

ALL WALES CENTRE for GOVERNOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

SCHOOL COUNCILS, PUPIL PARTICIPATION AND SCHOOL GOVERNORS

In this article Jane Harries, Pupil Participation Project Leader in the Welsh Assembly Government, explains what pupil participation is and why it's important for governors in Wales.

Introduction

What is pupil participation, why is it important for my school, and what is the role of Governors in promoting and developing it? This paper will aim to answer these questions, as well as providing an overview of the national and international context, defining the Welsh Assembly Government's approach, and outlining the information and support available to schools. The paper will also raise a number of questions for Governing Bodies to consider.

Context

The basis for pupil participation is embodied in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which sets out the right of children and young people to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account on any matter that affects them. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has formally adopted the UNCRC as a basis for all its work. The statutory requirement for all primary, secondary and special schools in Wales to have a school council can be seen as just one way in which WAG is aiming to fulfil that commitment.

Children and young people's participation in Wales is being taken forward strategically by the Participation Unit, hosted by Save the Children Cymru, together with a multi-agency Participation Consortium and the Participation Project in the Welsh Assembly Government. These bodies are working together to promote and implement National Participation Standards across Wales, and to disseminate information and training at the national and local levels.

Definitions

So what do we mean by pupil participation? In the context of the UNCRC, participation is about children and young people having the choice to be actively consulted and involved in decision-making processes. It is recognised that this is a process rather than an event, and that it involves varying degrees of involvement - from being consulted on a predetermined issue to children and young people choosing their agenda, making their own decisions and working with adults to take these forward. The extent of children and young people's involvement will vary according to context and circumstances.

In 2004 the Participation Project in the Assembly ran a competition to produce a national definition of participation that would be easy to understand for adults and children and young people. The winning 'sound-bite' was: "Participation means



that it is my right to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing an action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice."

Pupil participation in a school context is far wider than the school council. Schools should aim to develop holistic models so that all pupils have the opportunity to be involved in consultation and decision-making processes, and to participate in a variety of ways and at a number of levels. This can include work with the Senior Management Team and Governors to contribute to, implement and review key policies and staff appointments; involvement in teaching and learning; the opportunity to be active on the school council and other representative groups (e.g. Healthy Schools and Eco-schools) and involvement in peer support and education e.g. anti-bullying work, delivery of aspects of PSE, etc.

Benefits of Pupil Participation

Research and case study examples suggest that developing children and young people's participation is beneficial for individuals, organisations and communities. Pupils who participate in decision-making enjoy enhanced self-esteem and motivation, gain important personal, social and organisational skills, and become familiar with group and democratic processes. At the organisational level, pupil involvement in decision-making leads to increased motivation, better relationships, more relevant and effective policies, and better learning. In the best scenarios, pupils and adults work together as partners to ensure that their school provides the best possible learning environment for all. Pupils have an important part to play in helping their school to improve in every aspect

Yn 2004 fe wnaeth y Prosiect Cyfranogiad yn y Cynulliad gynnal amgylchadad. plant a phobl ifanc eu cynnwys yn amrywio yn ôl cyd-destun ac oedolion i ddwyn y rhain yn eu blaenau. Bydd i ba raddau y caff gwneud eu penderfyniadau eu hunain ac yn gweithio gydag llaw i blant a phobl ifanc yn dewis eu hagenda eu hunain, yn o - o gael ceisio'u barn ar fater y penderfyniadau arno o ymledd digwyddiad, a'i bod yn cynnwys gwahanol raddau o gyfranogiad penderfyniadau. Cydnabyddir mai proses ydyw yn hytrach na ac yn dewis cael eu cynnwys mewn prosesau gwneud phobl ifanc yn dewis bod yn destun ymgynghori gweithredol ngyd-destun CCUHP, mae a wneio cyfranogiad a phlant a Felly Beth ydym ni'n ei olygu gan gyfranogiad disgyblion? Yng

Diffiniadau  
lefelau cenedlaethol a lleol.  
ar draws Cymru, ac i ledannu gwyrddodau a hyfforddiant ar y Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae'r cyff hyn yn cydwethio Cyfranogiad amfasiantaethol a'r Prosiect Cyfranogiad yn ddatblygu'n strategol gan yr Uned Cyfranogiad, sy'n gweithio Mae cyfranogiad plant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru'n cael ei uwchradd ac arbenig yng Nghymru gael cynngor ysgol. hwnnw yw trwy'r gofyniad statudol i bob ysgol gyrradd, waith. Un o'r ffyrdd y mae LIC yn ceisio cyflawni'r ymrymiad wedi mabwysiadu'r CCUHP yn ffurfiol fel sail ar gyfer ei holl sy'n effeithio amyn. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru (LIC) fyngi barn ac i'r farn ohono gael ei hystyried yn unrhyw fater Plentyn (CCUHP), sy'n amlinellu hawl plant a phobl ifanc i Ertlygi 12 Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Mae'r sail ar gyfer cyfranogiad disgyblion wedi'i gynnwys yn codi nifer o gwestiynau i Gyfrif Llywodraethu eu hystyried hefyd.

Cyd-destun  
wybodaeth a'r cymorth sydd ar gael i ysgolion. Bydd y papur yn diffinio dull gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru a nodi'r gofngylchedd i'r cyd-destun cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol. Nod y papur hwn fydd ateb y cwestiynau hyn, yn ogystal a rhoi a Beth yw cyfranogiad disgyblion, pam ei fod yn bwysig i f'ysgol i, Cyflwyniad

Cyflwyniad  
Beth yw cyfranogiad disgyblion, pam ei fod yn bwysig i f'ysgol i, Nod y papur hwn fydd ateb y cwestiynau hyn, yn ogystal a rhoi gofngylchedd i'r cyd-destun cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol. diffinio dull gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru a nodi'r wybodaeth a'r cymorth sydd ar gael i ysgolion. Bydd y papur yn codi nifer o gwestiynau i Gyfrif Llywodraethu eu hystyried hefyd.

