

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

Our Vision ... Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners are supported to achieve their full educational potential

School Performance and Achievement Report 2014-15 Academic Year

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**Safeguarding Children and
Improving Education Standards for All**



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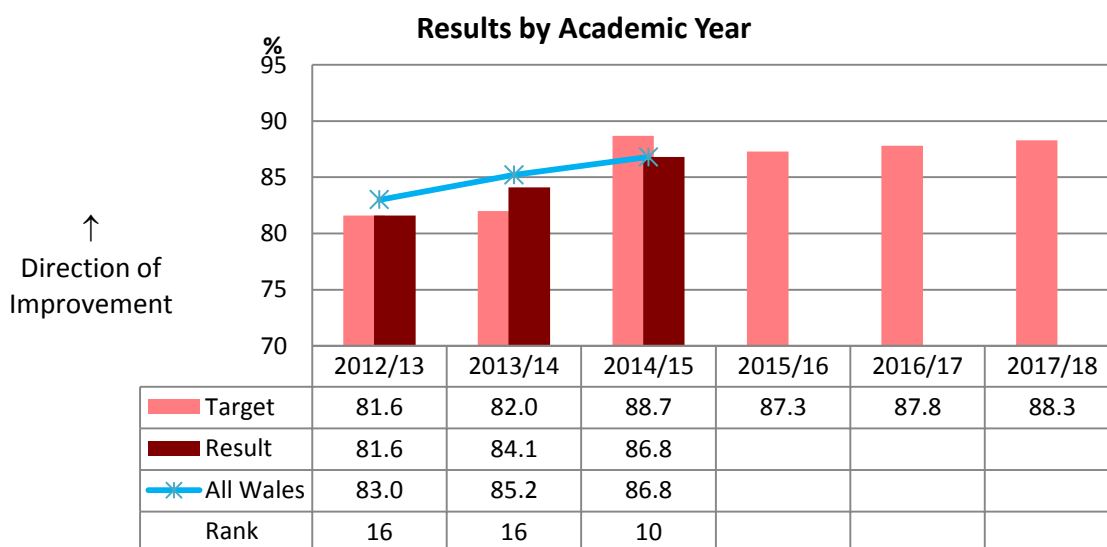
1. Standards: Our achievements for 2014-15

1.1 Challenge, Support and Intervention for improved provision and outcomes

Challenge, support and intervention activities across our schools have continued to focus on improving provision and outcomes for all Carmarthenshire learners. The following range of performance data graphs provide an overview of our progress, strengths and areas for further improvement.

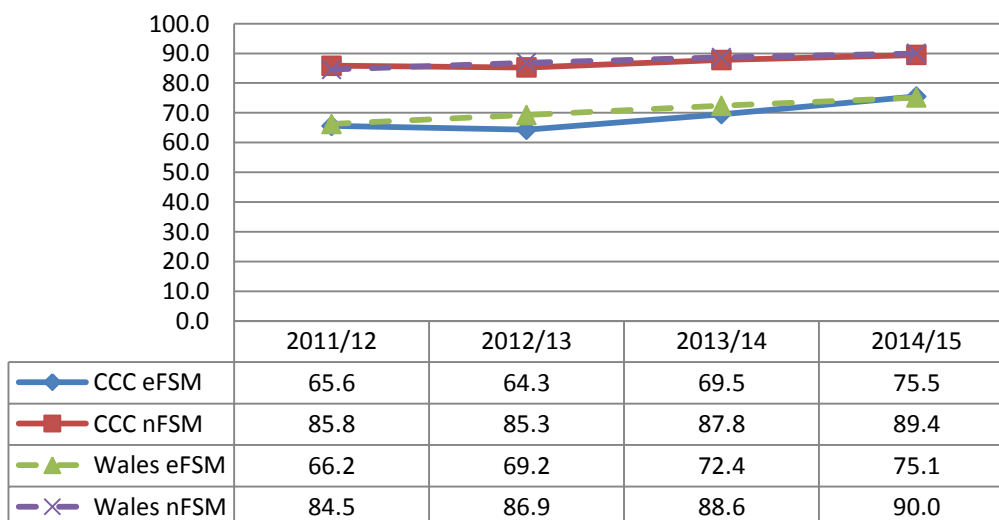
1.1.1 Foundation Phase:

- This graph (percentage of pupils achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI) as a three year trend) demonstrates ongoing improvement and a significant rise in our 'ranking.'



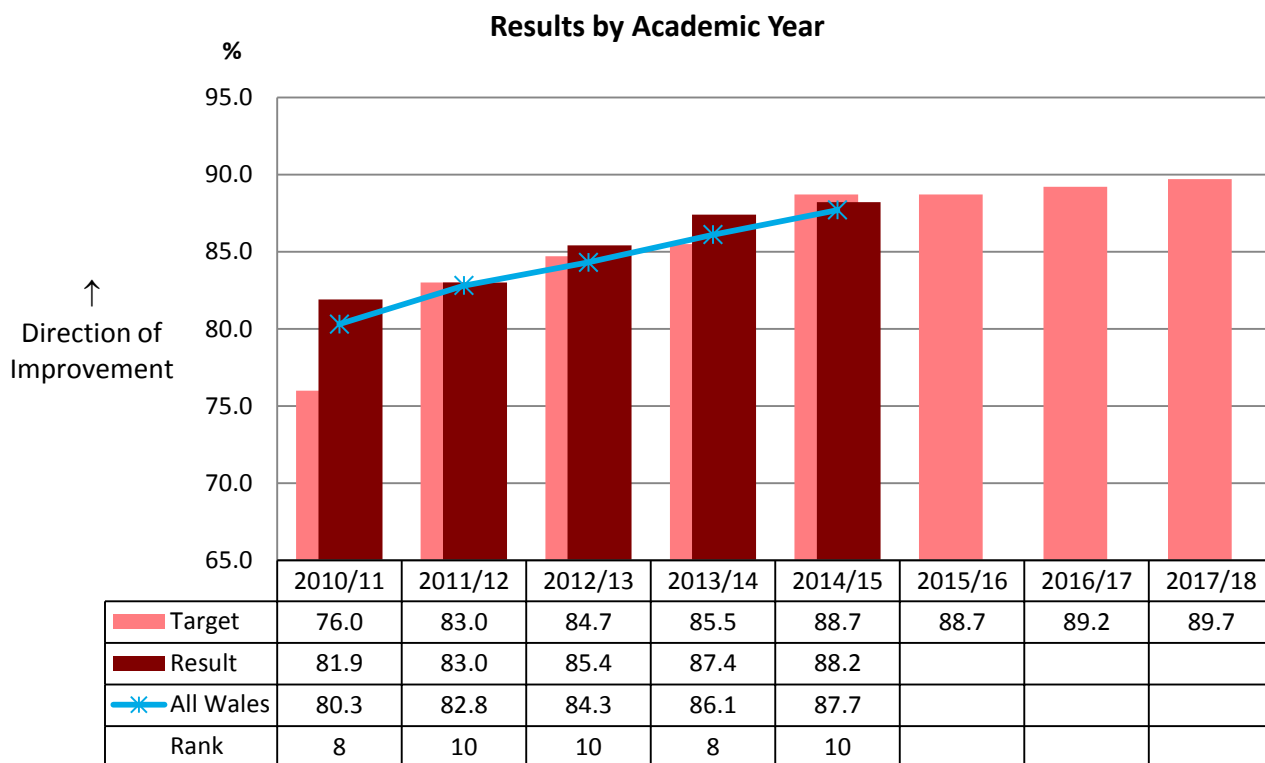
- This graph demonstrates our ongoing improvement in the performance of eFSM learners (eligible for Free School Meal) over four years and a comparison with non eFSM learners in Carmarthenshire and Wales.

