

School : Ysgol Cae Top

URN: 6613030

Date of the last Section 50 inspection: 06/07/16

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Ysgol Cae Top, that is under Church in Wales Control, is situated in Bangor. It provides education for pupils between 3 and 11 years old. There are 234 pupils on the school roll, that includes 28 nursery age pupils. There are eight same age classes at the school.

The school admits the pupils part-time in the September following their third birthday and full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. Around 10% of the pupils come from Welsh speaking homes. Around 25% of pupils come from minority or mixed ethnic backgrounds and speak 16 different languages. Around 24% learn English as an additional language.

Welsh is used as a learning medium at the Foundation Phase. At key stage 2, the pupils are taught in Welsh and English.

10% of pupils are eligible to receive free school meals. 24% are on the school's additional learning needs register. Very few pupils are SEN statemented.

The school was last inspected in May 2009. The headteacher is in post since September 2015, and the deputy since December 2015.

The individual school budget in 2015-2016 per pupil for Ysgol Cae Top is £3,837. The maximum per pupil in primary schools in Gwynedd is £12,116 and the minimum is £2,981. Ysgol Cae Top is 58th out of 98 primary schools in Gwynedd as regards school budget per pupil.

THE SCHOOL'S VISION AND VALUES

[You may take out or include the school's mission statement, statement of school values or aims as agreed by the school community.]

Ffynnwyn yng Ngoleuni Crist

The school's vision is based on seven Christian values.

Hope, peace, perseverance, wisdom, friendship, thanksgiving, respect

We stress the importance of the three fold partnership – pupil, school, home.

We provide a happy, stimulating environment where all pupils, irrespective of ability and background, have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

We equip our pupils to become responsible citizens who have an active role within their bilingual community.

SCHOOL'S ETHOS

The school serves a wide community with a diversity both of language and socially. Every effort is made at all times to ensure that the pupil feels part of the school family. We take pride in that almost every school visitor recognizes the sense of friendship and discipline at the school and how new pupils settle down and soon.

There is a hard working class environment that is reinforced by displays of the pupils work. This demonstrates respect towards work and the pupils efforts and ensures a stimulating and attractive environment.

The teachers are committed to our pupils development. A high standard of behaviour and commitment is expected at all times.

The Curriculum and other relevant activities assist to develop spiritual, moral, cultural and social understanding.

SUMMARY

In around 50 words, summarize your school's specialization and effectiveness as a church school.

Ysgol Cae Top serves its multi-cultural community through providing high quality education within the context of Christian belief and practice.
We are a happy and effective learning community and specifically focus on Christian values. The golden rule that is regularly drilled into pupils and modelled by the entire staff is to treat others as you would be expected to be treated.

PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING THE FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT AT THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION

Schools may wish to add further points if required

Focus for development 1:

Further develop the expression of the school's noted Christian character, especially in the classes.

Action taken	Impact
There are several displays around the school that display the school's unique Christian character. Christian values are recognized and celebrated throughout the Building with several walls that regularly reinforce the pupils understanding. The values tree provides a good example of this. There is a reflection area close by or in the classes as well as well-being walls/concerns boxes. In their weekly religious education, pupils have obvious opportunities to appreciate Christian	The pupils understanding of Christian values and character is now excellent. Through nurturing the pupils knowledge and understanding of their values and Christian roots, they can appreciate various cultures and recognize their responsibilities as global citizens extremely well. Social skills such as showing kindness and care for others, empathy, collaboration and justice have developed to be very good.

features through multi-medium presentations.	
Focus for development 2: Commence the process of evaluating the school as a church school and complete improvements suggested in the school's documentation.	
Action	Impact
<p>Write Church self-evaluation.</p> <p>Prepare special periods for Christian RE.</p> <p>Provide resources to develop the Christian Character around the school.</p> <p>Re-structure services.</p> <p>Map faith songs throughout the year.</p> <p>Put high expectations on pupils to learn some by Memory.</p>	<p>Identify what action to take.</p> <p>Substantial development in the pupils knowledge and understanding of our Christian values.</p> <p>Special zones for pupils to reflect on and celebrate their faith.</p> <p>Collaborate with parents from various religions to ensure that all pupils attend the morning services.</p> <p>Development in pupils Welsh verbal skills and in their sense of belonging through collective worship.</p>
KEY QUESTION 1 How well does the school, through its special Christian character, meet all learners needs?	
SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION: Excellent	
School evidence based on pupils outcomes Comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners Attainment • Christian values • Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development • Relationships • Understanding of various communities and respect towards them • Religious Education <p>The School's vision is to ensure a happy and effective learning community where very high expectations and excellent provision ensures that every pupil fulfils their full potential. Ensuring excellent well-being standards is a regular priority and through collaboration with our community and local schools, this is very successfully achieved. The PSE provision as well as the school's daily practices promote values such as integrity, tolerance, fairness and respect excellently.</p> <p>Most pupils at Ysgol Cae Top achieve excellently considering their beginnings. Tracking system results (teacher assessments, National and internal tests) indicate that every child makes progress that is at least good, and is often excellent, compared to their previous attainment and against their personal targets. This is achieved through a thorough recognition and excellent relationship with the pupils.</p> <p>See comments on the pupils performance in the School Self-Evaluation report and in ESTYN's</p>	

recent report.

Due to our caring and supportive ethos, attendance is very good and places us in the highest 50% of similar schools over the past few years. Last year, attendance was 95.7% and this year, we are very close to our target of 96%.

Almost every pupil arrives in school punctually. The parents are committed to maintaining this level of attendance. There are robust systems in place to promote good attendance and identify homes where support is required.

There have been no instances of racism or bullying. The behavioural support policy and the whole school ethos promotes fraternity and co-existence. Respect is promoted towards differentiation and racial equality through our PSE work and services. Through excellent work to ensure an appreciation of our Welsh and Christian culture, we have laid a strong foundation to appreciate other cultures. We often celebrate our pupils' diverse backgrounds through theme/PSE work or at services. The impact is that our pupils have an intensive grasp of global religions and traditions and of how other cultures enrich our lives.

The school is twinned with Bangor Cathedral and we receive weekly visits from Canon David Fisher as well as fortnightly visits from 'Agor y llyfr'. The impact is to develop knowledge of Biblical stories and their understanding of the underlying lessons. The pupils' ability has been developed to use their knowledge of Bible stories and very successfully relate them to their understanding of our Christian values. The pupil can link the values, from the Biblical context, with their personal lives and simulate them excellently. There are several value trees around the school to celebrate when pupils incorporate these values.

Through working with the Rev Townsend, the pupils collected money towards the 'feed a cow' charity in Kenya. The notion of supporting charities through the work was incorporated in citizenship lessons where more money was raised with Mr Roberts, former Headteacher of Ysgol Corn Hir, for children in Kenya. The pupils, who are led by the school council, eco council or the Welsh Council raise money for a large number of charities during the year such as Children in Need, Christian Aid, Red Noses Day, Marie Curie etc.

These experiences lead to pupils having an excellent knowledge and understanding of their duties as good Christians and global citizens.

There is a firm emphasis on Christianity in our RE lessons. This year, the School has used Church in Wales plans to ensure that the pupils are well informed about the Bible and of the message conveyed by Jesus Christ's gospel. The school's belief is that firm foundations of understanding of our heritage and Welsh and Christian culture is required before we can really appreciate other pupils' cultures and backgrounds. The School also makes excellent use of RE lessons to develop the pupils' literacy and understanding of their Welsh culture. The songs in the morning Service is one of our most effective tools to develop pupils' Welsh oracy, where almost all come from non-Welsh speaking homes. The impact is clearly seen in the accuracy of their articulation and substantial development in their Welsh verbal skills. This has been recognized by the County through the Language charter, Estyn, parents and most of all by the pupils.

Key Strengths

- Learners Achievement
- Christian Values
- Grasp of various communities and respect towards them

Points to develop

- Relationships - Since the departure of Very Rev Susan Jones, Canon David Fisher has

held weekly services. He is now on a Sabbatical and we hope that somebody else will soon support us.

KEY QUESTION 2 What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION: Good

School evidence based on pupil outcomes:

Comment on:

Impact of collective worship

Central features of collective worship

The core nature of worship and meditation

The theological basis of collective worship

Leadership and management of collective worship

These suggestions are taken from Improvement Evaluation Programme where further details can be found

Reasons for the grade (impact and provision)

It is ensured that the period of collective worship encompasses a wide range of Christian themes with a strong emphasis on the School's Christian values and Christian celebrations. This ensures that pupils have a good understanding of the nature of worship, the Christian faith, traditions and practices.

The collective worship plan at Ysgol Cae Top, has been drawn up to ensure continuity, diversity and a clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Various hymns are sung at our services. Through our Services, our RE scheme of work and PSE plan, the pupils effectively contribute through organizing contributions beforehand, sharing feelings at the time and through meditation on what has been discussed. They also have an opportunity to reflect on their personal lives and those of others, consider the fundamental questions of life and reflect on their personal beliefs or values.

These Services provide an opportunity to meditate, question and discuss matters that arise at the school or outside. These periods provide an opportunity for the children to discuss their feelings, listen to others and respect different views.

Weekly, various groups of pupils throughout the school prepare a service. These services include diverse items ranging from drama to a quiz. This enhances KS2 pupils understanding of themes and stories, encourages them to think of effective methods of presenting a story/theme and provides FP pupils with various experiences as regards collective worship.

As a Church School, there are strong links between the school and the pupils and the Cathedral. The Canon David regularly holds services and the children also participate at Cathedral Services – Thanksgiving Service and Christmas service. A Group of Church volunteers hold fortnightly Services - "Agor y Llyfr." Scheme. Bible stories are narrated in drama form that bring the stories alive. The contents/meaning of the stories is discussed at the end of the service. As a consequence, the pupils knowledge of the stories and of the message has enormously increased.

Mae pupils jointly recite the Lord's Prayer at the morning service, jointly recite a prayer before lunch and a prayer/grace at the end of the day. Services and lessons are held to ensure that the pupils understand the nature and purpose of a prayer. During the services, the pupils have an opportunity to meditate and to recite a personal prayer. The pupils have an opportunity to

meditate, write personal prayers for specific occasions e.g. thanksgiving, and local and International events e.g. homeless people in Bangor with the food bank or the war in Syria. This all ensures that the period of collective worship is a notable spiritual period.

Key Strengths

- Impact of collective worship
- Leadership and management of collective worship

Points to develop

KEY QUESTION 4

How effective is school leadership and management as a church school?

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION: Good

School evidence based on pupil outcomes:

Comment on:

- Christian Vision
- Evaluation and strategic planning
- Further leadership of church schools
- Partnership with key stakeholders

These suggestions are taken from an Improvement Self-Evaluation Programme where further details can be found

Reasons for the grade (impact and provision)

The School has a clear Christian vision. The vision has been jointly drawn up and discussed with all the stakeholders. Specific services and lessons are held on the Christian values upon which the vision is based. This provides pupils with opportunities to discuss, enhance understanding and express the values using various methods.

When self-evaluating the School's Christian direction of travel, we are of the view that we have fully addressed the last inspection in developing the School's Christian character. The plan includes firm implementation measures and sets a definite time-table to follow. The governors monitor progress at their meetings.

School staff and governors effectively address every child's educational needs including ALN registered pupils. This ensures that we recognize the School's Christian character through creating an ethos that supports effective learning.

There is a close link between the School and the Cathedral. Through holding Thanksgiving, Christmas, Remembrance Sunday, St David's Day services, and through visits from Bishop Andy and Canon David, we nurture a sense of belonging amongst the pupils. The school has an excellent Church Governor that ensures that we deal with all aspects of school life with a good Christian mindset.

Annually, year 6 pupils spend a day at Bangor Cathedral. A day to celebrate the end of their time at the primary school and to look forward towards the next step. A large number of staff have had an opportunity to attend the event with the pupils and this has provided them with training and professional development.

Christian RE and Global Citizenship is taught weekly by a specialist teacher during PPA periods. This has led to excellent development in pupils knowledge, understanding and skills to be good Christians.

Key Strengths

The Headteacher and staff model and promote behaviour and values that make a positive contribution towards creating a school ethos where pupils and staff feel that they are respected and appreciated.

Points to develop

Various pupil councils to collaborate with other Church School pupil councils.