Yn yr ertlygi hon mae Jane Harries, Arweinydd y Prosiect Cyfranogiad Disgyblion a pham ei fod yn bwysig i lywodraethu yng Nghymru.

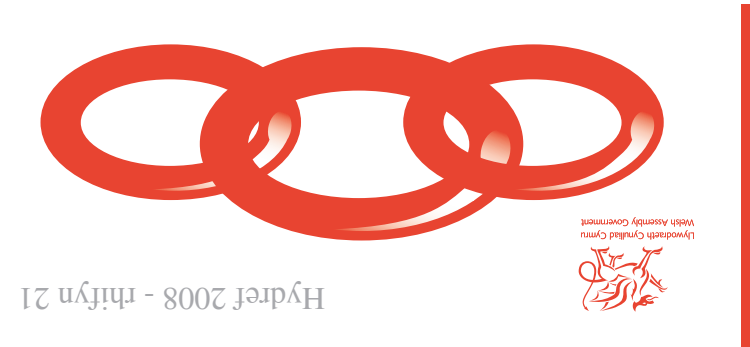
Mae ymchwil ac estiamplau o astudiaethau achos yn awgrymu fod datblygu cyfranogiad plant a phobl ifanc i unigolion, sefydiadau a chymunedau. Mae plant sy'n cymryd rhan mewn gwneud penderfyniadau'n elwa o ran bod eu hunan-barch a'u cynhelliant yn well, eu bod yn ennill sgiliau personol, cymdeithasol a threfniadol pwysig, ac yn dod yn gyfarwydd â phrosesuau gwrp a rhai democrataidd. Ar lefel trefniadol, mae cynnwys disgyblion mewn gwneud penderfyniadau'n arwain at fwy o gymhelliant, gwell perthnasau, polisiau mwy perthnasol ac effeithiol a gwell dysgu. Yn y senarios gorau, mae disgyblion eu hysgol yn darparu'r amgylchedd dysgu gorau posibl i bawb. Mae gan ddisgyblion uon ról bwysig mewn helpu eu hysgolion i wella pob agwedd ar fywyd ysgol. Yng nghyd-destun Cymru, ystyri'r cynhwysiant disgyblion fel elfen allweddol mewn datblygu a gweithredu'r Framwaith Effeithiolrwydd Ysgol.

Manteision Cyfranogiad Disgyblion  
Mae ymchwil ac estiamplau o astudiaethau achos yn awgrymu fod datblygu cyfranogiad plant a phobl ifanc i unigolion, sefydiadau a chymunedau. Mae plant sy'n cymryd rhan mewn gwneud penderfyniadau'n elwa o ran bod eu hunan-barch a'u cynhelliant yn well, eu bod yn ennill sgiliau personol, cymdeithasol a threfniadol pwysig, ac yn dod yn gyfarwydd â phrosesuau gwrp a rhai democrataidd. Ar lefel trefniadol, mae cynnwys disgyblion mewn gwneud penderfyniadau'n arwain at fwy o gymhelliant, gwell perthnasau, polisiau mwy perthnasol ac effeithiol a gwell dysgu. Yn y senarios gorau, mae disgyblion eu hysgol yn darparu'r amgylchedd dysgu gorau posibl i bawb. Mae gan ddisgyblion uon ról bwysig mewn helpu eu hysgolion i wella pob agwedd ar fywyd ysgol. Yng nghyd-destun Cymru, ystyri'r cynhwysiant disgyblion fel elfen allweddol mewn datblygu a gweithredu'r Framwaith Effeithiolrwydd Ysgol.



CYNGHORAU YSGOL, CYFRANOGIAD DISGYBLION A LLYWODRAETHWYR YSGOLION

CANOLFAN CYMRU AR GYFER HYFFORDDI LLYWODRAETHWYR AC YMCHWIL





of school life. In the Welsh context, pupil engagement is being seen as a key element in the development and implementation of the School Effectiveness Framework.

### Information and Support available to Schools

The Pupil Participation Project in the Welsh Assembly Government aims to support schools and local authorities by providing information, advice and materials. This has been done in various ways, including:

- Setting up a designated, bilingual **School Councils Wales web-site** ([www.schoolcouncilswales.org.uk](http://www.schoolcouncilswales.org.uk)) containing information, advice and training materials;
- Piloting and developing **training materials for pupils and staff**, which are downloadable from the web-site;
- Running Train the Trainers courses with key staff in local authorities across Wales;
- Organising a **School Councils Competition** to raise awareness of the Project and ensure that more examples of good practice are available from the web-site; and
- Producing a **School Councils DVD and pupils' training pack**, illustrating how pupils can be actively involved in consultation and decision-making processes in their schools.

Future work will include work with Governors to roll out information and training, in particular around the active involvement of pupils in the work of the governing body and the role of Associate Pupil Governors (two pupils from Years 11 – 13 who may be nominated to represent the school council on the Governing Body).

### Governors' Role

For pupils to be effectively involved in decisions that affect them, good channels of communication need to be in place between the school council, pupils more broadly, and the Governing Body. This enables Governors to make practical and policy

decisions which are informed by the needs of the school's most important stakeholders and the beneficiaries of education – the pupils themselves.

How effectively is your school taking forward pupil participation? Some questions are listed below for governors to consider:

- Do the members of your Governing body understand what is meant by "pupil participation"? What could you do to raise awareness and improve understanding?
- Do you have a designated Governor who is responsible for the school council / pupil participation?
- Does your school have a whole-school Pupil Participation policy, reflecting a wide range of opportunities for pupils to get involved at different levels?
- Is your school council effective? (e.g. If you stopped any pupil in the corridor, could they tell you three things that your school council has achieved? Is it representative?)
- What kind of decisions is your school council involved in? Are they peripheral or central to the schools' concerns? (e.g. School Development Plan? Teaching and learning?)
- What resources are allocated to the school council in terms of time, staffing and budget?
- Does the school council have a regular slot on the agenda of governors' meetings? Do pupils visit governors meetings to communicate needs and concerns, and vice-versa?
- If you are a governor in a Secondary School, has your school council nominated Associate Pupil Governors (APGs)? How have you adapted the timings, content, language and format of meetings to accommodate APGs' needs?

