



## Gwella

## Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

### School Information

Ysgol Y Llan, Whitford V.A.C.I.W. Primary School  
Whitford, Holywell  
Flintshire, CH8 9AN  
Diocese: St Asaph  
Local authority: Flintshire  
Dates of inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Date of last inspection: 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
School's unique reference number: 6643320  
Headteacher: Mr B Griffiths  
Inspector's name: Mrs Fay Green B.A. QTS



### School context

Ysgol Y Llan is a voluntary aided Church-in-Wales primary school situated in a rural setting in the village of Whitford close to Holywell. The school caters for boys and girls aged 3-11 years. The school has 106 pupils on roll plus 11 part-time nursery children. At present 4.8% of pupils are registered for free school meals. There is one pupil who has English as an Additional Language. 16% of pupils have been identified as having Additional Learning Needs. Currently no child is withdrawn from Religious Education or Collective Worship.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ysgol Y Llan as a Church in Wales school are good.

The school incorporates its church school status naturally into all aspects of school life, enjoying good links with the church and community it serves. There is a strong ethos of love and care within the school. The children value and enjoy their membership of the school. The Reverend Lorraine conducts church services weekly and is available to advise on religious issues. The Reverend Sue is also a supportive member of the school as Bishop's Visitor. Pupils are curious, questioning and reflective about the world they live in, spiritual issues and moral challenges. They are given opportunities to contribute to their learning environment and the wider world.

### Established strengths

- The good behaviour and attitude of the children.
- The children of Ysgol Y Llan are supported by all adults to secure their full potential.
- Christian Values are embedded into the life and work of the school.
- Close links with the parish church enhance and reinforce the school's Christian ethos.

### Focus for development

- Establish a Governing Body Ethos Group to develop the school's Christian character and monitor Collective Worship and R.E.
- Pupils to plan, lead and evaluate whole school and class Collective Worship regularly.
- School to undertake further training in order to support the theological background to R.E. and Collective Worship.
- Further develop school Section 50 self evaluation processes ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders.

The prospects for improvement in the future are good.

**The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners.**

Ysgol Y Llan has a genuine Christian caring ethos permeating throughout the school. This has a positive impact on the health and well-being of staff and pupils alike, providing a good basis for teaching and learning to take place. Standards of behaviour are very good across the school.

Christian Values are evident in the attitudes and behaviours displayed by the children as they show respect for the environment and others. Attendance is improving and is currently above LA and Wales averages. Most pupils perform well throughout the school regardless of gender, ALN or their free school meal status.

Pupils develop a range of key skills and learning styles throughout the school. Pupils work well independently and collaboratively; all learning styles are incorporated into the lessons. The learning objective and success criteria are shared with pupils at the beginning of each lesson. Marking relates to the learning objectives and/or success criteria. Next steps are provided to support learning. This enables pupils to be aware of the purpose and aims of an activity and become independent learners who are beginning to develop self and peer assessment skills.

Great emphasis is placed upon Christian Values within the school, through Collective Worship and daily life. Children remember messages given through Collective Worship and refer to these during lesson time with teachers and their peers. The Mission Statement is displayed around the school, in main focal points and is in all communication with parents, including the school's prospectus, putting the individual child at the centre of all school activities. Parents are encouraged to come into school and discuss any concerns. The school uses text messages, emails, tweets, website and apps to maximise communication.

Pupils use a variety of prayers (including the Lord's Prayer), songs and affirmations from an early age. Pupils are given time for reflection during Collective Worship and are invited to join in prayers. The children support whole school Collective Worship through drama, interaction and by choosing appropriate prayers. All teaching staff are involved in leading prayer. The 'Roots and Fruits' scheme is used in order to provide a consistent approach to worship.

Pupils are encouraged to celebrate and understand diversity. Assemblies and lessons approach the subject in an honest and open way. Collective Worship develops spirituality through prayer, reflection, silence and hymns. Collective Worship is a special time where the school community is able to come together as a family.

Through celebrating the festivals of other cultures and religions through R.E., Geography, PSE and Global Citizenship week, pupils develop a fuller understanding of Global Citizenship through European and international projects. The school is committed to supporting a range of charities on a regular basis. Discussion with pupils shows that pupil voice is encouraged and acted upon. It is hoped that the development of Rotakids will give pupils a stronger voice when choosing charities to support.

Pupils and staff share a good relationship, which enables pupils to feel, safe, secure and valued as individuals, ensuring that they are able to embrace the curriculum and achieve their potential. Ysgol Y Llan has strong links with the community. Parents are invited into school for class assemblies, to deal with local companies, including Mostyn Hall to develop the school garden and orchard.

