



The Church in Wales Schools Statutory Inspection

under Section 50 of
2005 Education Act

(also known as Improvement Inspection)

Self-Evaluation Document
Ysgol Llanystumdwy
6613023

May 2018



The same importance is still attached to self-evaluation of the specialization of a church school and schools are encouraged to show creativity when seeking to show the impact of their Christian character on the school's daily life. Completion of a self-evaluation document can assist teachers, governors and, of course school inspectors.

Schools show increasing creativity in their use of self-evaluation using for example, photographs, thinking maps and Christian values, as well as more traditional evaluation forms, to assess the impact of the character of their school. This document seeks to enable such creativity through not adopting an excessively prescriptive approach, leaving a great deal to the head teacher's and staff's professionalism.

A successful evaluation's main focus should always be on impact. Whilst schools have every right to take pride in their pupil's provision, what really matters is the difference that such provision makes.

Church schools inspectors will not expect this document to account for everything that occurs at the school and schools should not feel pressurized to do so. The inspectors will gather a range of self-evaluation evidence on the premises that may contain annotated collections or photographs; thinking maps; class reflection books etc. This, together with discussions, observations and other documentation will enable inspectors to assess the accuracy of the school's evaluations.

Schools are free to devise their own ways to summarize evaluation of the school's specialization. The National Association provides this model as one that can be used in collaboration with Improvement Inspections Evaluation Programme (November 2013). It has been trialled by schools and many schools have found it useful.

School: Ysgol Llanystumdwy

URN: 6613023

Date of previous Section 50 inspection: January 2012

SCHOOL CONTEXT

The school is situated in the small village of Llanystumdwy, quite close to the town of Cricieth. The school stands at the western edge of the village near the parish church. The school's main teaching medium is Welsh and around three quarters of the pupils come from families who speak Welsh at home or who have at least one Welsh speaking parent. English is increasingly often used as the child progresses through the school so as to ensure that they become confident bilingual speakers by the time they leave the school. The language of communication outside lessons is Welsh.

There are 22 pupils between 3 and 11 years old on the school register including part-time nursery pupils. They are placed in two classes, one for the Foundation Phase and the other for KS2. The school admits pupils to the school full-time in September following their fourth birthday.

4 of the pupils attend from outside the catchment-area. 36% of the pupils come from homes where both parents speak Welsh as the first language and around 23% come from homes where Welsh is spoken by one parent. None of the pupils come from an ethnic minority background.

5 pupils are on the ALN register with two of them having an IDP. No pupil currently receives free dinner.

The individual school budget per pupil for Ysgol Llanystumdwy stands at £6183.

The headteacher was appointed to her post in January 2011.

SCHOOL VISION AND VALUES

'You should always treat others as you would like to be treated.'

Mathew 7:12

The school serves a close linguistically and socially diverse community. Every effort is always made to ensure that every pupil and their families feel that they belong to the school family, and we take pride in the Christian environment and ethos that permeates all aspects of school life. We also take pride in that visitors to the school recognize the sense of friendship and discipline at the school with staff and pupils mutual care being an obvious feature.

There is a busy class environment, supported by displays of pupils work. This reflects respect towards the pupils work and efforts and ensures a stimulating and attractive environment. The Curriculum and other relevant activities assist to develop moral, cultural and social understanding so that they become bilingual citizens.

The teachers are committed to the full development of our pupils potential, and they provide robust and consistent role models for all pupils. Responsible and organized behaviour is expected from the pupils at all times.

TO SUM UP

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

Ysgol Llanystumdwy serves its community through providing education of the highest quality within the Christian faith and practice. It is a happy, caring and safe establishment where Jesus Gospel is nurtured and developed.

PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING THE FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION Schools may add further comments if required

Focus to develop 1:

Promote pupils spiritual development (for example, using visual material around the school)

Action	Impact
Number of displays around the school displaying the school's Christian character.	Pupils have a very good grasp of the school's Christian character with excellent aspects.
Different Christian values are celebrated in different displays.	Pupils have a very good grasp of the Christian values practiced at the school and in the world outside.
Attractive displays of pupil's RE work are exhibited around the school.	The pupils recognize that the RE work that they internalize is respected and has a positive impact on their attitude towards the subject.
Themes that are discussed at the morning assemblies are displayed during the following week in the Hall.	The pupils receive a regular reminder of the stories through regularly seeing them during the week.
A tree is used as a focal point to remind pupils of what they have heard at services.	A clear weekly follow-up between services and pupils able to discuss during the day.

Focus to develop 2:

Ensure that all elements of the School documentation reflects the school's Christian character

Action	Impact
Up-date the school's Church self-evaluation.	Staff and Governors can contribute and decide on how to make improvements. Ownership of the self-evaluation and an understanding of school processes.
Up-date the school handbook.	A handbook including a letter from the diocese, and parents having an understanding of the school's day to day life as a church school.
Use Church in Wales questionnaires.	Recognize stakeholders attitudes and positive matters and matters requiring improvement.

KEY QUESTION 1 How well does the school, through its particular Christian character, address all learners needs?

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION: Good with Excellent aspects

Pupil outcomes based school evidence

Comment on:

- Learners Achievement
- Christian Values
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Relationships
- Understanding of various communities and respect towards them
- Religious Education

Reasons for grade awarded impact and provision)

The School's vision is to provide a positive and happy environment and conditions conducive to all pupils thriving. Tracking system results (teacher assessments, National and internal tests) indicate that all pupils progress and in achieving personal targets. This is achieved through a thorough recognition and an excellent relationship with the pupils. Lesson observations indicate that the pupils have positive attitudes towards learning.

School attendance for 2016-17 stood at 95.8%. This has improved from 93.8% during 2015-16 and is due to hard work by the School Council, the staff and the Governors through prioritization in SDP during 2017-18 and reflects all stakeholders commitment to improved attendance. Robust and firm measures have been put in place such as regular meetings with parents of pupils whose attendance is below 95% jointly with the local welfare officer and a full 'Golden Time' attendance awards system was established following discussions with the School Council. All stakeholders are committed to maintaining this attendance level and are notified of their children's attendance level every half-term. Almost all pupils punctually arrive at the school. No exclusions have occurred for years.

See comments on pupils performance contained in the school's Self-Evaluation Report.

No instances of racial harassment or bullying have occurred. The school's policy on behavioural support and supporting the School's entire ethos promotes fraternity and co-existence. There is respect towards racial differences and equality through our PSE work and services. Pupils display excellent behaviour and the relationship between all members of the school community can be regularly appropriated to the school's Christian character and values. School visitors mention the pupils excellent conduct and outstanding mutual care.

The School works hard to support the less fortunate - internationally, nationally and locally. Fund-raising has occurred towards the charity Children in Need, British Heart Foundation and Macmillan through holding various activities during the term, and several boxes were sent to the Operation Christmas Child charity this year. We also collect food to send to the food bank that is run in Pwllheli three times a year and the pupils recognize the importance of caring for others. Our Christmas service collection this year has gone towards the NSPCC charity following a discussion by the School Council.

Clwb Llan – an after school club has a Biblical bent through craft activities, discussion and games – held once a month by a group of hard-working and committed parishioners here as well. We have annually taken KS2 pupils to the Lent dinner held in Cricieth for six years, and they also prepare soup for the parishioners that is served during the dinner. This provides every pupil with an opportunity to feel part of the parish as they liaise with parishioners who may be strangers to them. Through such diverse activities we try to develop the sense of being part of a local, national and global church 'family'. Y.6 attend Bangor Cathedral for a day of activities and service every Summer Term to conclude their time as church school pupils.

The local church is used as a learning tool within our RE lessons, and we also visit Coleg y Bala every two years for Eater activities that are led by Wales Presbyterian Church Youth workers. It provides a special opportunity for the pupils to learn more about Eater Christian religious practices and the history behind those celebrations.

The PSE provision as well as the school's daily practices are thoroughly mapped out to ensure a link between RE, our

Christian values and our Healthy School and Eco School work. These activities excellently promote values such as integrity, tolerance, fairness and respect.

Our RE lessons place an emphasis on Christianity. The pupils are well-informed about stories from the Bible and about Jesus gospel message. Schemes of work are used that have been prepared by St Asaph parish as a basis for the class activities throughout the school and a strong emphasis is placed on Christianity whilst also developing the pupils knowledge of other religions and cultures. The impact of various religious leaders on believers is well focussed upon. The School includes cross-curricular elements in their RE lessons in accordance with Literacy and Numeracy Framework requirements.

In questionnaires distributed in January 2017, every parent noted that the school had a notable Christian character and that almost all of them saw this as making a significant contribution to the pupils education. All parents also agreed that the school encouraged the pupils to think of others and look after God's creation, and that the school had effective links with the local community.

At the Foundation Phase, it is seen that through observation, through scrutinizing books and by talking to the children, that they enjoy the diverse Religious Education experiences provided, and that they have a good grasp of religion's impact on the lives of believers at their own level. They can express an opinion on morality lessons that stories contain, and they are very well informed about Bible stories. They have an elementary grasp of Christian values such as tolerance and fairness, and of the need to care for others in the world and for the world itself.

The pupils have opportunities in KS2 class to discuss and develop their grasp of religions and of the rules governing the lives of believers. They do so to a high standard and can ask intensive and challenging questions in discussion. They have an opportunity to use their knowledge in extended writing in various forms and do so successfully.

Key Strengths

- A happy, supportive and caring school for pupils and staff
- Learners achievement
- All stakeholders implement Christian Values

Points to develop

- Provide further opportunities for KS2 pupils to write in an extended manner in English more frequently during their RE lessons.

KEY QUESTION 2 What impact does collective worship have on the school community?

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION: Excellent

School Evidence based on pupil outcomes:

Comment on:

- The impact of collective worship
- Central features of collective worship
- The central role of worship and meditation
- The theological basis of collective worship
- Leadership and management of collective worship

Grade awarded (impact and provision)

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

The collective worship plan for Ysgol Llanystumdwy has been prepared to ensure continuity, diversity and a clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Various songs are sung at our services. Through our services, our RE scheme of work

and PSE plan, the pupils make an effective contribution through organizing contributions beforehand, sharing feelings at the time and through reflection on matters discussed. They also have an opportunity to reflect on their personal lives and those of others, examine life's fundamental questions and reflect on their beliefs or values. Services are held every morning at the school, where every staff member will hold a service so that the pupils link all staff with their moral development:

Monday – FP Teacher

Tuesday – Headteacher – focus on a specific theme for a term/half-term e.g. Jesse Tree, Jesus Stories through story bags

Wednesday – Open the Book Group/Parish Rector

Thursday – FP Teacher – Bible Stories

Friday – Service organized by the children. Assistants help with this.

These services provided an opportunity to reflect, question and discuss matters that arise in school or outside. These periods provide the pupils with an opportunity to discuss their feelings, listen to others and respect diverse views.

From time to time, days of specific activities are held on an aspect of life as a Christian e.g. Christingle day. The pupils have an opportunity to hold a special service during these days through leading the worship. KS2 pupils serve as good role models for FP pupils through their preparation work.

Ysgol Llanystumdwy has a very close relationship with the church with the school regularly participating in church services during the year. The local rector who has responsibility for Llanystumdwy Church is Chair of our Governing Body and holds fortnightly visits to the school to hold a morning service. A School Communion Service is held once a term, and local parishioners are invited to join us at the school or in the church.

The pupils also participate in services at the village Church – Thanksgiving Service and Christmas service. A group of Church volunteers hold services every fortnight - "Open the Book" scheme. A story from the Bible is narrated in drama form that brings the stories alive. The stories contents/meaning are discussed at the end of the service. The pupils grasp of the stories and of their message have consequently enormously increased. There is an excellent relationship between the pupils and members of this group. Group members and parishioners and the rector are invited to join the pupils for our Christmas lunch that provides an opportunity for the pupils to thank them for their commitment to the school during the year.

School pupils jointly recite the Lord's Prayer at the morning service, jointly recite a prayer before lunch and prayer/grace at the end of the school day. Services and lessons are held to ensure that pupils grasp the nature and purpose of prayer. During the services, pupils have an opportunity to meditate and to recite a personal prayer. The pupils have an opportunity to write prayers for specific occasions e.g. thanksgiving, Mothering Sunday etc. This ensures that the period of collective worship is a notable spiritual period.

Through analysing pupils questionnaires about collective worship, every pupil noted that they enjoyed the worship sessions, and that they liked the diverse provision. The pupils enjoy participating in the sessions and take on increasing responsibility for organizing a service once a week.

Key Strengths

- 100% of parents said that the School's values and approach had a positive impact on their child.
- Collective worship provision is excellent.
- The excellent opportunities that pupils receive when planning weekly worship wholly independently have developed their grasp of Christian rituals and of the various traditions at religious services.

Points to develop

- Staffing changes in 2018-19 imply that slight adjustments to morning arrangements will be required, we will therefore consult the pupils on how they would like to see further development to their role.

KEY QUESTION 4

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

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION: Good with Excellent aspects

School evidence based on pupils outcomes:

Comment on:

- Christian vision
- Evaluation and strategy planning
- Further leadership by church schools
- Partnership with key stakeholders

Reasons for grade awarded (impact and provision)

The School has a clear Christian vision. The vision has been formed and discussed jointly with all the stakeholders. Services and specific lessons are held on the Christian values that form a basis for the vision with very good use made of lesson plans prepared for the entire school by the Llandaf Diocese. This provides opportunities for the pupils to discuss, to extend understanding and express values in various ways.

When self-evaluating the School's Christian direction of travel, a priority has been added to SDP 2016-17 that contains a specific plan for Self-Evaluation and evaluation of the school's RE provision as staff changes occur. The plan contains firm implementation measures and sets out a firm time-table to follow. Progress made is monitored by the governors at their meetings. Staff are of the view that they have fully addressed both development issues noted in the last inspection.

School staff and governors fully address every pupil's educational needs, including those placed on the ALN register. By doing so, we ensure that the School's Christian character is recognized by creating an effective learning support ethos.

The school has very robust contacts with the Church and wider community. The pupils work with Church members during after school 'Clwb Llan' sessions that provide activities based on Christian values. A communion service is held at the School every term, and the Open the Book group contribute towards ensuring that the parents know what goes on at the school. Although pupils who attend the school do not attend Sunday school, we feel that the pupils are very aware of their Christian heritage and what being a Christian involves.

We receive occasional visits from Bishop Andy and Canon Townsend, that nurtures a sense of belonging amongst the pupils. Year 6 also attend a day of activities and service at the Cathedral during their last term at the school to celebrate the end of their time at the primary school and to look forward to their next stage in their life as a Christian. All staff members have had an opportunity in turn to accompany the pupils to the event and this has provided training and professional development for them.

There is close contact between the School and the parish religious leaders, mainly the Rector, Father Dylan Williams. School services are held at the church, and the parishioners are invited to attend these services as well as the termly school communion. The School Council also invite the parishioners to attend a Christmas dinner with the pupils at the school. Father Dylan Williams and Rev Kim Williams are governors.

Christian Art – a 'coloured window' has been installed at the school with a local artist, Sarah Wray, who has been the subject of a great deal of discussion with the pupils before, during and following the work. The pupils have taken an interest in the stories displayed.

A good and adequate supply of RE resources are available at the School. When we require a particular resource, the Rector/Church members assist us.

Key Strengths

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

Points to develop

- Develop a 'Prayer Pathway' in the school garden that can be a special place put to several uses. We will submit

a grant application to the Diocese to do this.