

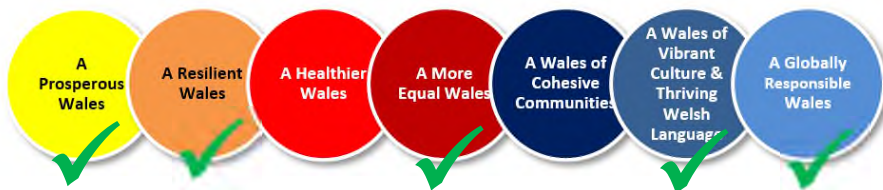


Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners

So why is this important?

- We all want all of our children and young people to have the best possible start in life by supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.
- We want to improve outcomes for all ages through lifelong learning, to enable them to thrive in 21st Century living and the world of work.
- Research by *The Institute of Education* suggests that attending a good pre-school and primary school can have more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background (Taggart, 2015)
- Our service remains committed to both the principles and priorities as outlined in the Welsh Government's most recent strategic document '[Education in Wales: Our National Mission.](#)'



Why this should concern us?

- There is currently a gap nationally (including Carmarthenshire) between the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM) and those who are not. This aspect of our end of key stage performance and achievement continues to challenge and concern us.
- We have schools that need to improve in specific areas as recognised through the National Categorisation system* (for 2018; 21% of Primary schools are rated 'Amber Support Category' and 1% of Primary schools is rated 'Red Support Category').
*Four levels of 'Support Category' exist – Green, Yellow, Amber and Red. All Secondary schools are currently rated in the Green or Yellow Support Category.
- The [2015 PISA results](#) (Programme for International Student Assessment), for which Kirsty Williams, Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education, has stated "*remains the recognised international benchmark for skills*", continue to show Wales adrift from the rest of the UK.

What do we need to do?

- We will continue to improve progress, wellbeing and outcomes further for all learners (with a focus on those entitled to eFSM and vulnerable learners - see also **Tackling Poverty Well-being Objective 5**).

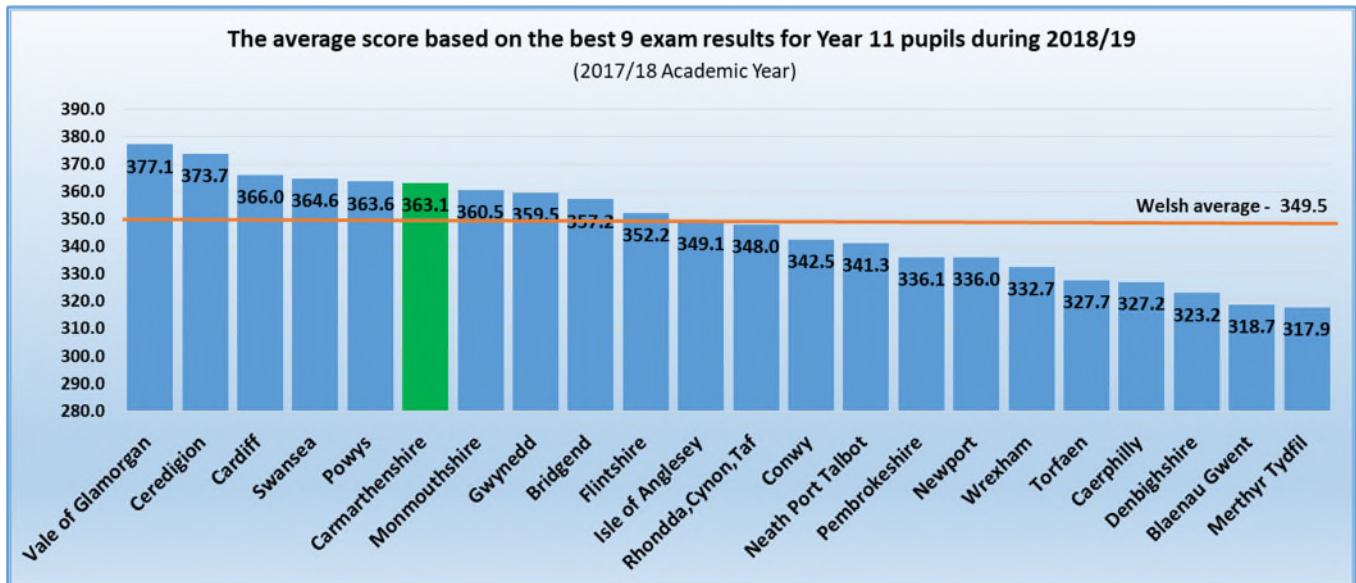
How will we do this?

- A. We will ensure a relentless emphasis on **improvement in pupil progress, wellbeing and outcomes** for all children and young people across all learning phases (focusing on vulnerable and eFSM learners) in line with the vision and aims of 'Education in Wales: Our National Mission.'
- B. We will continue to **improve school attendance** and learner well-being.
- C. We will provide **an excellent school in the right place** by:
 - a. Improving the condition, suitability and resource efficiency of our schools network through the *Modernising Education Plan*.
 - b. Developing an engaging, relevant and authentic *Local Curriculum*, within a clear framework of national guidance, which will fully prepare our children and young people for the challenges and opportunities of adult life.
- D. We will continue **workforce development and succession planning** by:
 - a. Developing and supporting a collaborative self-improving school system to ensure high quality leadership and provision for all learners.
 - b. Investing in further developing the skills of our teachers and support staff.
- E. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual. Pupils can fulfil their potential in gaining skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond.

Key Measure of Success

Educational attainment - Average Caped 9 points score (Year 11 pupils) (ref tbc) (Pupils best 9 results including English/Welsh, Mathematics–Numeracy, Mathematics and Science)

The average score based on the best 9 exam results for Year 11 pupils during 2018/19 (2017/8 Academic Year) is 363.1 where girls had an average score of 375.2 and boys 352.5. This is the 6th highest in Wales.



An example of what we are doing

In pursuit of our goals, we have implemented three additional Strategic Fora in partnership with our schools:

1. Access to Education Strategic Forum
2. Curriculum and Wellbeing Strategic Forum
3. Education Services Strategic Forum



This revised structure will enhance our collaborative work with senior school leaders from all sectors, thus ensuring a collegiate approach to improvement via agreed strategies in support of all our specific tasks and actions.

Each forum is charged with -

- Acting as a consultative group to assist with developing and co-constructing emerging strategy
- Proposing further areas which require strategic focus and development
- Piloting appropriate initiatives
- Advising on the implementation of strategy
- Advising on the prioritisation of resources
- Monitoring and evaluating progress
- Represent peers and disseminate to others

Progress and outcomes from each Forum is reported, evaluated and reviewed through our Head teacher and Governor networks along with our internal strategic Departmental and Corporate Management Teams.



Lead Executive
Board Member
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our **detailed delivery plan** against this objective