Ysgol Y Llan has strong links with the local church. Children attend a weekly church service led by the Reverend Lorraine, parents and grandparents are invited to this weekly service. Other well attended services in Church include Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The local Church holds a monthly family service and 'Messy Church' has commenced.

The Governing Body are involved in school life and have participated in some learning walks to experience the school day for themselves.

Using a variety of teaching and learning styles, staff ensure that pupils are engaged in R.E. lessons and are able to reach their full potential throughout the school. Pupils show an interest and have positive attitudes towards R.E. They listen attentively, dramatise, discuss and comment on stories, celebrations from the Bible and other cultures. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions appropriate to their age and ability. They reflect upon the meaning and messages, and consider how these have an impact on their own lives.

**The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good.**

Collective Worship at Ysgol Y Llan is firmly embedded. It is carried out on a daily basis, providing an opportunity for pupils to come together as a Christian family within the school. The Roots and Fruits scheme has been adopted and is used by all staff for continuity across the school. Pupils lead services at key times throughout the Christian calendar in Church including, Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

The Christian ethos of the school is apparent during Collective Worship. A focal point is used and presents Christian symbols such as the Bible, Trinity Candles, Cross, and a cloth denoting the liturgical colour. Appropriate music, Anglican responses, prayers and a time for reflection are an integral part of Worship. Three candles representing the Trinity are lit to signify the start of Collective Worship and extinguished to mark the end.

Where appropriate, religious festivals are celebrated during Collective Worship – Saints' days, Church dates and festivals are featured in Collective Worship as they occur.

Pupils are invited to join in prayers during Collective Worship. Many of the older pupils are asked to choose appropriate prayers for the value, season or time of year. During Collective Worship pupils are given time for quiet reflection, a period to think about the key messages.

Children enter and leave the hall peacefully and respectfully before and after Collective Worship. They are often asked to think about a key message during the rest of the day. All classes have prayer corners and a holding cross is available should anyone wish to use it.

The R.E. Scheme of Work allows pupils to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and also the Trinity – knowing God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Statutory requirements for Collective Worship are met in full. The school allocates fifteen minutes daily for Collective Worship. The Headteacher who is the R.E. Subject Leader is the named person with responsibility for Collective Worship. He has responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship follows the school's policies and that they are reviewed regularly. The parents' legal rights are clearly outlined in the school prospectus, which states that they have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

As R.E. subject leader, the Headteacher attends training and has the responsibility of ensuring staff have the opportunity to attend relevant training offered by the Diocese. Good practice is then shared and disseminated.

**The effectiveness of the religious education is good.**

Teaching at Ysgol Y Llan is good, using a variety of effective teaching and learning strategies. Appropriate and varied learning styles are planned to engage all pupils and give each individual every chance of success. Visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles are considered when planning lessons. Differentiation is clear in all planning and is evident during lesson observations.

Learning objectives and success criteria are set at the start of each lesson throughout the school, are displayed either on the board or on tables; these are appropriate to the age of the pupils. Throughout the lesson and during plenaries, pupils are encouraged to self and peer assess against the success criteria; this empowers pupils to become more responsible for their own learning and setting their own targets.

Marking provides the pupils with regular feedback. It is often related to either pupil targets or success criteria. Next steps are given for the pupils to follow in order to improve their learning. Assessment for learning strategies are in place and being further developed.

Pupils have opportunities to engage in a variety of lively lessons which use a wide range of resources and stimuli. Some very good examples of teaching and learning through Christian values were observed, as in the stories of David and Goliath and Joseph. ICT skills are used effectively to enhance learning experiences. The outdoor environment has been well developed over the years and the Foundation Phase regularly use it to enhance teaching and learning across the curriculum. Ysgol Y Llan has a 'Peace Garden' which was officially opened by the Bishop and is available for use by pupils who wish to reflect in a quiet space.

R.E. planning utilises the Scheme of Work provided by the Diocese to deliver the Church in Wales Religious Education Syllabus. Christianity is the focus of learning but pupils have opportunities to learn about and discuss other faiths including Islam and Judaism.

Planning is detailed incorporating a variety of teaching and learning styles suitable for the pupils. This ensures that pupils are given the best opportunities to learn to their full potential. Learners develop a good understanding of Christianity and other faiths. Medium term planning has recently been reviewed as the school has introduced Cornerstones, in order to develop a more thematic approach to the curriculum and allow more creativity in preparation for the new curriculum.

Good use is made of a variety of resources, enhancing the curriculum to ensure engagement from the pupils and providing them with support where appropriate. The school has many artefacts related to Christianity and other faiths within the library and these are a useful resource for classes to enhance learning.

All Governors, staff and the vicar are aware of the statutory requirements for Collective Worship. The R.E. Subject Leader, after discussions with the staff at the end of every academic year, identifies any shortfalls and funding is targeted at those areas.

