

# Parents to track kids' attendance

**PARENTS across Neath and Port Talbot will soon be able to keep a daily check on their children's school attendance and progress at the click of a button.**

Teachers will also be able to set and mark homework from home, as part of a major education revolution in the county.

All 11 secondary schools have signed up to a state-of-the-art computer system which is designed to save teachers time and give parents greater access to school information.

The Lisol Pathways system can also be expanded to include ground-breaking facilities enabling parents to check their children are at school, or to help with homework.

Cefn Saeson is one of 10 schools launching the system this term.

The school's ICT manager,

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Sean Foley, said: "It is a streamlining of school bureaucracy and will, without doubt, save teachers time and cut down on workloads.

"They will be able to input and access data from any place, at any time.

"Ultimately, this is a first move towards a paperless administration, which has lots of environmental benefits too."

It is hoped that parents of pupils at the school who choose to do so will receive their first electronic report at the end of the summer term.

During the next phase of Lisol Pathways, both pupils and parents will be able to access information.

The school will also develop an electronic registration system so teachers can track pupils' attendance more easily.

"That might have an impact on cutting down truancy," added Mr Foley.

Dyffryn school was the first county school to use the system, adopting it a year ago.

Deputy head teacher Cedric Burden said: "It brings e-learning, reports, tracking and attendance together in one area.

"Pathways allows staff and pupils to have access to all the information they require.

"It also helps parents and the local authority to be involved in the school.

"It makes virtual links within the school and with the outside world, giving real benefits."

Dyffryn is currently developing the element which gives parents access to school reports, pupil attendance and achievement on-line.

"Soon we will have a two-way process of information, allowing parents to put in their own information or comments," said Mr Burden.