#### Jane Harries

Pupil Participation Project Leader,  
Welsh Assembly Government

committees on which I serve carry out important functions, but I suppose most people would say the most important ones are the Finance and School Improvement Committees as they deal with what the school is all about, improvement, and how we can pay for that, finance. In the Secondary school I serve on the School Self-Evaluation Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee, again, two committees that deal with fundamental school issues.

**S.G.** Obviously, there are a lot of things in common with the two roles, but what would you say are the biggest differences?

**A.H.** The immediate difference is the size of the organisations involved. It is easier to get to know for example,

## CONVERSATIONS

**Many governors in Wales sit on both Primary and Secondary school Governing Bodies. In this term's issue of "Cadwyn", editor, Steve Gullick interviews Alison Huckle, who is a governor of both a Primary school and Secondary school in Newport.**

**S.G.** First of all, Alison, how long have you been a Primary school governor and how long a Secondary governor and which came first?

**A.H.** I've been a Primary school governor at the same school for just over 8 years. I began as a parent governor when my children started there but I am now a community governor. I've been a Secondary school governor for just over 1 year and I am a parent governor at that school.

**S.G.** Do you serve on any committees and, if so, which?

**A.H.** I am the Chair at the Primary school and therefore serve on a number of committees. All the governing body

disgrybion? Mae'n rhai cwestiynau wedi eu rhestru isod i

● A yw aelodau eich Corff Corff Llywodraethu chi yn deall ystyri "cyfranogiad disgrgybion"? Beth all eich chi ei wneud i godi ymwybyddiaeth a gwella deallwriaeth?

● A oes gennych chi Llywodraethu'r dynodedig sy'n gyfrifol am y cynngor ysgol / cyfranogiad disgrgybion?

● A oes gan eich ysgol chi bolisi Cyfranogiad Disgrgybion ysgol gyfan, sy'n adlewyrchu amrywiaeth eang o gyfleoedd i ddisgrgybion ymwneud ar wahanol lefelau?

● A yw eich cynngor ysgol yn effeithiol? (e.e. Fe baech yn siopio unrhyw ddisgrgybion yn y coridor, a fyddai'n gallu enwi tri pheth y mae'r cynngor ysgol wedi'u cyflawni? A yw'n gynrychioliadol?)

● Pa fath o benderfyniadau y mae eich cynngor ysgol yn ymwneud â hwy? Ydy'n nhw'n ymyl neu'n ganolog i bryderon yr ysgol? (e.e. Cynllun Datblygu Ysgol? Addysgu a dysgu?)

● Pa adnoddau sy'n cael eu dyrannu i'r ysgol o safbwynt amser, staff a chyllideb?

● A oes gan y cynngor ysgol siot rheolaidd ar agenda cyfarfoddd llywodraethu'r? A yw disgrgybion yn mynychu ac i'r gwrthwyneb?

● Os ydych yn llywodraethu'r mewn Ysgol Uwchradd, a yw eich cynngor ysgol wedi enwebu Disgrgybion-Llywodraethu'r Cyswilt? A ydych chi wedi addasu amseroedd, cynnwys, iatth a fformat cyfarfoddd ar gyfer anghenion Disgrgybion-Llywodraethu'r Cyswilt?

#### Jane Harries

Arweinydd Prosiect Cyfranogiad Disgrgybion,  
Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru

## Gwybodaeth a Chymorth ar gael i Ysgolion

Mae'r Prosiect Cyfranogiad Disgrgybion yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ceisio cynorthwyo ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol trwy ddarparu gwybodaeth, cynngor a deunyddiau. Gwnaed hyn mewn sawl ffordd, gan gynnwys:

● Setyldu gwefan Cynghorau Ysgol Cymru ([www.schoolcouncilswales.org.uk](http://www.schoolcouncilswales.org.uk)) ddynodedig, ddwyieithog yn cynnwys gwybodaeth, cynngor a deunyddiau hyfforddi;

● Treialu a datblygu **deunyddiau hyfforddi ar gyfer disgrgybion a staff**, y gellir eu lawrwytho o'r wefan;

● Cynnal **cyrsiau hyfforddi'r Hyfforddwr** gyda staff allweddol mewn awdurdodau lleol ar draws Cymru;

● Trethu **Cystadieuath Cynghorau** Ysgol i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r Prosiect a sicrhau fod mwy o enghreifftiau o arfer da ar gael o'r wefan; a

● Chynhyrchu **DVD Cynghorau Ysgol a phechnu hyfforddi disgrgybion**, yn dangos sut y gall disgrgybion gymryd rhan ymgyhoeddus i phrosesu gwybodaeth.

● Bidd y gwaith a wneir yn y dyfodol yn cynnwys gwaith gyda Llywodraethu'r i gyflwyno gwybodaeth a hyfforddiant fesul cam, yn arbennig mewn cysylltiad â chynnwys disgrgybion yn ymferol yn y corff llywodraethu a rôl Disgrgybion-Llywodraethu'r Cyswilt (dau ddisgrgybion o Flyneddodded 11 – 13 all gael eu henwebu i gynrychioli cynngor yr ysgol ar y corff llywodraethu).

## Rôl y Llywodraethu'r

Er mwyn i ddisgrgybion gael eu cynnwys yn effeithiol mewn penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arnynt, mae angen cael sianell cyfathrebu cadarn ar waith rhwng cynngor yr ysgol, disgrgybion yn fwy cyffredinol, a'r Corff Llywodraethu. Mae hyn yn galluogi'r Llywodraethu'r i wneud penderfyniadau ymferol a pholisi sydd wedi eu hysbysu gan anghenion rannelliaid pwysigat yr ysgol a'r rhai sy'n elwa o addysg - y disgrgybion eu hunain. Pa mor effeithiol y mae eich ysgol chi yn datblygu cyfranogiad?

