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EAS

Education Achievement Service
for South East Wales
Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg
i Dde Ddwyrain Cymru

Blaenau Gwent Stats and Stories

Spring 2022



School Improvement

System Leadership: 6 Headteachers in Blaenau Gwent are engaging in system leadership across the region as School Improvement Partners, compared to 4 the previous year

Case Studies: 5 schools in Blaenau Gwent have contributed to school improvement case studies on turnaround leadership and the success of the Learning Network School provision: St Mary's RC Primary , Pen-y-Cwm Special School, Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Cwm Primary and Glanhwy Primary

Wellbeing: Whilst there have been limited face to face visits in schools in BGBC as a result of individual schools' risk assessments, virtual meetings between headteachers and school improvement partners, focusing on wellbeing have continued to take place for all schools.

Rapid School Improvement: Sofrydd Primary School has secured rapid school improvement, working with Learning Network Schools in other LAs. Glyncoed Primary has also secured strong progress in distance and blended learning working with Langstone Primary.

Headteachers: Nearly all (24) Headteachers shared good practice in distance and blended learning as part of their own Celebrate, Share, Support, Refine (CSSR) process. Schools presented their practice at a regional conference: St Illtyd's and Tredegar presented on both community engagement and supporting pupil wellbeing.

System Leadership: 5 Schools in Blaenau Gwent are providing holistic support for leadership and teaching to other schools: Glanhwy Primary, St Illtyd's Primary, Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Tredegar School, Pen-y-Cwm Special School

Leadership, Teaching and Learning

System Leadership: 5 schools lead professional learning, supporting teaching and leadership across the EAS (11% of schools across the region).

Headteacher Qualification: Over last 3 years, 9 of 59 candidates achieved were from Blaenau Gwent (442 across Wales). 3 of the 9 have secured headship.

Senior Leadership: Across the region, 199 (530 across Wales) senior leaders have accessed the senior leader programme, 19 (10%) were from Blaenau Gwent.

Professional Enquiry: Every cluster is engaged in the National Professional Enquiry project focusing on one of five themes 'Assessment and Progression', 'Re-imagining schooling', 'Inclusion,' 'Pedagogy and Learning', 'Leadership'. One school represents the LA in the national Evidence Informed Profession Project.

PL Leads: Every school and setting is funded to develop the professional learning lead role, supporting the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales.

Coaching and Mentoring: 19 leaders (19% of the regional total) have trained as National Facilitator Coaches to support the National Leadership Development Programmes in 2021/22.

Middle Leadership: Across the region 603 middle leaders (1400 across Wales) , have accessed the middle leader programme, with 104 (17%) from Blaenau Gwent.

International Leadership: 6 of 32 pilot schools have engaged in the International Agile Leadership pilot: St Joseph's RC Primary , Glyncoed Primary , Bro Helyg, Georgetown Primary, St Mary's RC Primary , Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar. A further 4 schools begin cohort 2 St Mary's Church In Wales Primary, Willowtown , Deighton and Blaen-y-Cwm.

Curriculum for Wales

Support for others: 6 Blaenau Gwent Schools provide professional learning support to other schools across the EAS region in a variety of curriculum areas as Learning Network Schools.

Curriculum Design: 3 (of 43) practitioners engaged in the Curriculum Design Programme (Lucy Crehan), which supports developing approaches based on focus and coherence Ebbw Fawr, Glyncoed and Rhos Y Fedwen

Planning: Most schools are utilising the SDP guidance provided by the EAS to support them in realising CFW

Assessment: All clusters are engaged in the developing school and cluster-based approaches to progression and assessment, to support the development of their assessment strategy.

Curriculum Design: All clusters are represented in the Curriculum for Wales Teaching and Learning development group which is supporting them to network with other schools and share approaches to curriculum design and developing pedagogical approaches.

Curriculum Design: 2 Secondary (or all-through schools) engaged in Secondary Design Network, supporting schools to share approaches to professional learning and curriculum design (Ebbw Fawr and Tredegar Comp).

Health, Wellbeing and Equity

Wellbeing: All schools and settings receive funding for a Wellbeing Lead. 8 schools attend these regularly.

RADY: 5 schools are part of Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters' professional learning programme. Ebbw Fawr welcomed a RADY Consultant to review their work and follow up visits are to be scheduled to evaluate impact.

Grants: All secondary sectors made effective use of the Recruit Recover Raise Standards (RRRS) Grant.

All schools and settings have access to **SEAL** Community as the region funds their subscription costs. This will support leaders to shape their Health and Wellbeing Curriculum Offer.

ACEs: All schools engaged in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness training and as a result are in a position to draft their tiered approach to Provision.

A Listening to Learners session was held at Abertillery Learning Community. Learners from all secondary year groups participated and the feedback was very positive regarding Wellbeing Support available to them.

Tredegar Comprehensive, Cwm Primary School and St Joseph's RC Primary school are all Lead Wellbeing and Equity Schools. They support our work across the region.

Governors

Governor PL: Of the 186 Blaenau Gwent Governors that completed a virtual training evaluation, 87% agreed (55% strongly) that the sessions were helpful and informative, and that the information was provided in a clear and precise manner.

Governor PL: Attendance at virtual professional learning opportunities, including the conference has overall been over 80% higher than physical training in previous years.

SLA: During the year, a total of 130 virtual meetings were supported, an (5.4 per school), well above the legal minimum of 3.

Bespoke Support: The EAS has provided bespoke support has been provided for the appointment of LA Additional Governors and LA nominated Chair of Governors.

Governor PL: Of the 27 Blaenau-Gwent Governors that attended the regional Virtual Governor Conference and completed an evaluation, 93% agreed (63% strongly) that the conference was informative and will help them in their role as a governor.

Governor PL: Of the Blaenau-Gwent Governors that attended, 83% said they would attend a Virtual Regional Conference again, with a further 17% saying they would 'maybe' attend again. None said they would not.

Networking: Over 50% of Blaenau-Gwent Secondary Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Governors regularly attend termly network meetings.

SLA: For the 25% of Blaenau-Gwent schools that at some point during the year had more than 3 vacancies, notifications were sent to the Chair of Governors, prior to the subsequent meeting.