



Well-being Objective 3

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

Examination Outcomes Continue to Improve

Carmarthenshire's performance at GCSE continued to improve with 58.5% 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 53.8%.

Revised examination specifications and a National re-emphasis on pupil progress and wellbeing mean that 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 in 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



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



6th highest in Wales
Source: StatsWales



93.9% Attendance at Primary Schools



93.5%

Attendance at Secondary Schools

Primary Schools attendance has remained the same as the previous year while Secondary attendance has declined further (Primary 93.9% & Secondary 93.8%)
Source: StatsWales



95%

are satisfied with their child's primary school



(Up on the previous year of 84%)
89% 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 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) is 367.2 where girls had an average score of 378.5 and boys 356.4. This is an improvement on the previous year and well above the Welsh average of 354.4.
- **School attendance** in Carmarthenshire's Secondary schools has declined further during 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) to 93.5% with Primary school attendance has stayed the same result as last year at 93.9%. 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 2019/20 [National Survey for Wales](#), 95% of participants were satisfied with their child's primary school in Carmarthenshire, this has increased from the previous year of 84% and above the Welsh average. This could be volatile dependant on the households questioned during the year.

Progress Made

- Secondary school pupils in Carmarthenshire are celebrating GCSE pass rates above the national average again this year. Almost 71% of pupils have achieved a grade C or higher, with 21.3% awarded the top A*- A grades - both higher than the averages for Wales. Standards in English Language and English Literature continue to improve across the county, with 63.5% and 80.5 per cent of entries, being awarded a C grade or above. Pupils continue to achieve strong progress in their Welsh language skills with 72 per cent of entries in Welsh Language and 88 per cent of entries in Welsh Literature attaining a C grade or better, an upward trend that bucks the national trend. Pass rates in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths have also continued to improve and surpass the Welsh averages.

- The Welsh Government's National Categorisation of schools in Wales puts schools into one of four colour-coded support categories - green, yellow, amber and red - to demonstrate the level of support they need.

	Green	Yellow	Amber	Red
2019	40 ↑	49 ↓	19 ↓	4 ↑
2018	35	54	21	2

- The Delivery of all Band A and B commitments identified in the Modernising Education Programme have continued, with most projects within the Band A Programme having been completed. Further schemes are being progressed for the remaining projects. The Band B project for Five Roads has commenced and the scheme for Ysgol Pembrey has also been approved by Welsh Government. These commitments mean our children and young people will receive a world class education in safe and stimulating environments.
- Carmarthenshire School Improvement team continues to provide a clear and tight focus on school leadership working within schools and settings to help them achieve their goals, offer guidance and ensure best practices are followed. Work has built effectively on each school's previous support and challenge for leadership provision in an ongoing manner focused on; Support Visits; ensuring accurate and transparent self-evaluation processes in schools; providing leadership opportunities through participation in the ERW leadership development programme; informative and developmental Leadership Seminars and participation for nominated HTs to share strategic roles within our four Strategic Forums.
- The Executive Board supported plans to change the language of education at five local primary schools. Under the proposals, foundation phase classes in September 2020 at Ysgol Y Ddwylan (Newcastle Emlyn), Ysgol Griffith Jones (St Clears), Ysgol Llangynnwr (Carmarthen), and Ysgol Llys Hywel (Whitland) will be taught in Welsh until they reach age seven, when parents can then decide the language they want their children to continue learning. From January 2020, children starting at Llandovery's Ysgol Rhys Pritchard are taught through the medium of Welsh up to the end of year six, aged 11. Our intention is to move these schools along the language continuum, coinciding with our five-year plan and our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. As a county, our aim is to see each pupil at the end of key stage two completely bilingual and confident in using the English and Welsh language.
- We have continued to improve the suitability and ICT resources within schools to ensure that all newly built schools have the latest digital technologies and infrastructures in place to deliver 21st century education.
- We are also working closely with Welsh Government as a lead Authority, steering, influencing and planning for the £5 million Digital Education grant which we will receive for Carmarthenshire Schools over the next 3 - 4 years.
- Officers have been working in partnership with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors in regard to their budget deficits. Recovery actions have been agreed and these will be monitored by officers. COVID-19 and school closure due to the national lockdown impacted on progress however, schools have realised some efficiencies.

Llanelli school's quality recognised by major award



Close to a year after its official opening, Ysgol Pen Rhos, a £10.2 million primary school was highly commended in the school project of the year category at the prestigious Education Buildings Wales Awards.

Officially opened in June 2018, the school features facilities including a flying start nursery, solar panels and classroom terraces for outdoor lessons.

A 3G pitch has also been made available for school and community use, as well as hard and soft landscaping areas. Features

including brickwork and pitched roofs have been incorporated to reflect the industrial heritage of a neighbouring terrace of houses, alongside the use of more contemporary features like metal and wooden cladding. The project also delivered community benefits including training & local employment. Funded by Carmarthenshire County Council's Modernising Education Programme and the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools initiative.

The school was initially developed and then delivered, and project managed by Carmarthenshire County Council's in-house Property Design Team, working with HLM Architects. Ysgol Pen Rhos was constructed by T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd and winning the award for the quality of the school's design and build is worthy recognition for an outstanding team effort that involved the council and its partners, as well as staff and pupils.

The inclusion of environmentally friendly features also means the school will be sustainable for many years to come, with the availability of outdoor learning and landscaped areas sure to inspire pupils now and in future.

This work has led to a facility that provides a world class learning environment, while celebrating Llanelli's rich industrial heritage. Ysgol Pen Rhos is among many completed or planned projects in Carmarthenshire that show how seriously we take our commitment to providing the county's children and communities with top quality facilities that meet the needs of the 21st century.

The way we work

CARMARTHENSHIRE INSIGHT

Young people from Carmarthenshire's Secondary Schools came together with Executive Board Members and the Corporate Management Team to discuss 12 key issues for our County. Each group discussed 2 issues e.g. Welsh language, education, climate, leisure and culture. They discussed and agreed on recommendations for creating more effective and efficient services. The young people were challenged by Executive Board Members and their peers and we had very mature and honest discussions. Everyone made constructive, professional comprehensive contributions – these are the leaders of the future!



Executive Board Member For Education & Children
Cllr Glynog Davies