## SGYRSIAU

**Mae llawer o llywodraethu'r yng Nghymru yn eistedd ar gyffwrdd llywodraethu ysgolion Cymru ac Uwchradd. Yn rhyng y tymor hwn o "Cadwyn", mae'r golygydd, Steve Gullick yn holi Alison Huckle, sydd yn llywodraethu'r ysgol Gynradd ac ysgol Uwchradd yng Nghasnewydd.**

**S.G.** Yn gyntaf oll, Alison, ers pryd rydych wedi bod yn llywodraethu'r ysgol Gynradd ac yn llywodraethu'r ysgol Uwchradd, a pha un ddaeth yn gyntaf?

**A.H.** Rwyf wedi bod yn llywodraethu'r ysgol Gynradd yn yr un ysgol am ychydig dros 8 mlynedd. Dechreuais fel rhanant llywodraethu'r pan ddechreuodd fy mhiant yno ond yn awr rwyf yn llywodraethu'r gymanweddol. Rwyf wedi bod yn llywodraethu'r ysgol Uwchradd am ychydig dros 1 flwyddyn ac rwyf yn rhanant llywodraethu'r yn yr ysgol honno.

**S.G.** A ydych chi'n gwasanaethu ar unrhyw dwylligoraau ac, os felly, pa rai?

**A.H.** Yn amlyg, mae llawer o bethau yn gyffwrddin rhwng y ddwy rôl, ond beth fydddech yn dweud yw'r gwahaniaethau mwyaf?







## FROM THE CENTRE MANAGER



After a very welcome Summer break, things appear to be moving faster than ever at the Centre this term. First of all, there's been a very interesting development on the training front. I ran a course with Neath Port Talbot in October for Head teachers on working with governors. I've spoken on this particular topic on one or two occasions in the past and I think people are beginning to realise

more and more how right educational experts have been in claiming that in order for a governing body to be really effective the Head teacher needs to encourage and help develop governors in their role.

I mentioned in an earlier edition of "Cadwyn" that I sometimes speak with black and ethnic minority organisations to encourage members of those communities to become school governors. Over the Autumn I've visited groups in Wrexham, Powys, Carmarthen, Cardiff and Newport. The welcome I received was tremendous and it really brought home to me how rich and diverse a culture we have in Wales.

In the Summer edition of "Cadwyn" I reported that I had taken a training session at Neath Port Talbot entitled "The problems of being a governor". It seems to have struck a chord with people as I ran a similar course for governors in Merthyr Tydfil in November. I was at pains to point out at both sessions, though, that the enjoyment of being a governor far outweighs the problems!

At the Centre we've just completed a very large piece of research for the Welsh Assembly Government on the training provided by local authorities for governors throughout Wales. As you can imagine, this has taken some time but it has proved both enjoyable and fascinating. I'm sure the Assembly will be equally interested in the many and varied ways local authorities approach governor training.

As a former Head teacher, I can say from experience that running a school, although very tiring, is really satisfying work.

As with all jobs, though, there are times when things go wrong and you and your governing body have to deal with particular concerns. The Welsh Assembly Government is very aware of this and will soon be producing guidelines on how to deal with complaints. At the same time to further help governors, they've commissioned the Centre to provide a national training programme for governing bodies on handling complaints. We've just started working on this and aim to finish some time in the Spring.

What does good training look like? That's a question I had to consider for the annual conference of local authority Governor Support Officers which took place at Wrexham in early November. I presented to them, and the officials from the Welsh Assembly who were there, what I thought an ideal training session would look like, how it would be evaluated and, most importantly, how to measure its impact on the work of the governors who attended the training session – quite a tall order I think you'd agree, and I wonder what your idea of a really good training session might be. And, by the way, if you have any ideas on evaluating the impact of training on the work of a governing body both I and every Governor Support Officer in Wales would be really glad to hear them.

Finally, I'm sure you'll have noticed our "Conversations" feature is shorter than usual, and I have to say I'm quite heartened by this. I think perhaps too often we talk about huge differences between being a governor in the Primary and Secondary sectors. There are, of course, differences in size of pupil numbers, staff numbers, buildings and budgets but the basic role of governors in both sectors is the same – doing your very best for the children at your school: hence the short interview.

**Steve Gullick**

### All Wales Centre for Governor Training and Research

Swansea School of Education, Swansea Metropolitan University  
Townhill Road, SWANSEA SA2 0UT

Tel: 01792 482065 (Steve Gullick)  
Email: [steve.gullick@smu.ac.uk](mailto:steve.gullick@smu.ac.uk)  
[www.sihe.ac.uk/schoolgovernor](http://www.sihe.ac.uk/schoolgovernor)

## Canolfan Cymru Ar Gyfer Hyfforddi Llywodraethwyr Ac Ymchwil

Ysgol Addysg Abertawe, Prifysgol Fetroplitan Abertawe  
Ffordd Townhill, ABERTAWE SA2 0UT

Ffôn: 01792 482065 (Steve Gullick)  
E-bost: [steve.gullick@smu.ac.uk](mailto:steve.gullick@smu.ac.uk)  
[www.sihe.ac.uk/schoolgovernor](http://www.sihe.ac.uk/schoolgovernor)

