



Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Continue to improve learner attainment for all

Examination outcomes continue to Improve

Carmarthenshire's performance at GCSE continued to improve with 58.2% of our learners achieving the Level 2 Inclusive indicator (at least 5 number GCSE passes at grade A* to C including mathematics and language). This result places us comfortably above the Wales average of 55.1%.

At a national level, this year's GCSE results have hit the headlines with the impact of issues such as revised examination specifications triggering levels of variance in outcomes across Wales. We have to be cautious when considering any comparisons with the performance trends from previous years' data. Within Carmarthenshire, we continue to emphasise and focus on the progress our learners achieve from their individual starting point and firmly believe that this is the true measure of success and celebration.

Why it is 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](#).

Success Measures



363.1 is the average score (best 9 exam results) for Year 11 pupils



6th highest in Wales
Source: StatsWales



93.9% Attendance at Primary Schools



93.8%

Attendance at Secondary Schools

Both results have declined from previous year (Primary 94.4% & Secondary 94.3%)
Source: StatsWales



84% are satisfied with their child's primary school



(Down on the previous year of 90%)
90% in Wales

Source: National Survey for Wales

Explaining the Results

- The average score based on the **best 9 exam results** for Year 11 pupils during 2018/19 (2017/18 Academic Year) is 363.1 where girls had an average score of 375.2 and boys 352.5. This is an improvement on the previous year and well above the Welsh average of 349.5.
- **School attendance** in both Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire *declined* during 2018/19 (2017/18 Academic Year). Primary school attendance reduced from 94.4% to 93.9% and from 21st to 22nd position and worst in Wales. Secondary school attendance reduced from 94.3% to 93.8% and from 9th position to 11th position. There will be robust consultation with Governors, Headteachers, Educational Welfare Service and related professionals to develop an action plan to improve school attendance moving forward.
- According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#), 84% of participants were satisfied with their child's primary school in Carmarthenshire, this has reduced from the previous year of 90% and below the Welsh average. This could be volatile dependant on the households questioned during the year.

Progress Made

- ⦿ An impressive 72.1% of our Carmarthenshire GCSE entries were graded A* to C, remaining well above the Wales average of 61.6%. In addition, performance at the highest end of awarded grades witnessed an encouraging 18.1% of our pupils achieving grades A* to A compared to 18.5% across Wales.
- ⦿ Further success has also been gained by our pupils within the National Welsh Bacallaureate with 62.9% of pupils achieving this award, compared with 57.6% achieving nationally.
- ⦿ At Key Stage 5, the commitment and dedication shown by our students and their schools resulted in nearly 78% of students achieving A*-C grades (an increase of 1.8% in comparison to results in 2017) which witnessed Carmarthenshire remaining comfortably above the Welsh national average of 73.8%. Almost a quarter of the grades awarded (24.8%) were at the A*- A level. Improved outcomes were also reflected in the AS Level grades with 91.8% of entries being awarded an A - E grade. An increasingly effective range of learning opportunities on offer to our AS students has ensured a 4.6% increase in the A - E pass rate over the last three years.
- ⦿ During the academic year 2017-18, Estyn inspected 16 primary schools and one Pupil Referral Unit. These schools were inspected under the new inspection framework. Most schools inspected received 'Good' or better in all 5 inspection areas. An encouraging number of our schools received judgements of 'Excellent' against specific areas within the Framework and were invited to provide 'Good Practice Case Studies' to support the work of other schools. This is cause for much recognition and celebration and builds well on our previous year's performance. Indeed, our schools and services have continued to work hard through effective partnership to achieve such pleasing and encouraging outcomes.
- ⦿ The Modernising Education Programme continued apace benefitting thousands of our learners with the completion of major projects, valued at over £20 million, at Ysgol St. John Lloyd, Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, Ysgol Pontyberem and the completion of the phase 1 at Ysgol Llangadog.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF YSGOL GYMRAEG PARC Y TYWYN

To commemorate the occasion local bard and national Chair winner Rev. Meirion Evans wrote an *englyn* (a traditional Welsh short poem form)



*This is our garden, this is our old language's oasis
between the barren dunes;
and after sowing from this grows
the green shoots of our scholars.*



Executive Board Member
For Education & Children
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our [detailed progress here](#)
against this objective