FPI- % pupils achieving eFSM/nFSM trend

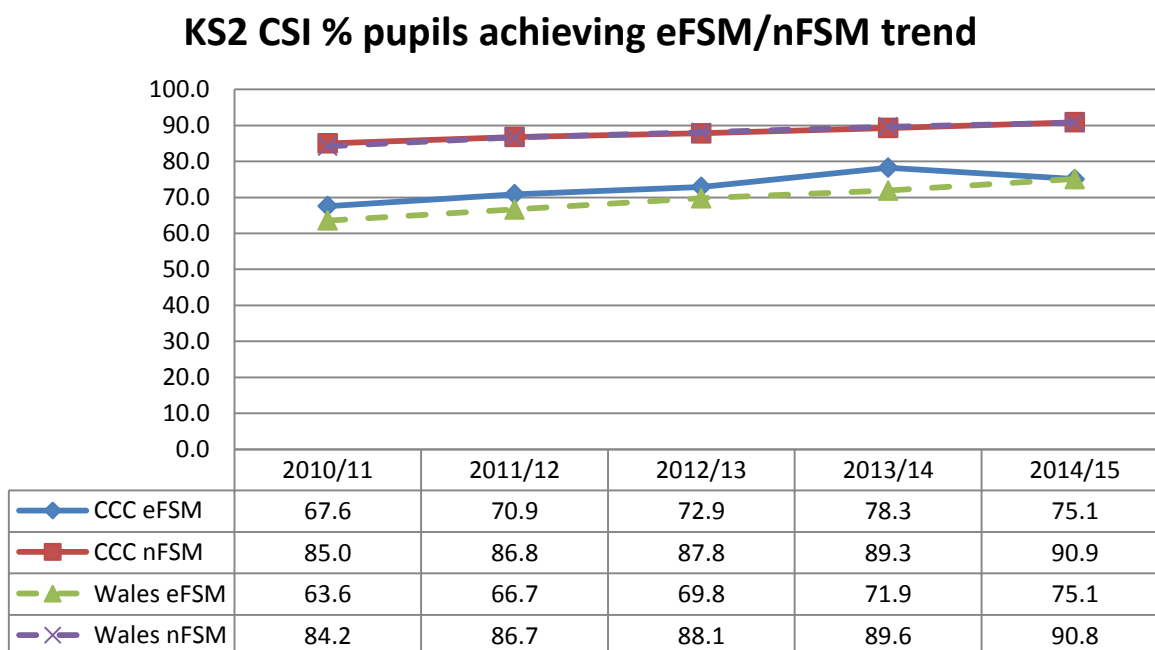


1.1.2 Key Stage 2 (KS2)

- This graph (percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) as a five year trend) demonstrates our upward trend of ongoing improvement along with raised levels of self-challenge.

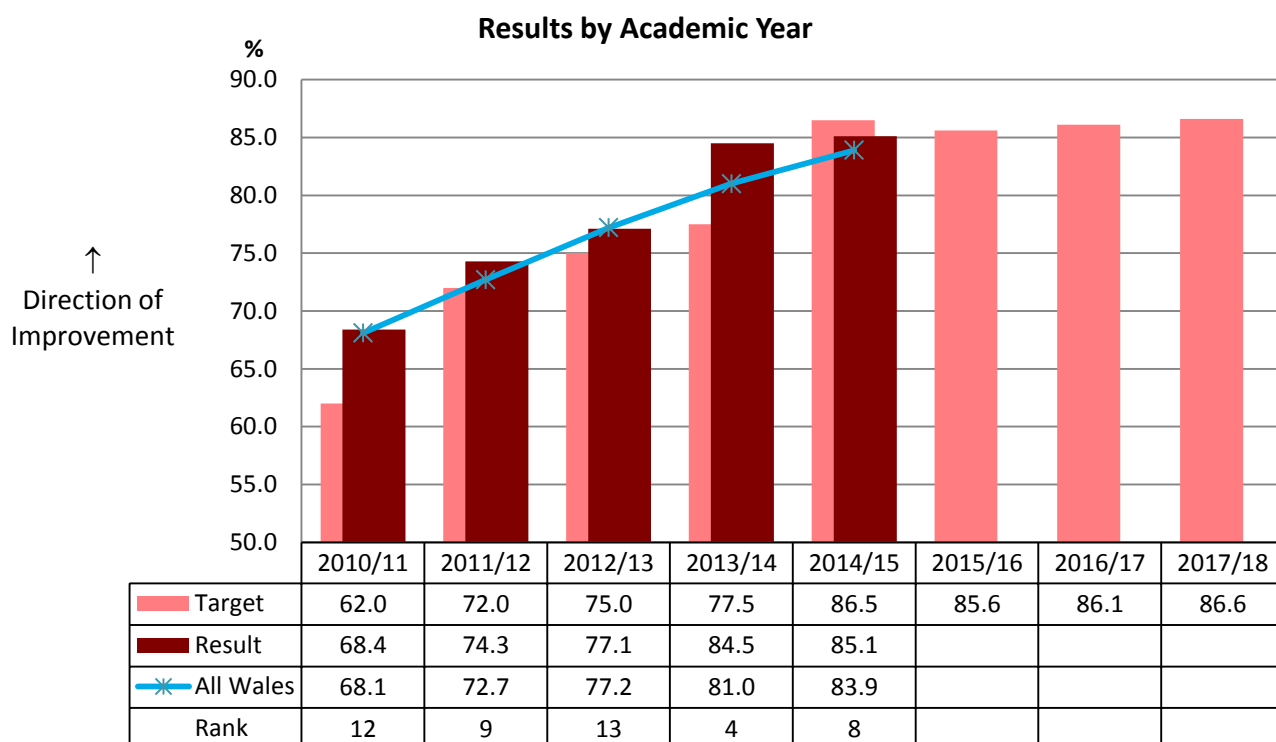


- This graph demonstrates the performance of our eFSM learners (eligible for Free School Meal) over five years and a comparison with non eFSM learners in Carmarthenshire and Wales. A slight decrease is noted this year however, we have kept pace with the All Wales performance.



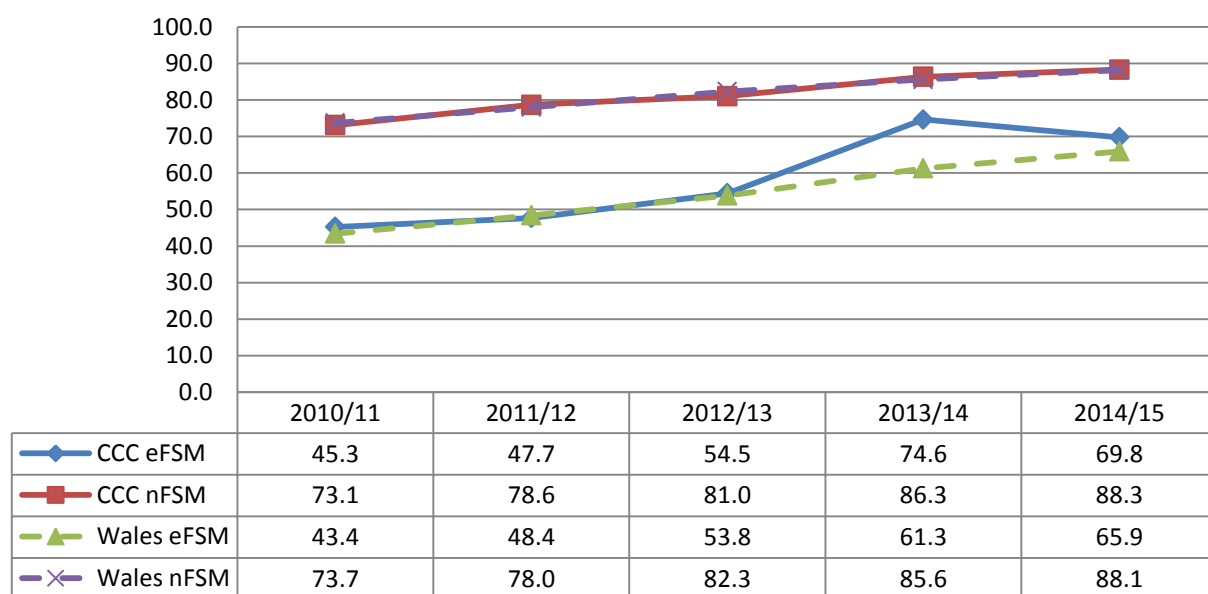
1.1.3 Key Stage 3 (KS3)

- This graph (percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)) demonstrates our five year upward trend and increasing levels of self-challenge.