Fel cyn Bennaeth ysgol, gallaf ddweud o broffad fod rhedeg ysgol, er yn waitth blinedig iawn, yn foddhaol dros ben ar yr un

llywodraethwyr. amrywiol y mae'r awdurdodau lleol yn ymddiriedolaethu ac yn Cynulliad llawn cymaint o ddiddordeb yn y ffyrdd niferus ac hefyd yn waitth ddyfyr a hynod dddiddorol. Rwy'n siwr y bydd gan Fel y gallwch ddyrchymgu, bu hwn yn waitth hifaf, ond bu ddarper gan awdurdodau lleol i llywodraethwyr ledled Cymru. Yn y Canolfan, rydym newydd gwblhau darn mawr iawn o waitth

o fod yn llywodraethwyr yn llawer mwy na'r problemau! drafferth, serch hynny, i nodi yn y ddyw sesion, fod y mwynhad llywodraethwyr ym Merthyr Tudful ym mis Tachwedd. Fe es i wedi taro tant gyda phob, gan i mi reddeg cwrs tebyg ar gyfer "Amastrau bod yn llywodraethwyr". Mae'n debyg bod hyn sesion hyfforddi yng Nghastell Nedd Port Talbot a elwid, Yn rhifyn yr haf o "Cadwyn" adroddais fy mod wedi rhedeg

diwylliant sydd genym yma yng Nghymru. Powys, Caerfyrddin, Caerdydd a Chasnewydd. Cetais greso ysgol. Dros yr hydref rwyf wedi ymweld â grwpiau yn Wrecsam, aroog aelodau o'r cymunedau hynny i ddod yn llywodraethwyr. Soniais mewn rhifyn cynharach o "Cadwyn" fy mod weithiau'n

mynd i fod yn wirioneddol effeithiol. llywodraethwyr i ddatblygu yn eu rôl os yw coffi llywodraethol yn ddwyedon nhw bod angen i'r Pennaeth ysgol aroog a helpu mwy a mwy bod yr arbenigwyr addysgol yn llygaid eu lle pan y goffennol, ac rwy'n credu bod y dechrau syllweddol i

lywodraethwyr. Rwyf wedi siarad ar Hydref ynghylch gweithio gyda Nghastell Nedd Port Talbot ym mis o ran hyfforddiant. Rhedais gwrs catwyd datblygiad diddorol iawn Canolfan y tymor hwn. Yn gyntaf, yn gyflymach nag erioed yn y dros yr haf, mae pethau'n symud



**Steve Gullick**

Yn y Canolfan, rydym newydd gwblhau darn mawr iawn o waitth llywodraethwyr yn y ddau sector - set gwneud eich gorau glas a maint adeiladadau a chylliddebau, ond yr un yw rôl syffwrdd gwrs bod gwahaniaethau yn niferedd y dysgyblion a'r staff, yn llywodraethwyr yn y sector Cynrad ac Uwchradd. Wrth hyn wedi codi fy nghalon. Rwy'n meddwl efallai ein bod "Sgyrsiau" yn fyrrach nag arfer, ac mae'n rhaid dweud bod i glori, rwy'n siwr y byddwch wedi sylwi bod ein herthygi

o'u clywed. Swyddog Cefnogi Llywodraethwyr yng Nghymru yn falch iawn i hyfforddiant ar waitth coffi llywodraethol, byddwn innau a phob os oes genych unrhyw syniadau ynghylch gwerthuso effaith beth yw eich syniad chi o sesion hyfforddi wch. A gyda llaw, anodd, rwy'n siwr bydddech yn cytuno a hynny, a hoffwn wbod heffaith ar waitth y llywodraethwyr a oedd yn bresennol - tasg go fyddai'n cael ei gwerthuso, ac yn bwysicaf o'i, sut i fesur ei dybwin oedd yn sesion hyfforddi ddeffrydol, gan ddangos sut ac i swyddogion Cynulliad Cymru a oedd yn bresennol, yr hyn Wrecsam yn nechrau mis Tachwedd. Cyflwynais iddyn nhw, Cefnogi Llywodraethwyr awdurdod lleol a gynhaliwyd yn

trai i mi ei ysstyried ar gyfer cynhadledd flynyddol Swyddogion Sut olwg sydd ar hyfforddiant da? Dyma'r cwestiwn y bu'n hon a'r nod yw ei gorffen rhywbryd yn y gwanwyn. ynghylch trafod cwyntion. Rydym newydd ddechrau gweithio ar ddarparu rhaglen hyfforddi genedlaethol i gyffwrdd llywodraethol gyfwrth i llywodraethwyr, maent wedi comisiynu'r Canolfan i ar sut i ddelio â chwyntion. Ar yr un pryd, er mwyn rhoi mwy o yn ymwybodol iawn o hyn a chyn hir bydd yn llunio canllawiau ddelio â materion arbenig. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o bryd i'w gilydd ac mae'n rhaid i chi a'ch coffi llywodraethol pyd. Ond fel gyda phob swydd, mae pethau'n mynd o'u lle



[contact@governorswales.org.uk](mailto:contact@governorswales.org.uk)

E-mail:

Fax: 029 20487843

Phone: 029 2048 7858

CF10 5FN  
Cardiff Bay

Mount Stuart Square,  
Empire House, 1st Floor

**0845 60 20 100**

**HELPLINE**

[www.governorswales.org.uk](http://www.governorswales.org.uk)

**GOVERNORS WALES**

**SCHOOL COUNCILS**

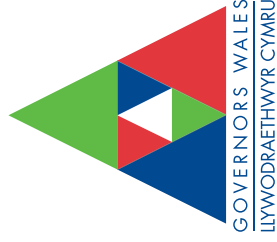
**GOVERNORS AND**

**ASSOCIATE PUPIL**

**PARTICIPATION,**

**PUPIL**

**FACT FILE 02/08**



GOVERNORS WALES  
Llywodraethwyr Cymru

**FFEIL FFEITHIAU  
02/08**

**CYFRANOGIAD  
DISGYBLION, DISGYBL  
LYWODRAETHWYR  
CYSWILT A  
CYNGHORAU  
YSGOL**

**LLYWODRAETHWYR  
CYMRU**

**LINELL GYMORTH:  
0845 60 20 100**

**Ty Empire, Llawr Cyntaf  
Sgwâr Mount Stuart  
Caerdydd  
CF10 5FN**

**Ffôn: 029 2048 7858  
Ffacs: 029 20487843**

**E-bost:  
[contact@governorswales.org.uk](mailto:contact@governorswales.org.uk)**

school council members;

◆ associate pupil governors may hold office for one year after which they may be re-appointed if they are still governing body meetings;

◆ associate pupil governors may not vote at full governing body meetings;

◆ associate pupil governors are not permitted to be a clerk to the governing body or a governing body committee;

◆ associate pupil governors are not permitted to be members of the governing body or governing body committee meetings;

◆ associate pupil governors are in addition to other members of the governing body;

### **A number of restrictions apply to associate pupil governors:**

◆ links with the local community and local projects.