**The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good.**

The Headteacher, Governing Body and staff work as a team in promoting the ethos and vision of the school, which is communicated and modelled throughout the school day to pupils, parents and visitors, as well as to the local community. The school's Mission Statement is underpinned by Christian principles and is clearly highlighted in the prospectus. Recently, the school established a set of Core Values. These Core Values are RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, TRUST, TRUTHFULNESS and PERSEVERANCE.

School Council members are very supportive of other learners – pupil voice is strong and the school council has had an impact on many changes in the past. Criw Cymraeg, the ECO Committee and Rotakids have recently started.

Collective Worship is discussed and evaluated in staff meetings. Improvements have been made by providing resources to aid Collective Worship. Bishop's Visitor, Reverend Sue visits school termly and her interaction with staff and pupils is greatly appreciated. Observations confirm that Collective Worship is good.

Pupils have some involvement in Collective Worship and R.E. lessons are observed and evaluated in the same way as all other core subjects. In-line with the school monitoring process. R.E. and its relevant policies are part of the school based review system.

Parents are fully informed of school life via the website, text, email service, Twitter, Seasaw and the school's app. Parents are invited to attend parents' meetings with the class teacher once every term. During the summer term, parents have an opportunity to discuss their child's annual reports should they wish.

The Friends of Ysgol Y Llan committee is supported well and raises significant funds for the school. This has enabled the school to provide further opportunities for the children, including trips and the development of the new outdoor classroom.

Ysgol Y Llan has very good links with a local private nursery 'The Wendy House', with the local cluster of schools and high school, as well as the universities of Bangor and Chester. Ysgol Y Llan enjoys mutually beneficial relationships with Mostyn Estates, the Pennant Society and the local Rotary Club.

The role of the Governing Body is said to be developing; they are described as enthusiastic, supporting the school well and providing relevant challenges.

**The school fulfils all the statutory requirements for Collective Worship.**

**The school fulfils all the statutory requirements for Religious Education.**

The content of this report should be considered alongside the Estyn Section 28 report. We would like to thank the Estyn inspection team for their co operation. We would also like to thank the Headteacher, Staff, Governors and Pupils of Ysgol y Llan VA Primary School for their welcome and cooperation.

Mrs Fay Green, BA QTS and Mr Gareth Williams, M.Ed

**Report under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005 Arolwg o dan Adran 50 o Ddeddf Addysg 2005**

Parents' Questionnaire - Holiadur Rhieni

There were 35 responses - Yr oedd 35 ymateb

	YES / YDWYF	NO / NACYDWYF	
Are you aware that this is a church school?	35	0	<i>A ydych yn ymwybodol mai Ysgol Eglwys yw hon?</i>
Do you believe that the school is a place which is built upon clear Christian values?	34	1	<i>A ydych o'r farn fod yr ysgol yn sefydliad sydd wedi ei adeiladu ar sylfaen Gristionogol glir?</i>
This is a Church School, that is a school with a Christian character. Was this fact important when you were choosing a school for your child/children?	25	10	<i>Ysgol Eglwys, sef ysgol gyda chymeriad Cristionogol, yw hon. A oedd y ffaith yma yn bwysig wrth l chi ddewis ysgol i'ch plentyn/plant?</i>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
The school has a distinctive Christian character	21	10	2	2	0	Mae cymeriad Cristnogol nodedig yn perthyn i'r ysgol
The school's distinctive Christian character makes a significant contribution to pupils' education	15	13	5	2	0	<i>Mae cymeriad Cristionogol nodedig yn gwneud cyfraniad awyddocaol l addysg y disgyblion.</i>
Pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience	17	9	8	1	0	Ym marn y disgyblion, mae'r addoli ar y cyd yn brofiad gwerthfawr
The school has effective links with the local church and other faith communities	17	9	5	2	1	Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r eglwys leol a chymunedau ffydd eraill.
The school keeps parents well informed about the work that pupils do in Religious Education	11	13	9	2	0	Mae'r ysgol yn hysbysu'r rhieni yn dda am y gwaith a wna'r disgyblion mewn Addysg Grefyddol
The school encourages pupils to care for God's Creation(the environment) as well as for themselves	21	12	1	1	0	Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ofalu am Greadigaeth Duw (yr amgylchfed), yn ogystal â'n nhw eu hunain..
The school encourages pupils to consider people in other countries, and how they can assist them, when help is required	21	9	3	2	0	Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ystyried pobl mewn gwledydd eraill, a sut fedran nhw eu cynorthwyo pan bo angen.
The school ensures links are made with the local community	17	13	2	2	1	Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r gymuned leol..
	Cytuno'n llwyr	Cytuno	Ynail na'r llall	Anghytuno	Anghytun o'n llwyr	