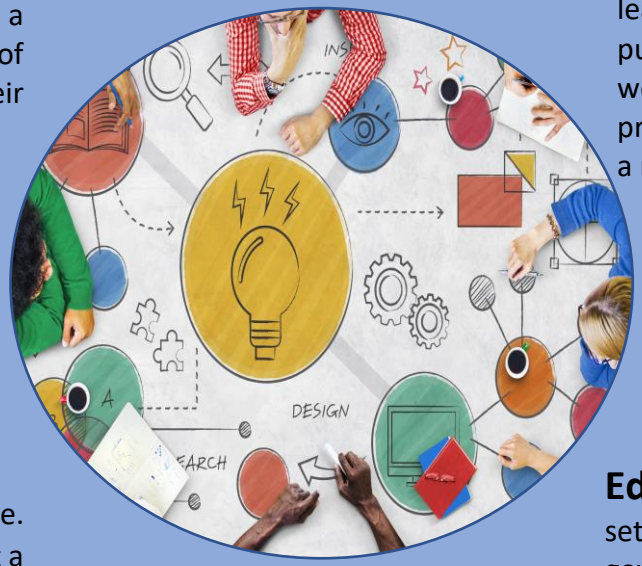
What's it like to be a governor in Merthyr Tydfil…

For me, it's a privilege to be involved in shaping the education of the next generations within the borough of Merthyr Tydfil. The role is stimulating, educational, challenging and satisfying. Why?

Stimulating because it makes me think about education in the widest possible sense. It's not just about how my family members are being educated, it's about how a generation is being educated to become future citizens of Merthyr Tydfil; of Wales; of the UK; and to visualise their wider impact as they become global citizens.



Challenging, due to the changes taking place in school curriculum delivery. There is an exciting new approach to learning being introduced to all schools that will involve pupils in what and how learning is structured. Governors, as well as all other interested parties, have had to put aside previous concepts of how children are taught, and embrace a new approach.

Satisfying, through being involved in making a difference. It's through volunteering their time and commitment, that a governor plays a significant role in shaping the future for children and young people. It's a real opportunity to use a wide variety of skills and add value to their local school.

Educational for me, because I haven't worked in a school setting so have had to learn about how schools operate. The governing Body of the school meets at least once every term, but there are sub-committees and curriculum links that require a more involved input. I have learned how schools are funded by Welsh Government, controlled by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, managed by the Governing Body, and operated by the staff of the school. - all of which are inspected by Estyn, measured by standardised outcomes, and required to continually improve through achievement.

'To be a governor is way of serving the school and education community as part of a broad team of committed people. It doesn't serve personal gain – the gains are much wider'.

Pat Lewis, Vice Chair of Governors, Heolgerrig Community School