◆ and learning; and

◆ review of the curriculum and how to improve teaching

◆ input to any post-inspection plan;

◆ improvement plan;

◆ formulation and review of the school Development/

◆ the development and provision of school facilities;

◆ the development of whole school initiatives and change such as programmes for global citizenship, healthy schools and eco-schools;

◆ the development of policies that affect pupils such as school uniform, anti-bullying policies, sex education, pupil-teacher relations, behaviour and attendance;

◆ the formulation and review of policies that affect pupils such as school uniform, anti-bullying policies, sex education, pupil-teacher relations, behaviour and attendance;

Associate pupil governors are well placed to contribute to governing body consideration of matters such as:

### **Benefits of Associate Pupil Governors**

reply in writing.

◆ council is in writing the governing body is also expected to provide a response. If the matter raised by the school

◆ consider any matter raised by the school council and pupils and the governing body.

body to the school council. They are the link between

### **Cyfranogiad Disgyblion yng Nghymru**

Mae Erthygl 12 o Gynhadledd y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn (UNCRC) yn nodi hawli plant a phob ifanc i fynegi barn a chael y farn honno wedi'i chymryd i ystyriaeth ar unrhyw fater sydd yn effeithio arnynt.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwngro i alluogi plant a phob ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn prosesau gwneud penderfyniadau ar lefelau lleol, rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol yng Nghymru. Darperir cyfleoedd trwy gyfrwng cynghorau ysgol a'r prosesau ehangach i wneud penderfyniadau mewn ysgolion, fforymau leuenctd, a Funky Dragon (Cynulliad Plant a Phob Ifanc Cymru).

### **Cynghorau Ysgol**

Mae'n ofynnol i bob ysgol yng Nghymru gael cyngor ysgol fel bod llais disgyblion (Rheoliadau Cyngor Ysgol (Cymru) 2005), yn cael ei gynrychioli yn natblygiad a cyhathrediad polisiâu a gweithdrefnau ysgol. Mae cynghorau ysgol yn rhoi cyfle i ddisgyblion dratod materion sydd yn berthynol i'w hysgol ac i wneud cynrychioliadau i'r corff llywodraethu ac i'r pennaeith. Mae ymchwil wedi dangos bod cynnwys plant a phob ifanc mewn gwneud penderfyniadau o fudd i unigolion, cyffwrdd a'r gymuned ehangach. Mae Estyn yn gynryddol yn gwrandao ar ddysgwyr, ac mae cyfranogiad disgyblion yn llinyn pwysig sydd yn rhedeg trwy Fframwaith Effeithlonwydd Ysgol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

### **Disgybl Llywodraethwyr Cyswilt a Chysylltiadau'r Cyngor Ysgol gyda'r Corff Llywodraethu**

Rhaid rhoi cyfle i'r cyngor ysgol enwebu un neu ddau o'i aelodau o flynyddoedd 11 – 13 i fod yn ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt. Oni bai bod rhesymau i'w datgynhywso o dan Atodlen 5 o Reolïadau Llywodraeth Ysgolion a Gynhelir (Cymru) 2005, rhaid i'r corff llywodraethu dderbyn yr enwebiad a phenodi disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt. Diben disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yw mynegi llais cyngor yr ysgol mewn cyfarfodydd y corff llywodraethu ac yn eu tro cyfleu materion o'r corff llywodraethu i'r cyngor ysgol. Nhw ydy'r cyswilt rhwng disgyblion a'r corff llywodraethu. Rhaid i gorrff llywodraethu

and in turn to communicate matters from the governing

voice of the school council at governing body meetings

The purpose of associate pupil governors is to provide the

associate pupil governors.

governing body must accept the nomination and appoint

of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005, the

to disqualify them under Schedule 5 of The Government

be associate pupil governors. Unless there are reasons

nominate one or two of its members, from years 11-13, to

### **Associate Pupil Governors and School Council Links with the Governing Body**

Framework.

the Welsh Assembly Government's School Effectiveness

pupil participation is an important thread running through

is increasingly concerned with listening to learners, and

and young people in decision-making has benefits for

teacher. Research has shown that involving children

representations to the governing body and the head

discuss matters relating to their school, and to make

School councils provide pupils with the opportunity to

and implementation of school policies and procedures.

the voice of the pupil is represented in the development

(The School Council (Wales) Regulations 2005), so that

All schools in Wales are required to have a school council

### **School Councils**

Assembly for Wales).

Assembley for Wales).

and Funky Dragon (the Children and Young People's

wider decision-making processes in schools, youth forums,

Opportunities are provided through school councils and

in Wales.

part in decisionmaking at local, regional and national levels

enabling all children and young people, to be able to take

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) is committed to

opinion taken into account on any matter that affects them.

that people have expressed an opinion and to enable young

of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the rights of children and

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights

### **Pupil Participation in Wales.**

ymateb. Os yw'r mater a godir gan yr ysgol a darparu ysgriften mae disgwyl i'r corff llywodraethu ymateb hefyd mewn ysgriften.

### **Manteision Disgybl Llywodraethwyr Cyswilt**

- ◆ Mae disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt mewn sefyllfa dda i gyfrannu at ystyriaeth corff llywodraethu o faterion fel:
- ◆ Ffurto ac adolygu polisiâu sydd yn effeithio ar ddisgyblion fel gwisg ysgol, polisiâu gwrth fwlio, addysg rhyw, cysylltiadau disgyblion athrawon, ymddygiad a phresenoldeb;
- ◆ Datblygiad mentrau ysgol gyfan a newid fel rhaglenni ar gyfer dinasyddiaeth byd-eang, ysgolion iach ac eco-ysgolion;
- ◆ Datblygiad a darpariaeth cyfleusterau ysgol;
- ◆ Ffurto ac adolygu cynllun datblygu/gwelliant ysgol;
- ◆ Cyfraniad i unrhyw gynllun di arwng;
- ◆ Adolygu'r cwricwlwm a sut i wella addysgu a dysgu; a
- ◆ Cysylltiadau gyda'r gymuned leol a phrosiectau lleol.