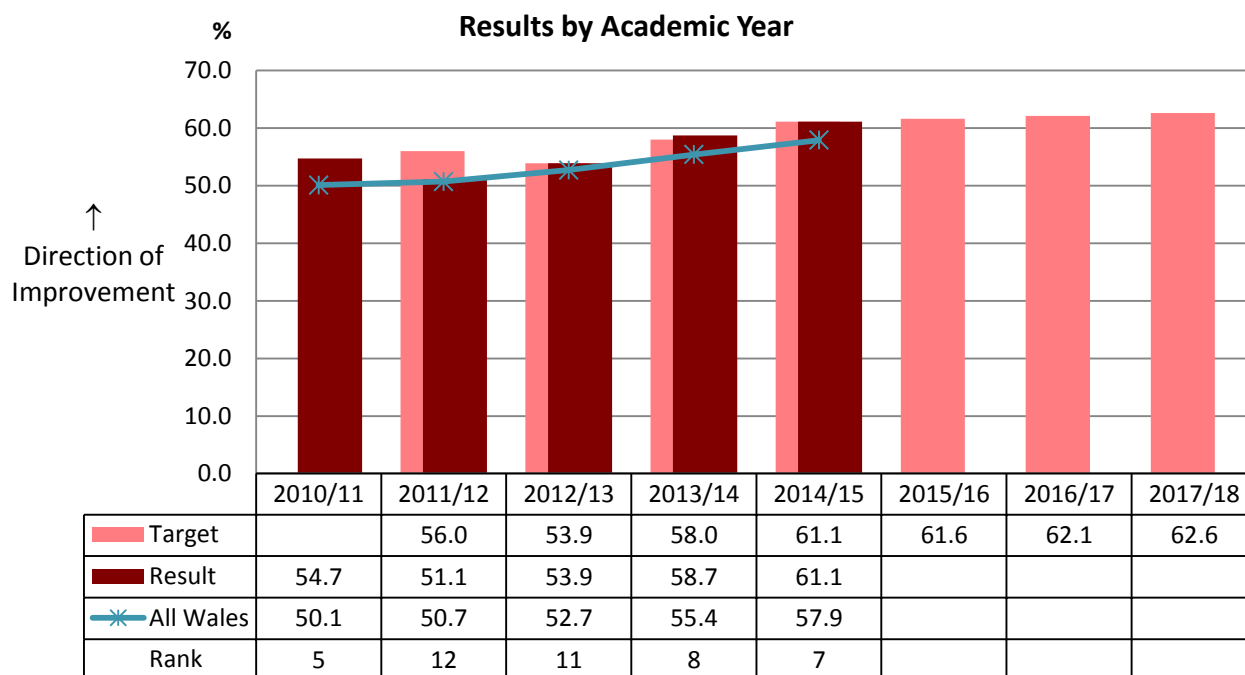
- This graph demonstrates a slight decline in the performance of KS3 eFSM learners (eligible for Free School Meal) in comparison with the previous year. However, our performance remains above the All Wales performance.

KS3 CSI - % pupils achieving eFSM/nFSM trend



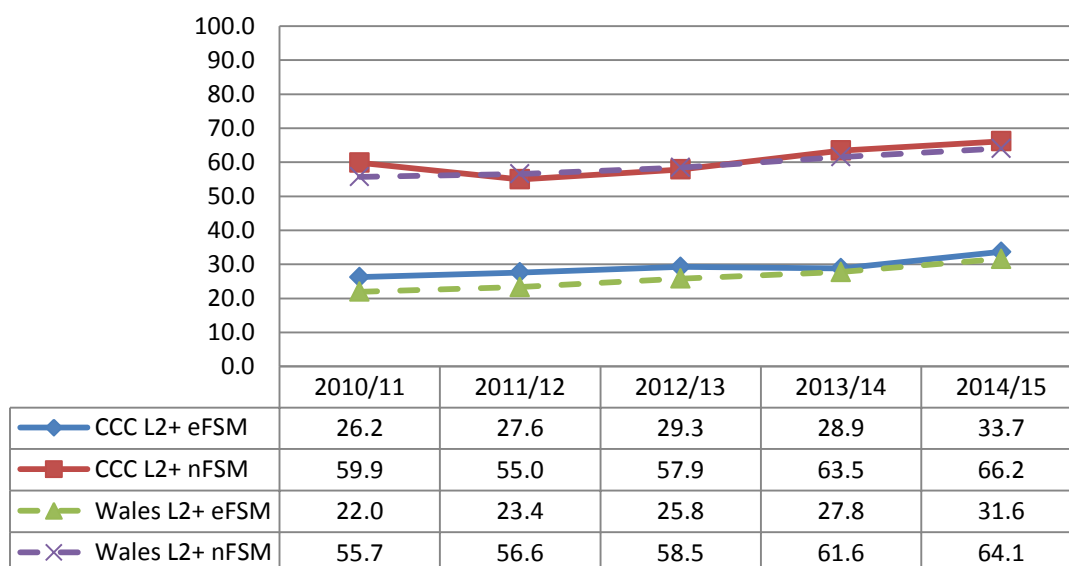
1.1.4 Key Stage 4

- This graph (percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 inclusive (L2i) indicator over five years) demonstrates our greatest success to date with this key indicator. Breaking through the '60% barrier' is an excellent achievement. It clearly represents the combined and focused efforts of our schools and officers on raising standards.



- This graph demonstrates the ongoing improved performance of our eFSM learners at L2i (with a comparison against nonFSM learners and All Wales data). We have consistently outperformed 'Wales eFSM L2i' since 2011.

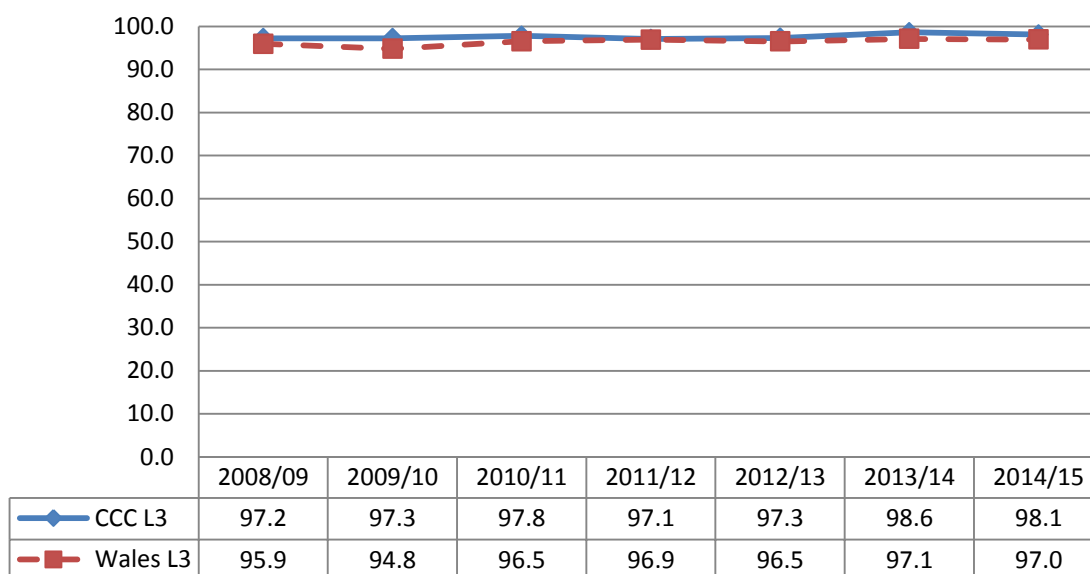
KS4 L2+ - % pupils achieving eFSM/nFSM trend



