



Education and Lifelong Learning ... Creating Opportunities and Opening Doors

Through working with our partners to meet the changing needs of learners, and by developing a range of learning opportunities for all ages in Blaenau Gwent, the Council will create an environment where citizens contribute to regeneration of the wider community.

The aims set out for the Lifelong Learning Directorates as part of their Strategic Planning Framework is to:

- Encourage learners of all ages to take part in suitable learning activities that will be of benefit to themselves and the community. To encourage and support lifelong learning.
- Raise the quality of learning and teaching and the standards of achievement of all learners.
- Support sustainability, global citizenship and community focussed learning centres.
- Promote inclusion, support additional learning needs and reduce underachievement.



Councillor Gill Clark
Executive Member

Helping People into Work



Councillor Dennis Owen
Executive Member

Creating Jobs and Skills



Brett Pugh
Director of Education



Education And Lifelong Learning

Last year's objectives and achievements – how did we do?

- ✓ Value added scores from end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4 judged to be second in Wales and statistically significant in all categories. The rate of improvement at the end of Key Stage 2 has improved by 8% over the last two years. This is the highest rate of improvement in Wales and nearly twice the national average for the same period
- ✓ A Wales Audit Office survey of schools outlined continued improvement in services offered by the Department. Five of our services were rated top in Wales with two our services being top in England and Wales
- ✓ New primary school opened in Nantyglo and new wing of Sofrydd Primary School opened
- ✓ A new electronic assessment system has been established and has been trialled ready to go live in September 2006
- ✓ Targets for Core Subject Indicator for Key Stages 2 and 3 were exceeded
- ✗ The target for pupils gaining 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C grades was narrowly missed
- ✓ Schools inspected exceeded national targets for above threshold grades for standards of achievement and quality of teaching
- ✓ A 2005 Wales Audit Office report on school improvement said that the service is starting to make good progress in raising standards
- ✓ A Wales Audit Office survey of schools outlined continued improvement in services offered by the Department. Five of our services were rated top in Wales with two our services being top in England and Wales
- ✓ All schools in the authority have achieved the Basic Skills Agency Quality Mark for teaching and learning in Basic Skills



- ✓ The PE and Schools Sports Programme, which involved the provision of improved facilities on school sites for both pupils and community use was rolled to a further two clusters of school
- ✓ The number of permanent exclusions per 1000 pupils in secondary schools is 0.45 this is lower than the Welsh average of 1.9.
- ✓ The actual number of permanent exclusions from the secondary sector dropped from 13 in 2004-5 to 3 in 2005-6.
- ✓ Children and young people within the borough were provided with a number of opportunities, facilitated through the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum "Talk it up" and School Councils, to influence decisions in relation to issues affecting them, and to engage in events to promote citizenship.
- ✓ Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum "Talk it Up" produced an anti-bullying DVD which was personally endorsed by Tony Blair and Jane Davidson
- ✓ The overall delegated School Budget balances show a reserve of £1.6m
- ✓ Two new community Learning Access Centres have been opened, one in Brynmawr, the other in Ebbw Vale.
- ✓ Work commenced on the building of two new primary schools at Nantyglo and Willowtown, Ebbw Vale, and the relocation of Swffryd Primary School to one campus, as part of the lifelong learning building improvement programme. Early Years Units have been opened at Pontygof and St Josephs RC Primary.
- ✓ Plans to develop the Learning Campus in Ebbw Vale have been progressed during 2005/2006 and are on-going



What We Are Planning To Achieve with our partners during 2006/2007

Consult on and implement the Single Education Plan. Provide training for school based staff in line with the priorities

- Continue to raise levels of educational attainment of young people and to narrow the gap between the relative attainments of girls and boys. Continue to implement successful problem solving and learning skills materials together with a new pupil assessment system so as to achieve this goal.
- Improve attendance at Secondary Schools and continue to reduce the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions in both primary and secondary schools. Reduce the number of students leaving school without a qualification.
- Implement with partners the post inspection action plans for the Post 16 Area Inspection and Youth Entitlement Partnership
- Promote healthy eating and living and roll out the final phase of the P.E. and School Sport Initiative
- Support community focused schools and education for sustainable development and world citizenship. Introduce the Children's University.
- Open a Blaenau Gwent Integrated Childcare Centre
- Continue with pilot centres for the Foundation Phase.
- Continue to improve the standard of school buildings
- Re-organise support for inclusion and Additional Learning Needs so that it is more efficient.
- Provide a network of learning action centres and community satellite computer centres for community education.
- Further progress on the Learning Campus

Performance Indicators	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2005/06	Above	On	Below	Welsh Comparison		Target 2006/07
						Highest Outturn	Lowest Outturn	
Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	90.55%	90.55%		✓		92.43%	89.03%	90.50%
The number of all pupils in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	26	34	✓			3.00	129	29
The percentage of all pupils in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	3.12%	4%	✓			0.35%	4.31%	3.50%
The number of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0	0		✓		0.00	9.00	0

Performance Indicators	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2005/06	Above	On	Below	Welsh Comparison		Target 2006/07
						Highest Outturn	Lowest Outturn	
The percentage of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0	0		✓		0.00%	50.00%	0
The percentage of pupils eligible for assessment at the end of Key Stage 2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	68.12%	63%	✓			79.77%	68.12%	66%
The percentage of pupils eligible for assessment at the end of Key Stage 3, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	47.94%	45%	✓			65.63%	47.94%	50%
The average external qualifications point score for 16 year olds, in learning settings maintained by the local authority	34	No target set			✓	48.00	33.00	No target set