	-101	101

Grantiau Eraill / Other Grants		
Enw'r Grant / Grant Name	Côd Swydd / Job Code	Dyraniad / Allocation £
Grant Codiad Cyflog Athrawon / Teachers' Pay Award Grant	050591	-8,230
Grant Fferm Wynt Brechfa / Brechfa Wind Farm Grant	050651	0
Grant Trochi Hwyr / Late Immersion Grant	050675	0
Bwyd a Hwyl / Food and Fun	050743 /	0
ADY / ALN	050763	-2,656
Cwricwlwm i Gymru / Curriculum for Wales	050765	-1,800
Dysgu Digidol / Digital Learning	050766	-180
GDD PDG/ PDG LAC	050962	-937

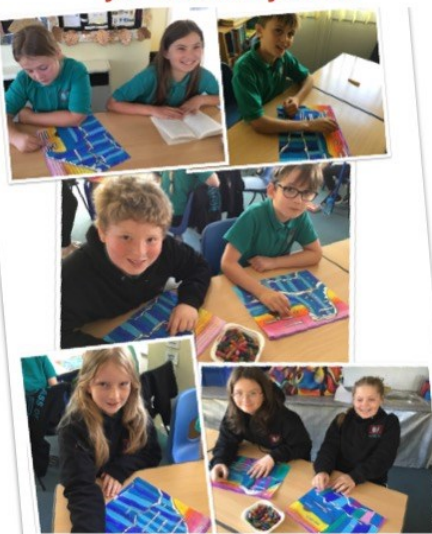
Blwyddyn 6 2022-2023



Performing in Theatr Ffwrness



Mwynhau siarad Cymraeg yn Caffi Bynea



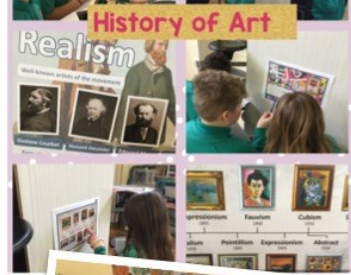
Reading warrior project



Website project Year 6



History of Art



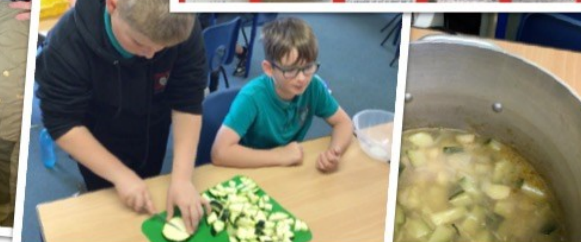
Blwyddyn 6



First aid



Growing, prepping and eating our own veggies



Coronation treasure hunt



Buildings, Health and Safety

The school building Health and Safety audit has been carried out and all minor faults noticed will be rectified. Some repairs and updates that are needed in the school hall and front classrooms would be money wasted as the new extension will deal with all of that, so they will be left but ensured that there is no safety risk.

We have had confirmation that we will be having a new school hall and the two classrooms completed at the same time but are awaiting notification as to when this will start. We have also asked to see the building plans so that we can get around the new layout and structure and can start to put into place any organisational changes that will need to be made— like where to put two classrooms full of children? The other problem we will have is how to get people on and off the site with the two car parks full of building equipment. See, the fun we have at Bynea!!

Mr Davies worked on the outside learning village during the summer as there were some structural problems with some of the sheds— leaks and the like. He is a great asset to the school and has even helped out on numerous occasions when we have had no afternoon admin so that meetings could take place without constant interruptions!- well over and above his many other duties.

The school building and outdoor space are in a generally good state of repair but we need to look at some replacements of carpets and such like due to age and wear and tear. Unfortunately with the new extension imminent putting anything new down would be impacted by the building work so we need to hold off. Every effort is being made to maintain the quality of both the old part of the school and new parts. The Health and Safety Governor Sub-committee ensure that the school's Health and Safety Policy is adhered to in order to safeguard the well-being of our pupils. This involves inspection of all fire-fighting equipment and evacuation procedure, first aid provision, and general safety of pupils and staff.

Admissions

The school admits children at the beginning of the term after which they attain their third birthday. Children attend part time for the first two terms and then become fulltime the term of their fourth birthday. We are expecting a new extension on the school hall and two front classrooms which will see our admission number raise formally to 30 when it is completed— as we will have eight classrooms big enough for 30 children in each.

We have for many years had many more applications for nursery places than those we can provide, we had four children go to appeals for fulltime school places last year.

FLYING START-

Flying Start now offer wrap around care for children alongside the usual childcare provision. This can be paid for using a 30hr Government incentive for working parents. The Flying Start team work well with the school and this helps provide a seamless transition for the children from them to us in Nursery.

MISS MAI'S AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Miss Mai's after school club is going from strength to strength with many fun activities for the children. The five days after school care provided for parents until five pm which has been a real stress reliever for many working parents.





