

Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2021-2022



Produced annually by the governing body the purpose of this report is to inform parents and other stakeholders about the management and performance of the school in 2021-2022. Ysgol Y Grango is an English medium school with 562 pupils on roll and approximately 64 members of staff. Welsh is taught to all pupils as a second language and we embrace our Welsh culture and heritage.

Rudimentary headline information is evident in this report and adheres to the statutory guidelines prescribed by the Welsh Government.

Letter from Chair of Governors

Firstly, I would like to once again extend my heartfelt thanks to all students, staff and families as we continue to recover from what was a truly difficult time for everyone and particularly delighted to report that your school continues to provide all pupils with a varied and thorough education experience in spite of the hard times that have been upon us.

The situation is now improving and it's now the time that we need to embrace and continue to move forward. This report details the support provided to learners and the work of the school during 2021 – 2022.

The hard work and commitment of both staff and pupils is commendable and I would express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Board of Governors to them all.

The report contains an update regarding the New Curriculum for Wales which will be implemented in September 2023 and is currently being worked on by our Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team within the school.

I would encourage all parents to read the information provided and become familiar with the changes. The New Curriculum for Wales will transform the delivery of education across Wales. Parents of learners in Years 7, 8 and 9 should take a particular interest.

Extra-curricular activities were seriously affected by the pandemic, but have now resumed fully. Our children enjoy a rich diet of opportunities and we regularly applaud their enthusiasm and success. It is great to see so many local youngsters enjoying sports, expressive arts and leadership opportunities.

I would like to thank the Headteacher and all staff for their continued dedication and commitment. I would also like to thank you as parents for your co-operation and support. The school's success is dependent upon an effective partnership between all parties. We aim to continue to work together to achieve success for all of our learners and push forward for a more secure.

Yours Sincerely

Mr B Jones

Chair of the Governing Body

Parents' meeting relating to this report

Schools are not obliged to host an annual parent meeting in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Ysgol Y Grango Governing Body are dedicated to supporting the school's improvement journey and proactively working in partnership with parents.

Subject to certain conditions, parents are able to request a meeting. If this is something that you would like to discuss further, please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body.

School Prospectus

The school prospectus is revised annually and can be accessed electronically via the school website or a paper version can be collected at main reception.

School Policies

School policies and procedures are reviewed by Governors, in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team including the Headteacher. Policies are accessible on the school website or from the main reception.

Membership of the Governing Body

Chair of the Governing Body: Mr Brian Jones

Clerk to the Governing Body: Miss Louise Corbally

If you would like to contact the Governing Body for any reason, please contact the Clerk, Miss Louise Corbally on 01978 833010.

Name	Туре	Start	Finish
Mrs Z Price	LEA	27/01/2022	26/01/2026
Vacancy	LEA		
Vacancy	LEA		
Vacancy	LEA		
Mr B Jones	Community	01/11/21	31/10/25
Vacancy	Community		
Mrs S Evans	Community	04/10/22	03/10/26
Miss M Hazell	Community	10/05/21	09/05/25
Vacancy	Parent		
Mrs D Jones	Parent	08/10/19	07/10/23
Ms A Jones	Parent	02/03/20	01/03/24
Mr M Roberts	Parent	04/05/21	03/05/25

Ms K Pritchard	Parent	24/01/22	23/01/26
Mrs L Lindsay	Teacher	16/3/19	15/3/23
Mrs K Taunt	Teacher	24/01/22	23/01/26
Mrs M Harvey Thomas	Non Teacher	24/01/22	23/01/26
Miss V Brown	Headteacher		
Miss L Corbally	Clerk		

Parent Governor vacancies are advertised to all parents/carers as they become available and applications are processed in accordance with the most recent guidelines. We currently have one vacancy for a Parent Governor, this has been advertised to all parents/carers. Please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body if you wish to nominate yourself for this role.