### **Nifer o gyfyngiadau sydd yn berthynol i ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt:**

- ◆ Mae disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn ychwanegol at aelodau eraill y corff llywodraethu;
- ◆ Nid yw disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn cyfrif tuag at gwornm corff llywodraethu neu dwyllgor corff llywodraethu;
- ◆ Ni chaff disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt fod yn glenc i'r corff llywodraethu nac i dwyllgor corff llywodraethu;
- ◆ Ni all disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt bledieisio mewn cyfarfodydd llawn o'r corff llywodraethu;
- ◆ Gall disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt ddal swydd am fwyddyn ac wedi hynny gallant gael eu hail benodi os ydynt yn parhau i fod yn aelodau o'r cyngor ysgol;
- ◆ Gall y corff llywodraethu gael gwared o ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn yr un modd ag y gellircael gwared o riant llywodraethwyr a llywodraethwyr partneriaeth o'r corff llywodraethu.

## Aelodaeth Pwyllgorau

Gall disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt fod yn aelodau o bwyllgorau corff llywodraethu anstatudol a gallant bleidleisio yn y pwyllgorau hynny os yw'r corff llywodraethu yn rhoi hawliau pleidleisio iddynt. Ni all disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt fod yn aelodau o bwyllgorau statudol canlynol y corff llywodraethu:

- ◆ Pwyllgor disgyblu/diswyddo staff
- ◆ Pwyllgor apel disgyblu/diswyddo staff
- ◆ Pwyllgor disgyblu a gwaharddiadau disgyblion
- ◆ Pwyllgor derbynadau

## Materion Sensitif a Chyfrinachol

Efallai nad yw'n brodol i ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt wybod am, na bod yn than o drafodaeth am thai materion sensitif. Ac felly gall y corff llywodraethu eithrio disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt o unrhyw drafodaeth sydd yn ymwneud â:

- ◆ Materion staffio fel cyflog, disgyblaeth, rheolaeth perfformiad, cwynion a diswyddiadau;
- ◆ derbyniadau;
- ◆ disgyblu disgyblion unigol;
- ◆ ethol, penodi a chael gwared o llywodraethwyr; cyllid ac ymwybriadau ariannol y corff
- ◆ llywodraethu; a
- ◆ mewn ysgol a gynorthwyr yn wirfoddol, Gweithred Ymddiriedolaeth.

Mae gan y corff llywodraethu'r dewis hefyd i eithrio unrhyw ddisgybl llywodraethwr cyswilt o unrhyw drafodaeth sydd, oherwydd ei natur, yn cael ei ystyried yn gyfrinachol, ac yn fater a ddylai aros yn gyfrinachol.

N.B.: This Fact file should be read in conjunction with the legislation and guidance listed above and information produced by your LEA and diocesan authority where appropriate.

- ◆ The School Councils (Wales) Regulations 2005 (National Assembly for Wales Statutory Instrument 2005 No 3200 (W. 326)
- ◆ NAFW Circular 42/2006 -Guidance for Governing Bodies on the Establishment and Operation of School Councils, available on: [www.new.wales.gov.uk](http://www.new.wales.gov.uk).

Further information can be found on the School Councils website -

[www.schoolcouncilswales.org.uk](http://www.schoolcouncilswales.org.uk) and also in the following documents:

- ◆ The School Councils (Wales) Regulations 2005 (National Assembly for Wales Statutory Instrument 2005 No 3200 (W. 326)
- ◆ NAFW Circular 42/2006 -Guidance for Governing Bodies on the Establishment and Operation of School Councils, available on: [www.new.wales.gov.uk](http://www.new.wales.gov.uk).

## Further Information

Further information can be found on the School Councils website -

Governing bodies need also to ensure that meetings are managed efficiently and that associate pupil governors have adequate opportunity to participate effectively. In view of the fact that associate pupil governors may be excluded from participating in some areas of business, it is recommended that agendas are arranged so that items are grouped. Sensitive business could be considered in the initial or later part of a meeting with associate pupil governor attending accordingly. A report from the associate pupil governors could be a set item on the agenda, thus raising their status.

The governing body should make allowance in the school budget for any costs that result from such arrangements. The level of language and jargon used in meetings can be another barrier to participation. It is important that associate pupil governors receive any papers in advance of meetings and in an accessible form. The appointment of a link governor should be considered to support associate pupil governors, and to act as an active link between the governing body and the school council.

Nid yw'r pŵer dewisol hwn wedi'i fwrriadu i roi esgus i'r corff llywodraethu eithrio disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt o drafodaethau heb reswm da. Dylai fod tybiaeth bod disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn cynnyd rhan mewn canran sylweddol o fusnes y corff llywodraethu. Mae'n bwysig bod disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn deall cwmmpas a chyfyngiadau eu rôl cyn ei dderbyn.

## Cydweithio

Yn ychwanegol at ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt, anogir cyrff llywodraethu i gyfluno gyda'r cyngor ysgol ar ddulliau o gydweithio. Mae'r rhain yn debygol o gynnwys:

- ◆ Y cyngor ysgol yn gwahodd llywodraethwyr i fynychu cyfarfodydd y cyngor ac/neu gofyn am gyfarfodydd gyda chynnychiolwyr y corff llywodraethu yn rheolaidd i ystyried materion penodol;
- ◆ aelodau o'r cyngor ysgol ar wahân i ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn mynychu cyfarfodydd y corff llywodraethu fel arsylwyr;
- ◆ y corff llywodraethu yn adrodd ar y cyngor ysgol a'i weithganwch a'i gyflawniadau yn ei adroddiad blynyddol i rieni;
- ◆ cofnodion cyfarfodydd y cyngor ysgol yn cael eu cynnwys ar agenda'r corff llywodraethu a'r corff llywodraethu'n ymateb yn ffurfiol i'r materion a godir gan y cyngor ysgol.