1.1.5 Key Stage 5

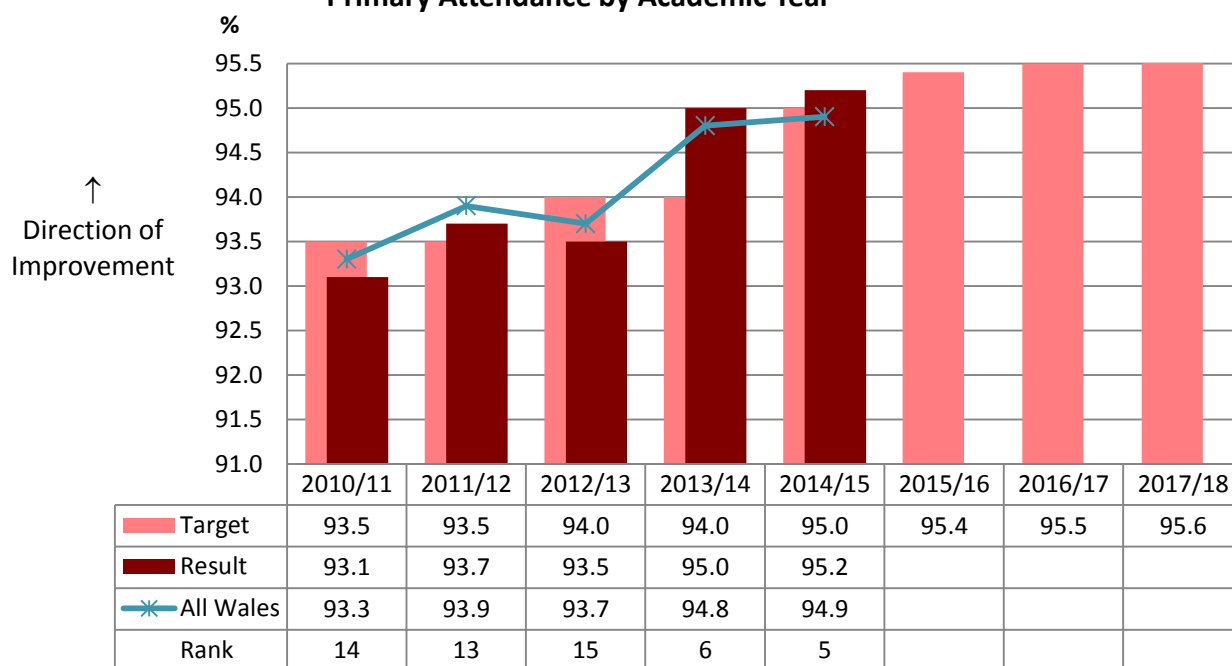
- 2 This graph demonstrates our consistent high level of performance (above the All Wales figures since 2009) for the past seven years at Level 3 Threshold (2 or more A Levels or equivalent qualification).

KS5 Level 3 Threshold 2014/15



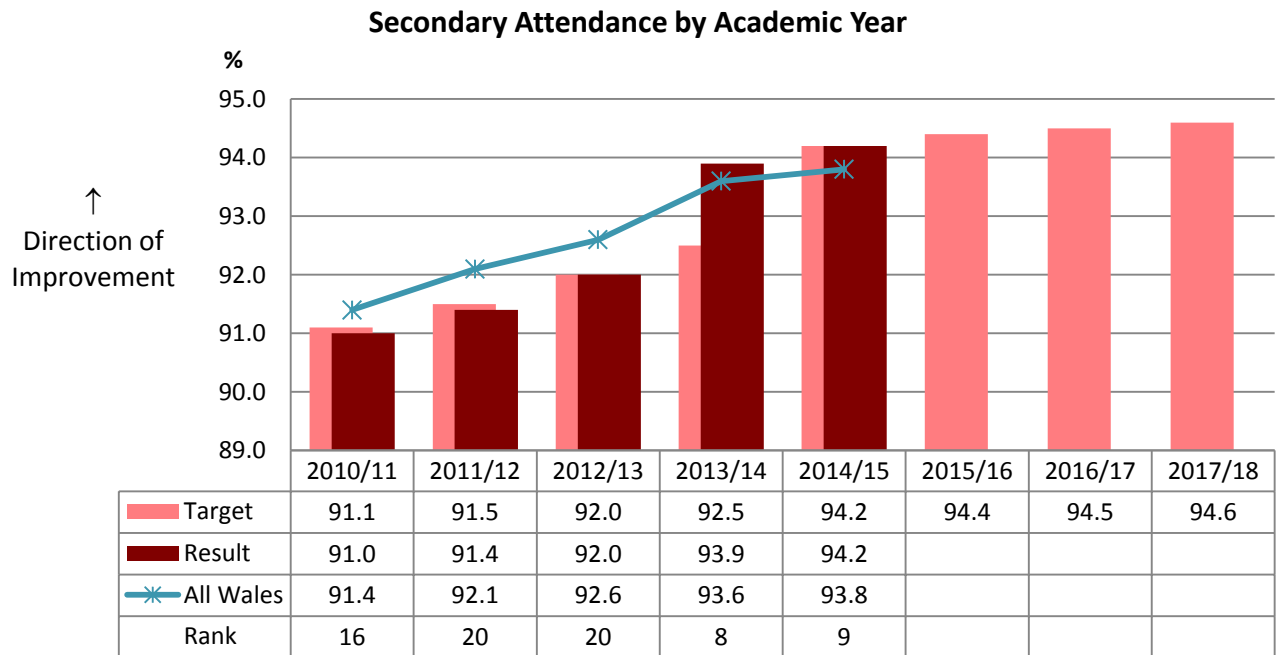
1.2 Attendance - Primary Schools Performance:

Primary Attendance by Academic Year



Primary Attendance is on target and the result has improved compared to the previous year (95.2% compared to 95.0%). Our Welsh comparative ranking has improved to 5th from 6th which is a significant improvement from 15th placed ranking two years ago. The Education Welfare Service has improved engagement from parents. Headteachers are supported with more accurate and regular data monitoring and sharing activities.

1.3 Attendance – Secondary Schools



Secondary Attendance performance is on target and the result has improved compared to the previous year (94.2% compared to 93.9%). Our provisional ranking is 9th (1 lower than the previous year) rising from 20th in 2013/14. Our expected ranking (based on the % of eFSM pupils per LA) is 10th - something we have exceeded with this result. Restructuring of the Education Welfare Service has improved engagement from Headteachers coupled with more accurate and regular data monitoring and sharing.

A summary of strengths and areas for further improvement:

Our key strengths:

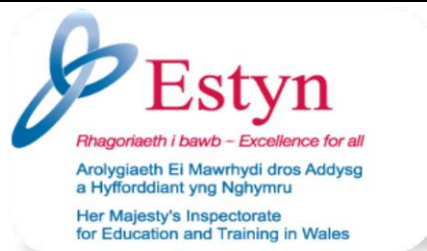
- All end of Key Stage indicators from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4 have demonstrated an increase in performance.
- The L2i threshold (5 A Levels A* - C including Welsh or English and Maths) recorded our highest result ever ...breaking through the coveted 60% barrier.
- The achievement of Free School Meals pupils in the Foundation Phase Indicator and Key Stage 4 'L2i' continue to improve.

- Our ranking within Wales has witnessed significant improvement in the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 4 L2i indicators.
- Levels of attendance at both primary and secondary continue to demonstrate improvement and an ongoing upward trend.

Areas for further improvement:

- Continue to enhance the performance of Free School Meals pupils
- Continue to enhance provision and performance in the Foundation Phase
- Continue to enhance outcomes for More Able and Talented pupils

2. School Inspection Outcomes



2.1 Key messages from 2014-15 Inspections (*based on 20 school inspections*)

Main strengths:

Three Carmarthenshire schools were asked to provide case studies for Estyn's website describing the excellent practice that was seen during the inspection.