Financial Statement April 2021 – March 2022

Budget Heading	Budget	Expenditure and Income (£)
Surplus c/f 2021	198,446	
Staffing	2,694,002	2,662,045
Premises	254,482	302,541
Transport	14,100	11,395
Supplies and Services	174,853	182,714
Third Party – Education	364,119	283,296
Support		
Income	-447,112	-843,870
Surplus	100,528	443,797

School Fund April 2021 – March 2022

Balance brought forward 2020-2021	31,847
Receipts	53,003
Payments	47,612
Balance year end	37,238

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance has been a challenge for both school and parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, following Welsh Government guidance we work with parents to ensure the best possible attendance for all pupils. We continue to work with outside agencies and within school to re-establish structure and routine to the pupils' day, positively affecting both attendance and punctuality.

At Ysgol Y Grango, we are committed to providing a full and effective education to all pupils and we embrace the concept of equal opportunities for all. For a child to reach their educational achievement,

a high level of school attendance is essential. Every opportunity is used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

We monitor pupils' attendance each lesson and follow up on those who do not attend school, ensuring both pupils and parents/carers are supported with targeted interventions where necessary.

We hold half term reward assemblies, whereby pupils with 100% attendance, as well as those most improved are rewarded.

Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

A key priority during 2021-2022 was ensuring pupils with ALN returned to their daily routine within school enabling staff to identify those who required any additional support with their emotional health and wellbeing. The ALN Department continued to provide a wealth of interventions including IDL, ELSA, Lego Therapy and Drawing and Talking.

Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed developing the nurture garden and learning new skills such as planting, sowing and pruning. This outdoor resource has been invaluable for learners who prefer a hands-on approach to learning, and gives pupils a sense of pride watching the nurture garden develop.

Pupils were given a variety of opportunities in addition to the curriculum, including fortnightly swimming lessons and learning to ride e-bikes.

The ALN Department ran a number of school trips during the 2021-2022 academic year, including a local history visit to Llangollen, a visit to Harry Potter Studio Tour, London and attending Wrexham Library to conduct a piece of research.

Transition

During the 2021-2022 academic year, we continued to develop excellent working relationships with our cluster schools. We welcomed 119 pupils into Year 7 in September 2021. Unfortunately, we were unable to offer these pupils our usual three-day transition programme due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, pupils and their parents were able to access a virtual tour of the school and there was an online forum to answer any questions. We ensured that parents were regularly contacted via telephone, and letter to ease any anxieties about transferring to secondary school.

Year 6 pupils were invited to attend Ysgol Y Grango to celebrate the 'European Day of Languages' in September 2021. In addition, we also held a Mathematics and Science themed transition morning. Enhanced transition was able to take place for smaller groups of pupils. We were keen to ensure that pupils attending were from the same primary school to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

As usual, key members of the transition team met with Year 6 teachers in May 2021 to discuss the new intake and ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

Premises and Maintenance

The Governing Body, along with the Finance Committee monitors the school's budget in regards to premises and maintenance. During the 2021-2022 academic year, premises and maintenance targets that were met include:

- Maintenance grant was received from Welsh Government which funded perimeter fencing reinforcing pupil safety.
- We created more outdoor seating areas and a Nurture garden area.
- A full maintenance schedule meant that the building was maintained throughout the year.
- The five-year schedule to update the CCTV system began.

- Wall art in two areas of the school was completed, making the learning environment more engaging.
- New Inventory sign-in system implemented in Reception area

The following audits were also completed:

- Health and Safety by Wrexham County Borough Council
- Fire Safety

Toilet facilities

We have a set of boys'/girls' toilet facilities on all three floors, with a disabled facility on the ground floor and lower floor. All toilet facilities are cleaned by our school cleaning service and maintained by our on-site caretakers daily.

Curriculum September 2021 – July 2022

All pupils follow a broad, balanced curriculum throughout their education at Ysgol Y Grango which aims to provide enjoyment, raise aspiration and boost self-esteem. We offer a wide range of subjects and activities at Ysgol Y Grango and a big part of our role is to encourage our pupils to fulfil their potential, discover their talents and prepare them for the future.

The 2021-2022 academic year saw the return of a 'normal' academic year in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic. Year groups were not required to isolate and there were no further lockdowns. However, on an individual level, both pupils and staff saw periods of isolation which did affect attendance. Schemes of learning had to be adapted in response to these disruptions.

The school continued to develop its approach to blended learning due to the volume of individuals having to isolate. The use of Google Classroom was further developed to enhance the individual learners' experience to engage in home learning.