## Cefnogaeth i Ddisgybl Llywodraethwyr Cyswilt

Dylai fod rhywfaint o ystyriaeth i natur ac amseru cyfarfodydd cyrff llywodraethu fel eu bod yn hygyr i ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt. Cynhelir nifer o gyfarfodydd corff llywodraethu ar ôl oriau ysgol ac mae angen i'r ysgol sicrhau bod disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn gallu teithio adref yn ddiogel.

Governors are able to travel home safely.

Governing body meetings are held after school hours and the school needs to ensure that associate pupil governors are able to travel home safely.

## Support for Associate Pupil Governors

There should be some consideration of the nature and timings of governors meetings so that they are accessible to associate pupil governors. Many governing body meetings are held after school hours and the school needs to ensure that associate pupil governors are able to travel home safely.

- ◆ the minutes of the school council meetings are included on the governing body agenda and the governing body formally responds to the issues raised by the school council;
- ◆ the minutes of the school council meetings are included on the governing body agenda and the governing body formally responds to the issues raised by the school council;
- ◆ the minutes of the school council meetings are included on the governing body agenda and the governing body formally responds to the issues raised by the school council;
- ◆ the minutes of the school council meetings are included on the governing body agenda and the governing body formally responds to the issues raised by the school council;

## Working together

In addition to associate pupil members, governing bodies are encouraged to agree with the school council ways of working together. These are likely to include:

- ◆ the school council inviting governors to attend council meetings and/or asking for meetings with governing body representatives on a regular basis to consider specific issues;
- ◆ school council members other than the associate pupil members attending governing body meetings as observers;
- ◆ the governing body reporting on the school council and its activities and achievements in its annual report to parents;
- ◆ the minutes of the school council meetings are included on the governing body agenda and the governing body formally responds to the issues raised by the school council;

Dylai'r corff llywodraethu neilltuo arfan yn y gyllideb ysgol ar gyfer unrhyw gostiau sydd yn deillio o drefniadau o'r fath. Gall lefel iaith a jargon a ddefnyddir mewn cyfarfodydd fod yn rwystr arall i gyfranogiad. Mae'n bwysig bod disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn derbyn unrhyw bapurau cyn cyfarfodydd ac ar ffurf y maent yn ei ddeall. Dylid ystyried penodi llywodraethwr cyswilt i gefnogi disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt ac i weithredu fel cyswilt gweithredol rhwng y corff llywodraethu a'r cyngor ysgol.

Mae angen i gyrrff llywodraethu sicrhau bod cyfarfodydd yn cael eu rheoli'n effeithiol a bod gan ddisgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt ddigon o gyfle i gymryd rhan yn effeithiol. Yng ngoleuni'r ffaith y gellir eithrio disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt rhag cynnyd rhan mewn thai meysydd busnes, argymhellir bod yr agenda yn cael ei threthu fel bod etemau'n cael eu gwmpio. Gellid ystyried materion sensitif yn rhan gyniatf neu olaf y cyfarfod a'r disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt yn mynychu yn unol â hynny. Gallai adroddiad gan y disgybl llywodraethwyr cyswilt fod yn eitem sefydlog ar yr agenda gan godi eu statws oherwydd hynny.

## Rhagor o Wybodaeth

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefan Cynghorau Ysgol -

[www.cynghorauysgolcymru.org.uk](http://www.cynghorauysgolcymru.org.uk) a hefyd yn y dogfenau canlynol:

- ◆ Rheoliadau Cynghorau Ysgol (Cymru) 2005 (Offeryn Statudol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 2005 Rhif 3200 (Cy. 326)

- ◆ Canllawiau i Gyrrff Llywodraethu ar Sefydlu a Gweithredu Cynghorau Ysgol: Cychlythyr NAFW 42/2006 ar gael yn: [www.new.wales.gov.uk](http://www.new.wales.gov.uk).

D.S.: Dylid darllen y Feil Feithiau hon ar y cyd gyda'r ddeddfwriaeth a'r canllaw a restrir uchod a gyda gwybodaeth a gynhyrdir gan eich AALL ac awdurdod esgobaeth lle mae hynny'n brodol.

The governing body should make allowance in the school budget for any costs that result from such arrangements. The level of language and jargon used in meetings can be another barrier to participation. It is important that associate pupil governors receive any papers in advance of meetings and in an accessible form. The appointment of a link governor should be considered to support associate pupil governors, and to act as an active link between the governing body and the school council.

- ◆ The School Councils (Wales) Regulations 2005 (National Assembly for Wales Statutory Instrument 2005 No 3200 (W. 326)
- ◆ NAFW Circular 42/2006 -Guidance for Governing Bodies on the Establishment and Operation of School Councils, available on: [www.new.wales.gov.uk](http://www.new.wales.gov.uk).

## Sensitive and Confidential Matters

Further information can be found on the School Councils website -

Governing bodies need also to ensure that meetings are managed efficiently and that associate pupil governors have adequate opportunity to participate effectively. In view of the fact that associate pupil governors may be excluded from participating in some areas of business, it is recommended that agendas are arranged so that items are grouped. Sensitive business could be considered in the initial or later part of a meeting with associate pupil governor attending accordingly. A report from the associate pupil governors could be a set item on the agenda, thus raising their status.

The governing body should make allowance in the school budget for any costs that result from such arrangements. The level of language and jargon used in meetings can be another barrier to participation. It is important that associate pupil governors receive any papers in advance of meetings and in an accessible form. The appointment of a link governor should be considered to support associate pupil governors, and to act as an active link between the governing body and the school council.

## Membership of Committees

Associate pupil governors may be members of non-statutory governing body committees and may vote at those committees if the governing body grants them voting rights. Associate pupil governors may not be members of the following statutory governing body committees:

- ◆ staff disciplinary/dismissal committee
- ◆ staff disciplinary/dismissal appeal committee
- ◆ pupil discipline and exclusions committee
- ◆ admissions committee