1. Brynaman Primary School is the first school in Carmarthenshire to be awarded a judgement of 'Excellent' in all areas under the current inspection framework: both overall judgements, all three key questions and all ten quality indicators .
2. Coedcae Comprehensive School was deemed to be 'Excellent' in ten of the fifteen areas: Prospects for Improvement, KQ2 Provision and KQ3 Leadership, Wellbeing, Learning Experiences, Care Support & Guidance, Learning Environment, Leadership, Improving Quality and Partnerships.
3. Llanmilo Primary School was deemed to be 'Excellent' in Prospects for Improvement, Wellbeing and Improving Quality.
4. 'Learning Experiences' and 'Leadership' judged good or better in 75% of schools
5. 'Care, Support and Guidance' and 'Learning Environments' were judged to be good or better in 95% of schools.
6. 'Partnerships' were judged good or better in 100% of schools (as in 2013-14).
7. 'Improving Quality' continues an upward trend of performance with 65% of schools judged good or better (53% in 2010/11).

Areas for improvement:

Around half of the schools inspected -

- Improve attainment (often in relation to the Foundation Phase).
- Increase level of challenge in planning or tasks (mostly in relation to more able).
- Develop 'assessment for learning' (mostly in relation to quality of feedback).

Around a third of the schools inspected -

- Improve attendance (in comparison with 'similar' schools).
- Ensure consistency in the quality of teaching.
- Improve standards in writing (either language).

2.2 Inspection Outcomes Profile for 2014-15

1. The following tables show the percentage of grades achieved against Estyn's 'Quality Indicators' by schools* inspected during the academic year 2014-15 (20 schools - 18 primary, 1 secondary and 1 special).

*each school represents 5%

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Unsatisfactory
Standards	5%	55%	40%	0%
Wellbeing	15%	50%	35%	0%
Learning Experiences	10%	65%	25%	0%
Teaching	5%	55%	40%	0%
Care, support and guidance	10%	85%	5%	0%
Learning environment	10%	85%	5%	0%
Leadership	10%	65%	15%	10%
Improving Quality	15%	50%	20%	15%
Partnerships	10%	90%	0%	0%
Resource Management	5%	55%	35%	5%

2. The following table shows the number of schools placed in the complete range of Estyn categories over the past five academic years.

	2010-11 (17 schools)	2011-12 (16 schools)	2012-13 (23 schools)	2013-14 (19 schools)	2014-15 (20 schools)
Sector Leading (Case Study)	-	6%	9%	5%	15%
Other 'good schools' (no category)	35%	25%	26%	32%	20%
LA Monitoring	47%	6%	13%	16%	20%
Estyn Monitoring	18%	44%	48%	47%	35%
Need Significant Improvement	-	13% (2 schools)	4% (1 school)	-	10% (2 schools)
Special Measures	-	6% (1 school)	-	-	-
Overall in Category	65%	69%	65%	63%	65%

3. Developing Values and Skills for Life Long Learning

Carmarthenshire schools are centres for high quality teaching and learning across a wide range of stimulating and engaging experiences for learners and staff. Our learners develop numerous important values and skills from early Foundation Phase activity right through to Sixth Form study. In an ever changing world of challenge and opportunity, such core values and key skills are essential to success and enjoyment for all learners. In this section of the report we celebrate the wide variety of opportunities, focusing on participation and achievement, available within our schools. These opportunities are as important as the more traditional aspects of standards and attainment as reported in Section One. Developing a multi-skilled lifelong learner demands a varied and innovative curriculum of opportunities as the following overview celebrates.

3.1 The Foundation Phase

Throughout 2014-15 academic year we have continued to provide Carmarthenshire schools with support for the delivery and implementation of the Foundation Phase Framework for Children's Learning for 3-7 year olds in Wales. The Foundation Phase Grant has maintained its delegated allocation to schools to employ additional Teaching

Assistants (enabling them to work towards achieving the ratios recommended by the Welsh Government). The Local Authority has also provided the expertise and guidance of a Foundation Phase Training Officer who has delivered an effective training programme, together with additional, direct support in schools. The 2014-15 training programme focused mainly on the introduction of the new Foundation Phase Pupil Profile. The Foundation Phase Grant also continues to retain Early Years Advisory Teachers to support the delivery of part-time learning provision for 3 year olds in Non-Maintained Settings across Carmarthenshire. The training for non- maintained settings focused on early language development using the EYPDG funding (Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant).

3.2 ***Non maintained settings***

There are currently 43 Non-Maintained Settings across Carmarthenshire delivering part time learning provision to 3 year olds. During the 2014-2015 academic year, nine Non-Maintained Settings were inspected by Estyn. The Early Years Advisory Teachers continue to deliver valuable training and support to staff enabling them to deliver effective learning provision. The training programme focused on Oracy skills and developing key strategies to develop Welsh in both first and second language in all settings.

The 'Cwtsh Cyffro' centre (located in Canolfan Griffith Jones, St Clears) was created to showcase good practice across all areas of learning and provision within the Foundation Phase. It is utilised for both training purposes and by outside agencies working with children. The Local Authority (LA) continues to support settings and provide good quality training to ensure that they are working to their full potential.

	2014-2015
Number of Non-maintained settings inspected	9
% of Non- maintained settings in 'followup'	45%
LA Monitoring	2
Estyn Monitoring	3
In need of Significant Improvement	None
Special measures	None

3.3 *Enhancing Welsh Heritage, Culture, Sustainable Development and Global Understanding:*



Codi Caerau:

A new language charter for Carmarthenshire schools has been launched in Carmarthen. Codi Caerau Sir Gâr, our new language charter, was launched at an event at Yr Atom, the new Welsh centre in the town's King Street. The aim of the charter is to encourage young people to learn Welsh and to use the language, developing from only speaking Welsh to teachers to using the language around the school, with friends, parents, using Welsh technology such as apps and listening to Welsh music and watching Welsh language programmes. The word 'Caer' in Codi Caerau, comes from the Welsh word for Carmarthen, Caerfyrddin. The origin of the word Caer is the Latin castrum which means castle or stronghold.

Carmarthenshire County Council executive board member for the Welsh language Cllr Mair Stephens told the launch: "The purpose of the charter is to support bilingualism. As someone who has learned the Welsh language you can see the advantages of speaking it." She said that people who were bilingual learned to think outside the box. The council's Chief Education Officer Gareth Morgans said the purpose of Codi Caerau Sir Gâr was to create strongholds of the Welsh language in the county. Poet and author Mererid Hopwood gave an informative presentation on the development of the Welsh language.

Gwynedd County Council language charter officer Gwenan Ellis Jones said that Gwynedd's charter was used to encourage pupils to speak Welsh outside the classroom. Elfed Morgan Morris, headteacher at Ysgol Llandygai in Gwynedd, described how the charter and the school's Cled Celt character were used to help parents appreciate the value of being bilingual and inspire pupils to use the Welsh language.

Improving Welsh and Bilingualism Teachers hosted workshops on the language charter, DJ Marky G (Marc Griffiths) gave a talk the use of radio in schools and pupils

of Bancffosfelen School performed an enthusiastic 'Rap Siarter Sir Gâr' which was co-written between the pupils and the Welsh Children's Poet Aneirin Karadog.

Carmarthenshire County Council executive board member for education and children's services Cllr Gareth Jones said: "It is a historic day in Carmarthenshire in launching the new language charter. It is another step forward as we try to restore the position of the Welsh language in the county."

Click on the You Tube link to listen to the pupils from Ysgol Bancffosfelen performing 'Rap Codi Caerau'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWd14mirS-I>

Reading our way to enjoyment and success ...

1. Welsh Books Quiz 2014-15

42 teams from our primary schools participated in 2 rounds held within Carmarthenshire. A significant number (232) of pupils were involved in discussion and presentation of materials based on their reading and learning. Ysgol Llannon came 3rd in the National Round held in Aberystwyth on 16th June 2015 (Yrs 3 / 4).