Adaptations to the running of the school day continued such as staggered use of the canteen and segregated outdoor areas for year groups. There was a return to tutor time in the mornings. Practical subjects had fewer restrictions placed upon them, as did traditional classroom based subjects.

At Key Stage 3, the subjects delivered were:

Core Subjects	Non-Core Subjects		
English	Art	History	Physical Education
Mathematics	Design and	Information and	PSE
	Technology	Communication	
		Technology	
Science	Humanities (Year 7	Modern Foreign	Religious Education
	only)	Language	
Welsh	Geography	Performing Arts	

At Key Stage 4, the subjects delivered were:

Compulsory	Optional	
English Language	Art	French
English Literature	3D Design	Performing Arts
Mathematics	Food and Nutrition	Sweet
Mathematics – Numeracy	Product Design	Agored
Science (double award and	Digital Photography	
separate sciences)		
Welsh 2 nd Language	Geography	

Skills Challenge Certificate	History	
PSE/Careers	Physical Education	
PE	Religious Education	

Other courses are also offered in collaboration with other providers across the Wrexham area. We constantly review our curriculum to introduce new courses in partnership with 14-19 collaboration to meet the needs, abilities and aspirations of our pupils.

The options process for Year 9 was a hybrid approach, both online and some face-to-face contact such as pupil interviews and subject assemblies. Parents received guidance throughout the process albeit virtually via videos and online presentations.

In relation to Year 11, there was a return to external examinations this academic year. The examinations had been adapted to take into account lost teaching time over the last few years. Some subject areas were provided with advanced information from the WJEC. Examination boundaries were also taken into consideration by exam boards.

No performance indicators were calculated for the 2021-2022 academic year.

New Curriculum for Wales

Preparations for the new curriculum which is due to be implemented from September 2023 are underway, and are currently in the planning and trial phase. The new curriculum has been a focus in many of the INSET days and have been on the agenda for faculties throughout the academic year. Nearly all faculties have representatives on GWE workshops which they attend regularly. This has given faculties the opportunity to keep abreast of recent developments as well as an opportunity to share ideas with other establishments including primary and secondary settings. The school has also set up its own Curriculum for Wales working group with each Area of Learning Experience (AOLE) represented. Governors received regular updates and training throughout the year through the Curriculum and Standards subcommittee.

A brief overview of the new Curriculum for Wales.

The new curriculum has four purposes as its core. These support each learner to be:

- An ambitions, capable learner, ready to learn throughout their life.
- An enterprising, creative contributor, ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- An ethical, informed citizen, ready to take part in Wales and the work.
- A healthy, confident individual, ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

The four purposes are also underpinned by the following integral skills:

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Personal effectiveness
- Planning and organising

The new curriculum has six Areas of Learning Experience:

- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology
- Humanities

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing

The curriculum also covers; human rights, diversity and respecting others, experiences and skills for careers and the workplace, learning about local, national and international contexts and developmentally appropriate relationships and sexuality education.

The focus of literacy, numeracy and digital skills remains a central part to the curriculum.

The school will need to continue to develop new schemes of learning, adapt methodologies to teaching and learning, revise approaches to assessment and measures of progression as well as setting out its vision and aims for the new curriculum.

PSE and Wellbeing

During the 2021-2022 academic year, PSE/CWOW was delivered via one 50 minute lesson per week at Key Stage 3 and as discrete lessons in Skills Challenge at Key Stage 4.

The purpose of PSE/CWOW continues to be on:

- Developing pupil self-awareness, self-worth and respect to others.
- To meet challenges, manage change and build relationships.
- To experience personal achievement and build resilience and confidence as well as developing physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing skills.

Through the delivery of PSE/CWOW we as a school, are preparing our young people to live healthy lives, stay safe and be prepared for life and work in modern Britain.

PSE consists of Health Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Careers and the world of work education is concerned with the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes through a planned program of learning experiences which will assist our pupils to make informed decisions about their life/study/work options.

