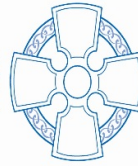




YR EGLWYS
YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH
IN WALES

Gwella Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Voluntary Controlled school
Llanfair D.C.
Ruthin
LL152RU

Local authority: Denbighshire

Dates of inspection: 19th and 20th January 2016

Date of last inspection: 25th and 26th May 2010

School's unique reference number: 6633045

Headteacher: Mrs Llinos Hughes B.Ed.

Inspector's name : Mr Gareth Williams M.Ed.



School context

Llanfair D.C. is a voluntary controlled Church-in-Wales bilingual primary school situated in a rural setting, in the village of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd close to Ruthin. The school caters for boys and girls aged 3-11 years. The school has 102 pupils on roll including 13 part-time nursery children. Although English is the language of the home for 51% of pupils, 77% have chosen to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. 15% of pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken with both parents. 34% of pupils speak Welsh with one parent only. At present 5% of pupils are registered for free school meals There are 17% of pupils which have been identified as having additional learning needs. At this moment in time no child has been withdrawn from Religious Education or Collective Worship.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Llanfair D.C. 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 local vicar visits the school twice every half term to conduct school services and advise on religious issues. The Bishop's Visitor is also a supportive member of the school team. Pupils are curious, questioning and reflective about the world they live in, spiritual issues and moral challenges. They are given many opportunities to contribute to their learning environment and the wider world. All this is done with reflection and appreciation of the world God has created.

Established strengths

- The excellent behaviour, attitude and attainment of the children.
- The children of Llanfair D.C. school are well supported by all adults to secure their full potential.
- The high standard of Collective Worship
- The Christian leadership of the Head teacher and Governors.

Focus for development

- To report formally to Governors on the developments in Collective Worship and Religious Education
- To further develop the role of the Ethos group to include all aspects of school life.
- To encourage pupils to plan and lead whole school Collective Worship on a regular basis.
- To ensure that all stakeholders are involved fully in self evaluation processes.

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

The contribution of Religious Education to the Christian Character of the school is good

Llanfair D.C. has a genuine Christian caring ethos permeating throughout the school, which impacts positively on the health and well-being of staff and pupils alike, providing a very good basis for teaching and learning to take place. Christian values and artefacts are displayed prominently throughout the school and Collective Worship focuses on school values. The school's links with Patagonia provide a valuable resource for helping children to appreciate the differences between global communities.

Distinctly Christian values are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. All members of the school community articulate the distinctly Christian characteristics of the school's values and the significant impact they have on the daily lives and achievement of learners.

There is a highly developed interpretation of spirituality shared across the school. Learners have regular opportunities to engage in high quality experiences that develop a personal spirituality. They are passionate and confident to express their thoughts and views in considerable depth through a rich variety of styles and media.

During Collective Worship pupils use a variety of prayers, songs and affirmations from an early age. The local vicar leads worship on a regular basis. Pupils are given time for reflection during Collective Worship and are invited to join in prayer. Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two teachers plan, organise lead and evaluate Collective Worship on a regular basis. The school attends St. Mary's Church several times during the year for special services.

The school has worked hard to ensure that Religious Education has its rightful place in the school's curriculum. Good planning strategies make the most of cross-curricular links and encourage pupils to develop their skills. Information technology is used well and lessons are exciting, thereby enabling pupils to have a good breadth of knowledge and understanding. By planning together in key stages in conjunction with the subject co-ordinator, staff ensure that there is continuity and progression throughout the school. Over the last year teachers' planning in Religious Education has been updated to include the Literacy and Numeracy Framework. Assessment, recording and reporting elements of religious education are in place and processes are gradually evolving.

During Religious Education lessons pupils are encouraged to ask questions appropriate to their age/ability, reflecting upon the meaning and messages, and consider how these have an impact on their own lives. Pupils, staff, parents and the wider community share a very good relationship. This enables the children to feel safe, secure and valued as individuals, to ensure that they are in the best position to embrace the curriculum and achieve their potential. Using a variety of teaching and learning styles, staff ensure that all pupils are engaged and given opportunities for spiritual reflection. Religious Education lessons are delivered as part of the regular weekly timetable. Curriculum provision is monitored by the Curriculum Leader, the Head teacher and the vicar as governor with responsibility for Religious Education.

There is a strong church element within Religious Education which underpins the spiritual life of the school and it is good to see the Holy Spirit having a place in the curriculum. The local vicar and the Bishop's Visitor are an excellent resource for the subject and their role here and in several other areas of the school's life and community is highly valued.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good

The newly updated planning and recording system ensures that worship meshes with the teaching themes as well as the church year. Worship is a positive experience for pupils and an essential part of school life. Staff regularly attend worship and are actively involved with its delivery. The children have opportunities to participate and lead worship in many different ways. The school makes excellent use of Welsh during Collective Worship in prayers, hymns and instructions. Time is also set aside within Collective Worship to share and celebrate individual talent and achievement.

Collective Worship at Llanfair school is delivered on a daily basis. Pupils lead services at key times throughout the Christian calendar in church, and parents are also invited to attend these events. The Christian ethos of the school is reflected through the provision of focus points with Christian symbols and appropriate music, appropriate responses and prayers and a time for reflection. The new "thinking boxes" will be a very good way to focus the reflections of the pupils in the future.

Christian values are at the heart of the school and its varied activities. A candle is lit to signify the start and finish of Collective Worship. The school incorporates the Church year in its long term plans. The local vicar leads Collective Worship twice every half term in school. The children are encouraged to model their behaviour on the Christian values and teachings through Biblical stories and are encouraged to live these out in their everyday lives.

The school aims to ensure that the acts of Collective Worship are interactive, as and when appropriate. Questions are asked and pupils are encouraged to participate through verbal contributions, reading prayers and stories, and taking time to reflect on the current theme.

Collective Worship includes celebrations of other cultures and faiths and are underpinned by the school's values. The acts of worship reflect upon Christian values. Collective Worship and the separate reflective session offers children a quality time of reflection as part of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Worship specifically provides opportunities for pupils and staff to worship God and use the Bible. Pupils generally react positively to Collective Worship and they listen and respond well. There are clear guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Behaviour outcomes are discussed and Christian teaching, for example on forgiveness, is used where appropriate. There is a strong ethos of love and care within the school.

PHSE, global issues, as well as regular visitors to the school, all help to shape the spiritual and moral development of the children. The school takes care to deal appropriately with sensitive and confidential issues. Staff treat pupils as individuals, celebrating diversity and success appropriately, whilst being mindful of peoples' difficulties.

The children obviously enjoy listening, participating and leading worship. They can repeat many of their favourite Bible stories, appreciating and articulating their underlying moral messages. When questioned, the children expressed their appreciation of the opportunities offered to them during worship to develop their understanding of God and the value of prayer.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is excellent

The Head teacher has been in post since 2005 and has ensured that the Christian ethos of the school is communicated and modelled throughout the school day to pupils, parents and visitors. The Head teacher, Governing Body and all staff work as a team in promoting the ethos and vision of the school. All the Governing Body, including Foundation Governors, are fully aware of supporting the Christian character of the school and are involved in the strategic planning process, thereby ensuring that the school provides the best education for its pupils.

The school's Mission statement is underpinned by Christian principles and is clearly highlighted in the prospectus.

The church is very much part of the school life and has close links. During special times of the Christian year pupils take part and lead services in the church. This shows the importance of the Christian calendar to the pupils and also involves them in the family of the church. To help form links with the church and the Christian calendar, there is an excellent display in the focus area of the year 4 and 5 classroom, which helps the children to understand the meanings of the different festivals and liturgical colours of the church year.

Collective Worship is evaluated on a regular basis. Observations are undertaken during the year by the Head teacher as the coordinator. Pupils now have more of an involvement with the planning and evaluation of Collective Worship. The Collective Worship policy has recently been reviewed by staff and by the governors.

Religious Education and its relevant policies are part of the school based review system. Monitoring of Religious Education at present is carried out by the subject leader, but in future will involve all stakeholders, including the newly formed Ethos group. This will enable the recommendations of the Section 50 report to be monitored and evaluated after a year of implementation.

The school tries hard to keep parents fully informed of their child's progress. They are invited to an open evening in September and then at regular intervals during the year. A full written report is given in July. There are good opportunities for parents to meet with teachers and communication with parents is effective through letter, e-mail and text.

The Parent Teacher 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 playground.

The professional development of the Head teacher and all of the staff is a priority. They are always encouraged to take part in courses associated with church school ethos and development.

The leadership team share a common goal for the academic improvement and wellbeing of all the pupils. The ethos is one where pupils and staff feel secure and cared for. All the staff aim to give pupils the best education they can, spiritually and academically. The Governing Body as "critical friends" willingly give their time whenever possible to ensure pupils and staff are supported and guided. The governors are fully committed to the Christian values of the school.

The school fulfils all the statutory requirements for Collective Worship

*The content of this report should be considered alongside the Estyn team's Section 28 report. I would like to thank the Estyn inspection team for their co operation. I would also like to thank the Headteacher, Staff, Governors and Pupils of Llanfair D.C. for their welcome and cooperation.
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 28 responses - Yr oedd 28 ymateb

	YES / YDWYF	NO / NAC YDWYF	
Are you aware that this is a church school?	28		<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?	28		<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?	17	11	<i>Ysgol Eglwys, sef ysgol gyda chymeriad Cristionogol, yw hon. A oedd y ffaith yma yn bwysig wrth I chi ddewis ysgol i'ch plentyn/plant?</i>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Dusagree	Strongly disagree	
The school has a distinctive Christian character	8	13	5	2		Mae cymeriad Cristnogol nodedig yn perthyn i'r ysgol
The school's distinctive Christian character makes a significant contribution to pupils' education	9	11	6	1	1	<i>Mae cymeriad Cristionogol nodedig yn gwneud cyfraniad awyddocaol I addysg y disgyblion.</i>
Pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience	10	10	6	1	1	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	15	10	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	10	10	5	3		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	17	8	1	1	1	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	14	10	4			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	19	7		1	1	Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r gymuned leol..
	Cytuno'n llwyr	Cytuno	Ynail na'r llall	Anghytuno	Anghytun o'n llwyr	