2. 'Sgwad Sgwennu' (Writing Squad)

Sixty 'More Able and Talented' KS3 pupils (30 Welsh medium and 30 English medium) participated in our Sgwad Sgwennu 'creative writing' workshops throughout the year. Supported by 'Literacy Wales, UWTSD and Carmarthenshire County Council, the workshops provided direct access and interaction with well-known poets and authors in support of our pupils' writing skills.

3. Bookslam 2014-15!



- Two Carmarthenshire Schools, Johnstown CP and Ysgol Glanyfferi, were awarded 1st and 2nd places in the National Final of the Welsh Books Council Competition, held on 9th June 2015.

- Johnstown's team were crowned National Champions, beating schools from all over Wales to collect the coveted Bookslam Award on stage in Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon.
- Johnstown also won £150 for the school to spend on books, with Ysgol Glanyfferi collecting £100. This was an outstanding achievement for both schools – and a real honour for Carmarthenshire.
- Later in the summer term, Paul Manship, one of the featured authors in the Bookslam competition, visited Carmarthenshire to work with some of our more able and talented writers.
- The Writers' Squads are organised by the Literacy Team to inspire and develop the talent of Carmarthenshire's young writers- in both Welsh and English. Other recent guest authors include Mererid Hopwood, Eurig Salisbury and Phil Carradice.



Above: Pupils of Johnstown CP – National Bookslam Champions, 2015

Below: Ysgol Glanyfferi Bookslam Team – Runners Up, 2015



The 'Scarlets' Partnership



Above - pupils from Bynea School following the new literacy and numeracy trail at Parc y Scarlets

Officers from the Education department have worked with staff from the Scarlets to produce educational materials to ensure that visits to the stadium can have a greater educational focus and to allow for more appropriate educational follow up activities in schools. The group has had access to the historical records of the club, photographs and have had the chance to use nearly every area of the site.

To support the Literacy & Numeracy Framework a bilingual literacy & numeracy trail has been developed. The trail was road tested by Ysgol Rhys Prichard and Bynea School. Carmarthenshire Digital Pioneer Schools have worked together to produce a series of bilingual e-books which will be hosted on Hwb+.

Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative



Pupils and staff from Ysgol Penboyr with their award at the National Museum

- Each year, the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative invites schools across Wales to undertake heritage projects and to submit them for this nationwide heritage competition.
- This year was another successful year for schools in Carmarthenshire with six winning submissions.
- County schools displayed their entries at the County museum at Abergwili over the summer.
- Ysgol Penboyr were awarded the Primary National History Museum Shield and represented the primary sector at the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative 25th anniversary celebration at the Senedd.

History and Religious Education Artefact Loan Service



- The County Museum at Abergwili hosts a collection of loan boxes that supports the teaching of history and Religious Education.
- There are over 30 history boxes ranging from Roman soldiers' uniforms through to household items from the 1960s and 1970s.
- There are a similar number of Religious Education boxes containing religious artefacts such Torah scrolls, prayer mats and Diwali sets.
- The collections support learning from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage Three. New packs of resources are currently being developed.
- This year fifty four schools in Carmarthenshire and 4,204 pupils used this free loan service.



- All schools in Carmarthenshire are registered on the Eco Schools programme.
- By the end of March 2015 ninety five schools in the county had been awarded the International Eco Schools green flag.
- Twenty five schools: **Ysgol Saron, Ysgol Feithrin Rhydaman, Ysgol y Castell, Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman, Llanmilo Primary School, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Copperworks Infants, Johnstown School, Lakefield School, Pentip School, Ysgol Carwe, Ysgol Llanddarog, Ysgol Llandybie, Ysgol Pont-henri, Ysgol y Ddwylan, Ysgol y Tymbl, Ysgol y Bedol, Ysgol y Dderwen, Ysgol Llannon, Ysgol Gorslas, Ysgol Nantgaredig, Ysgol Babanod Llangennech, Ysgol Iau Llangennech, Pembrey School, Johnstown school and Ysgol Peniel** have received the Platinum Award (schools that have been performing to green flag standard for over eight years).
- A pupil from Ysgol Coedcae Secondary School submitted the winning entry for the Young Reporter for the Environment competition for the 15-18 age group video report. Schools from 25 countries participated in this event.
- The School Improvement Service have run a number of well attended Eco Schools twilight training events in conjunction with the National Botanic Garden of Wales this year.



Above - pupils from Johnstown school on a litter pick

Fair Trade Activities



- Carmarthenshire has been a Fair Trade county for nearly six years. The schools in the county have contributed significantly to this achievement. Seventy four schools are registered on the Fair Trade scheme with 14 schools having worked their way through the full programme and gained the Fair Trade flag having been awarded the Fair Achiever Award.
- The Divine chocolate poetry competition is an established feature of the Welsh education year. A number of primary and secondary schools in the county have been very successful in this event over the years. This year Ysgol Nantgaredig won the second prize in the primary category of this event.

International School Linking

During the year, 18 Carmarthenshire schools received support to initiate international schools partnerships or sustain existing ones. These links contribute to the development of many of the skills and values associated with global citizenship including critical thinking and respect for diversity. They also provide an authentic and motivating context for developing literacy, numeracy and IT skills.

Connecting Classrooms

This programme, funded by DfID, fosters links with developing countries with the aim of enriching the curriculum and exchanging ideas for improving teaching and learning. They help all concerned to improve their understanding of global issues and promote the development of long-lasting international friendships.

Lesotho

- Johnstown, Pembrey, Pentip, Glan-y-mor, and Dyffryn Taf schools participated in reciprocal visits with partner schools in Lesotho this year.
- This year saw the 30th anniversary of Dolen Cymru Lesotho, the charity instrumental in forging meaningful and sustainable links between the peoples of Wales and its twin country, Lesotho. Celebrations included a high profile *Mokete*

concert held in the Coal Exchange, Cardiff. This coincided with the visit of the Basotho teachers who were greeted with song, dance and drama performances by pupils from 7 Carmarthenshire schools.

- Richmond Park, Y Castell and Pentip schools hosted volunteer teachers from Lesotho for 7 week placements, a first for Wales.

Malawi and Ghana

- Queen Elizabeth High School participated in an exciting project linking with schools in these two contrasting African countries. This focused on the theme of Fairness and Equality, looking at the global consequences of Fairtrade as well as environmental sustainability.

Jamaica

- New links have been made with schools in Jamaica involving Halfway, Stebonheath, and Coedcae schools who used the theme of Identity and Culture as a focus.

European Links

This year sees the end of the Comenius programme which has involved some 30 Carmarthenshire schools over the years supported mainly through the Wide Minds (WiMi) Network. As well as providing opportunities for professional development for school staff, many pupils, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have broadened their horizons and boosted their confidence through visits to partner schools abroad.

- Gwenllian, Llangadog, Swiss Valley, Dewi Sant, Bro Dinefwr, Y Bedol and Heol Goffa all successfully completed their Comenius partnerships.
- Bro Dinefwr's Healthy Eating project with Denmark was showcased by the British Council at an audience with the Senedd on March 10th, 2015.
- Y Bedol were also invited to the Senedd along with their partners from Tahiti, Gran Canaria, Poland, Finland and Italy to promote their project entitled "Made in..." Through the project, the school has strengthened its link with local businesses and introduced pupils to the world of work and globalisation.
- Coedcae and Bro Myrddin have begun work on projects funded through the new EU programme – Erasmus +. Coedcae is focusing on Sport, Healthy Living and Equal Opportunities, while Bro Myrddin is looking at Sustainable Development and Democracy.

Global Learning Programme- Wales

This new programme, funded by DfID, has begun building a network of lead schools with existing good practice in ESDGC. The programme aims to support teachers in 50% of schools in Wales to equip their pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a positive contribution to a globalised world.

- Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman, Johnstown, Dyffryn Taf, and Glan y mor/Bryngwyn have been selected as Lead Schools and will begin creating their networks of local schools next year.



Picture: Ysgol Y Bedol visiting the Senedd as part of the 'Comenius Project'

3.4 Information and Communication Technology:

The 2014-15 academic year has witnessed further developments within this key area of our provision:

- Five members of staff (three from School Improvement Service and two teachers on secondment) were re-accredited as qualified Hwb+ trainers to provide support for schools in developing Hwb use.
- Tranche 5 of Hwb+ rollout to primary schools received 1.5 days of Hwb training (both centrally and within schools). The training focused upon 'J2E' as an effective tool for evidencing and supporting AfL of pupils' digital work and the 'Playlist' tool for efficiently creating and sharing of digital resources.
- Secondary School Middle Leader PLC online platforms were created using Hwb Networks and membership extended to also include middle leaders within Pembrokeshire schools. Staff received training in Office 365, J2E and Playlists shared through Hwb.

- Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire secondary ICT HoDs received training in Computer Programming by Technocamps (funded through the Regional Collaboration Fund).
- 'Primary Networking' was run as a series of workshop based sessions which were well attended and received.
- Governors' pages on Hwb have started to be piloted for a number of primary & secondary schools.
- The LA school website system was migrated to the mobile compatible/cross platform Umbraco system. The ICT team assisted with the initial rollout to schools, and then undertook all subsequent support and training.

3.5 **Healthy Schools**

The Healthy Schools Scheme (HSS) is in its 12th year with a total of 117 schools currently on board. A total of 16 schools were successful in completing another phase this year within the scheme and were awarded with their plaques at the annual award ceremony which was held at Parc y Scarlets on 3.7.15. There are 7 schools currently aiming towards the National Quality Award (NQA), which is the highest award achievable within the scheme with Nantgaredig successfully passing the NQA re-assessment visit on 27.11.15.

Partnership working

Domestic Abuse Steering Group:

The HSS is now a member of this group due to setting up working partnerships with the Local Authority's Safeguarding Officer, Domestic Abuse Officers and Educational Child Psychologists. This has contributed to the production of a draft Protocol for Carmarthenshire Schools on Domestic Abuse. The scheme emphasises the importance of educating pupils on Healthy Relationships within the PSE curriculum.

Play Sufficiency Steering Group:

As a member of this group, we contribute by working in partnership and support of the 'Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit.' This activity increases physical play opportunities for children & young people within Carmarthenshire.

Carmarthenshire's Childhood Obesity Prevention Group (CCOPG):

The HSS scheme continues to co-ordinate and chair the CCOPG meetings which have been running successfully for two years. We have several actions within the Group's Action Plan such as increasing physical activity levels amongst pupils.

The Anti Bullying Forum:

This forum is co-ordinated by the HSS, holding its first meeting on 29.6.15. Its aim is to tackle bullying head-on through a strengthened partnership approach to raise awareness of anti-bullying initiatives such as the 'Young People's Anti-Bullying Survey'.

Health & Well-being related workshops and training for pupils

We have delivered workshops on Body Image & Self-esteem at Ysgol y Strade to Year 10 pupils and also delivered workshop sessions on Healthy Relationships & Bullying at Abernant and Brynsierfel Primary Schools (to Year 5 & 6 pupils). A total of sixty two Year 12 pupils from Bro Dinefwr, Strade & Amman Valley received Sex Educator Training during September and October, 2015. The Year 12 pupils have since planned and delivered their sessions to their Year 8 & 9 peers. A total of fifty six Year 9 pupils from Strade School received Peer Mentoring training, beginning their roles as Mentors upon entering Year 10 in September, 2015.

Hari, Heti and the Happy Heart storybook

This bilingual storybook was produced in partnership with the Language and Play Scheme for Pre-schoolers, Foundation Phase aged children and their parents. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the dangers of second-hand smoke, new legislation on smoking in cars and the 'Smoke Free Playgrounds' campaign. It also informs parents of where they can receive help to undertake a 'Quit Attempt' and how to reduce harm to their children if they are unable to quit. It empowers children by educating them on their right to live, travel and play in a 'smoke free environment.'

University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD)

The HSS was invited by the School of Social Justice & Inclusion at UWTSD to deliver a lecture on Mental & Emotional Health & Well-being to students studying on the Youth degree. The lecture included aspects of mental and emotional challenges experienced by children and young people, as well as unhealthy coping mechanisms.

Parents Evenings

We were invited by three primary schools (Cross-Hands, Drefach & Abernant) to deliver presentations on Safety & Child Protection issues. We presented on Healthy Relationships, Bullying and on Appropriate and Inappropriate touching, with reference made to the Welsh Government PSE teaching resource 'Growing-Up'.

3.6 Criw Celf

This three year pilot project has had the over arching aim to provide high quality extra curricular master classes for More Able and Talented school pupils from Carmarthenshire who excel in the visual arts from primary school pupils through to A level students.

The project recognised the importance of nurturing and encouraging our young peoples' involvement and inclusion in high quality arts activities in order to widen opportunities, raise aspirations and provide visual arts experiences often not available in the school setting.

The strong partnership working between galleries, artists, art colleges and the education department has proven to be a model of good practice exemplifying how successful and collaborative partnership working can transform the opportunities and experiences of our young people.

Participants were given the opportunity to develop their understanding and experience of the visual arts, crafts and design in the form of workshops, master classes, portfolio development and the opportunity to work with professional artists. At the end of each year the three groups exhibited their work in the participating galleries and art college. Pupils taking part in the AS/A level group also visited artist's studios to introduce them to the professional practices and experiences of a range of visual artists. Older students visited exhibitions in Cardiff, Bristol and the Young Designers Show in London.



Above - Criw Celf workshop

3.7 Carmarthenshire School-based Counselling Service (SBCS)

Carmarthenshire has commissioned Area 43 to manage and provide a professionally accredited school –based counselling service to its young people from year 6 to age 18. . Pupil use of the service has continued to be good. 916 pupils used the service in this academic year accessing an average of 5.7 counselling sessions. 13 of these were year 6 pupils. Young People Core outcome measures show that the level of emotional distress frequently moves from moderate to mildly elevated and young people’s own evaluation of the service is overwhelmingly positive.

Almost all the children and young people report that their confidence has improved as a result of the counselling sessions, that they were less worried, felt more supported and were more able to cope with issues they were facing. The predominant issues addressed through counselling were linked to family and self worth. School staff continue to be very satisfied with the provision of the SBCS.

3.8 Carmarthenshire Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS)

This year has seen our EAL population rise significantly yet again. The service covers 45 primary schools and 10 secondary schools. Currently we have in excess of 1,105 children on our EAL register, a number which has increased year on year (87 in 2003/4).

Presently we are a staff of 4 English as an Additional Language (EAL) Specialist teachers and 1 Polish Bilingual Teaching Assistant. Unfortunately due to the removal of core funding we have seen a reduction in our staffing levels. Consequently we have needed to prioritise support of EAL learners based on need. We still support all children who are stage A and B on the EAL register and the majority of stage C students in Secondary. We work closely with those who have daily contact with EAL learners to help them develop inclusive strategies and reach their potential. We offer support for schools preparing for new arrivals and with more advanced learners. We work with EAL Coordinators to monitor the progress of our learners and help with pupil assessment, target setting and planning for future learning. We also provide staff training and offer inset packages.

The MEAS team, working closely with our colleagues in schools, aim to achieve the following common objectives:

- Continued and marked progress of English/Welsh language acquisition
- Enhanced personal development
- School leavers with qualifications and good employment prospects.

We have provided a range of stimulus events over the past year to further develop staff

skills in key areas to raise the achievement of our learners. We have particularly focused on the use of technology to help our learners' progress. We have also been working closely with Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire to share training expertise.

3.9 Carmarthenshire Traveller Achievement Service

The service continues to support traveller children in both primary and secondary schools with their literacy and numeracy to raise their educational attainments. This year a small number of secondary-aged children have been taken out of school to be home educated. The Service works closely with schools, families, EWOs, the housing department and other Local Authority Traveller services to ensure that all the children receive a suitable education, attend school and reach their academic potential.

Children from the Traveller communities have participated in a 'Traveller Youth Forum' run by Save the Children that gives the opportunity for all Traveller pupils from every authority throughout Wales to have their voice heard. They have attended 3 forums throughout the year and have worked with outside agencies, Swansea YMCA and Show Racism the Red Card. The children have also been able to experience extra curricular activities - in Carew they went crabbing, made bender tents and rabbit stew, in Swansea they climbed trees, made camp fires and did wood carving.



Children's Commissioner's Office, Swansea



St David's Hall, Cardiff

Two of the Carmarthenshire traveller group became involved in the planning of these forums and have recently attended a meeting in the Children's Commissioners office in Swansea.

At the beginning of the year two Traveller families from Coedcae, were involved in a project with Swansea Museum, Looking at Life as A Gypsy. The children looked at

traditions from the past and how families are today, they researched their families and produced a book of photos called 'The Gypsy Way'. The book was then exhibited in St David's Hall Cardiff as part of the Gypsy Roma History Month Event in June. The book and the work the children produced is currently being exhibited at Swansea Museum until January 10th 2016.

3.10 Supporting Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Supporting schools with ALN Reform

Person-centred coaches have supported schools to familiarise themselves and use person-centred tools. Useful resources for schools such as One Page Profiles and Individual Development Plan pro forma have been developed.

Flagship Schools have been developed to act as models of best practice in the field of Person Centred Practice and champion the tools needed to support future ALN reform. These schools are also developing PCP Support Networking Groups and organise support meetings for coaches.

A number of consultative events have been arranged throughout the year to gather the views of school staff in relation to the Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill and to submit consultation responses.

Behaviour Support Services

Consultative and evaluative work around current behaviour support services looking at what works, what needs development and what needs to change has been undertaken. A proposal to remodel behaviour support services has been developed to raise school capacity in early behaviour intervention through bringing together the Behaviour Support Community Team and Rhydygors Day Centre into one service.

Training

Other training being rolled out across schools and services in the county include autism awareness, social stories, the 'working for' approach, Anxiety and Autism and Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS).

Garreglwyd – school & residential developments

Garreglwyd educational provision will be transferring to a new specialist autism provision as part of the newly built secondary school at Bro Dinefwr and will be re-named Canolfan Y Cothi. During the past year, planning for pupils transition has involved parents, pupils and multi-agency professionals. When completed the facilities will have the capacity to support up to 30 secondary aged pupils on the autism spectrum.

Garreglwyd Residential Autism Provision will remain in its current location in the Gwendraeth Valley. Planning and preparatory visits have taken place with a view to supporting two pupils with autism, who are currently in out-of-county specialist residential provisions, to return to Garreglwyd in the foreseeable future. Further expansion of this provision is planned in 2016/17.

3.11 Carmarthenshire Music Service

Carmarthenshire Music Service has continued to provide high quality tuition and performing opportunities to the pupils of our county. During 2014-2015:

- Pupil numbers remained high with just under 6,000 pupils receiving weekly provision in the form of instrumental lessons, vocal tuition or curriculum support.
- Carmarthenshire Music Service was ranked 3rd out of 61 in the 2015 Schools Survey.
- The service ran 5 ensembles at Intermediate Level (Key Stage 3) which culminated in the Intermediate Music Festival held at Q.E. High School during March 2015.
- The service ran 6 ensembles at Senior Level (Key Stages 4 & 5) which culminated in the Senior Music Festival held at the Ffwrnes and Lyric Theatres during March 2015.
- The Service ran 14 Junior ensembles (Primary) that took part in the *Junior Proms Festival* held across four concerts at the Ffwrnes Theatre in June 2015. More than 2,000 primary school pupils took part in 2014-2015 which was a record for Carmarthenshire Music Service!



- Over 60 secondary school pupils represented Carmarthenshire in the Six Counties Ensembles run by the ERW Consortium.
- 27 young musicians represented Carmarthenshire at National Level performing with National Youth Arts Wales.
- The Senior Wind Band and Senior Strings undertook a very successful four-day concert tour of Belgium in June 2015.



- A former pupil of Ysgol Bro Myrddin and Carmarthenshire Music Service, Anne Denholm, was appointed Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales.

3.12 Leadership of Learning

ERW School Leadership Development Programme:

Our 'middle' and 'aspiring' leaders continue to benefit from the ERW School Leadership Development Programme.

Study of key areas of the Welsh and international education agenda facilitate good practice and school improvement across a variety of strategies. Focusing clearly on the Leadership Standards, the programme continues to act as a most useful precursor to senior leadership roles and NPQH provision. Working in close partnership with the University of Wales Trinity St. David, Carmarthen, all successful candidates graduate with the Graduate Certificate in Professional Development.

NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship) Provision:

We provide guidance and support for practitioners from across all sectors wishing to pursue the NPQH programme. We are proactive in the identification of future leaders, working in close partnership with our headteachers and senior leaders as part of our 'succession planning' programme.

Carmarthenshire NPQH Programme graduation statistics:

Cohort	Primary	Secondary	Total
2011/12	1	2	3
2012/13	5	2	7
2013/14	2	1	3
2014/15	3	-	3
2015/16	6	-	Summer Term '16

Professional support and development for Newly Appointed Head teachers:

We continue to support our newly appointed headteachers with –

- Professional mentor support
- Local network meetings*
- ERW Seminars/workshops

*meetings provide opportunities for discussion and collaboration with local authority partners e.g. Human Resources, Inclusion, School Improvement, Finance, Safeguarding, Health & Safety etc.

Professional development for Head teachers and Senior Leaders:

Carmarthenshire continues to support and promote effective sharing of good practice within our LA and Region. Numerous levels of regional collaboration have facilitated professional development and whole school improvement effectively. Carmarthenshire Head teachers and Senior Leaders have experienced and contributed to a variety of activities including:

- Executive Headteacher roles: leading schools within a partnership or federation
- Curriculum innovation work: leading curriculum innovation as regional Leaders of Learning (sharing of good practice – particularly in the fields of literacy, numeracy and reducing the impact of poverty)
- Commissioned leadership work: undertaking support and challenge activity within our schools e.g. working with schools causing concern, ERW Core Visits etc

- Supporting Local, Regional and National Networks e.g. developing Leadership Programmes, Practice Review and Development, Governor Services, Headteacher Professional Reference Groups etc.
- DEPNET Group (Secondary Deputy Headteachers' Network): this newly formed network links deputy head-teachers from all our secondary schools and engages them in a wide range of self-improving activities in support of raising standards.

4. Jargon buster

Jargon	Meaning
AfL	Assessment for Learning
ALN	Additional Learning Needs
Area 43	Youth Project Charity
CSI	Core Subject Indicator - awarded to pupils at the end of: KS2 (Year 6) – achieving Level 4 or above in Welsh or English, Maths and Science KS3 (Year 9) – achieving Level 5 or above in Welsh or English, Maths and Science
DEPNET	Secondary Deputy Head teachers' Network
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EIG	Education Improvement Grant
ERW	Education through Regional Working (our Regional Consortium)
EWO	Education Welfare Officer
FP	Foundation Phase
FPI	Foundation Phase Indicator - awarded to pupils at the end of Year 2 achieving Outcome 5 or above in Language (Welsh or English), Mathematical Development and Personal & Social Development
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
L2i	Level 2 inclusive (5 A Levels A* - C including Welsh or English and Maths)
L2	Level 2 (5 Levels at A* - C grades)
Level 3 Threshold	2 or more A Levels or equivalent qualification
MEAS	Minority Ethnic Achievement Service
NPQH	National Professional Qualification for Headship (mandatory in Wales)
PLC	Professional Learning Community
Quality Indicators	The ten 'Quality Indicators' as used by Estyn within the Inspection Framework
SBCS	School Based Counselling Service
UWTSD	University of Wales, Trinity St. David