Throughout 2021-2022 we have continued to be supported by our Police Liaison Officer delivering the Schoolbeat program, RSE support from Info Shop/Stonewell, Drug and Alcohol support from In2Change, Health Education from Wrexham Healthy Schools Team and Careers support from Careers Wales, Big Ideas Wales and Principality Building Society, our school business partnership link.

Young Carers

Throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, Young Carers continued to be supported by the pastoral team as well as WCD Young Carers who offered pupils one-to-one and group support both in and out of school.

Student Council

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Student Council created several new sub-committees:

- Young Minds wellbeing group
- PRIDE group
- Teaching and Learning group
- School Health Research Network group

Friday Feedback has continued to take place on a fortnightly basis, as have school council meetings. The school council have set up a Google Classroom which is a forum for them to communicate results

from Friday Feedback, share School Council minutes and post updates from subgroups. In addition, a whole school teaching and learning questionnaire was launched.

Community Links

There is a comprehensive programme of school based/external events to enhance and strengthen links with school stakeholders on both an educational and social level.

Visiting speakers/organisations are involved in the delivery of PSE, and support parents' evenings etc. We also have a number of links through our partnership with Careers Wales, with major employers and further education providers from across the region who play an active role in Careers Fairs and the mock interview process for Year 11 pupils.

Our business links continue to flourish with Principality Building Society, Litegreen and Reads Construction.

Ysgol Y Grango enjoys a very close and mutually supportive relationship with our School Liaison Officer. She delivers sessions in PSE and engages in a variety of prevention strategies with pupils, including work on the Prevent Agenda and County Lines initiative.

Provision for Sport and Extra-Curricular Activities

The 2021-2022 academic year saw the return of extra-curricular activities which unfortunately saw the programme paused during the Covid-19 pandemic. Pupils at Ysgol Y Grango were offered a range of sporting extra-curricular activities across the academic year. Some activities ran throughout the year, and others on a carousel. Clubs took place either at lunchtime or after school. The following clubs were offered:

- Netball
- Football
- KS3 Rugby
- Badminton
- KS3 Dodgeball
- Multi-skills breakfast club
- Rounders
- Basketball
- Trampolining
- Dance (funding dependant)
- Gymnastics (funding dependant)

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Timings of the school day

AM registration	8.50 – 9.10am
Lesson 1	9.10 – 10am
Lesson 2	10 – 10.50am
Breaktime	10.50 – 11.10am
Lesson 3	11.10am – 12pm
Lesson 4	12 – 12.50pm
Lunchtime	12.50 – 1.30pm
Lesson 5	1.30 – 2.20pm
Lesson 6	2.20 – 3.10pm

School Term Dates

2022/23 academic year

Autumn Term		
Term opens	Thursday 1 st September 2022	
Half term close	Friday 28 th October 2022	
Half term open	Monday 7 th November 2022	
Term closes	Friday 23 rd December 2022	
Spring Term		
Term opens	Monday 9 th January 2023	
Half term close	Friday 17 th February 2023	
Half term open	Monday 27 th February 2023	
Term closes	Friday 31st March 2023	
Summer Term		
Term opens	Monday 17 th April 2023	
May Day	Monday 1 st May 2023	
Additional Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)	Monday 8 th May 2023	
Half term close	Friday 26 th May 2023	
Half term open	Monday 5 th June 2023	
Term close	Thursday 20 th July 2023	

2023/24 academic year

Autumn Term		
Term opens	Friday 1 st September 2023	
Half term close	Friday 27 th October 2023	
Half term open	Monday 6 th November 2023	
Term closes	Friday 22 nd December 2023	
Spring Term		
Term opens	Monday 8 th January 2024	
Half term close	Friday 9 th February 2024	
Half term open	Monday 19 th February 2024	
Term closes	Friday 22 nd March 2024	
Summer Term		
Term opens	Monday 8 th April 2024	
May Day	Monday 6 th May 2024	
Half term close	Friday 24 th May 2024	
Half term open	Monday 3 rd June 2024	
Term close	Friday 19 th July 2024	

Further information about Ysgol y Grango can be obtained from the following sources:

- 1. School Website www.grango.co.uk
- 2. School Newsletters
- 3. Twitter @Ysgolygrango
- 4. Governors meeting minutes available upon request
- 5. www.mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk

