

How the school works with families before a child starts school.

- School A need to ensure that the family are comfortable with the admissions process and the school community before their child starts. It's also important that the child feels secure and settled within the setting.
- During admissions, the school will gather information about additional learning needs (ALN) and medical needs. Parents/carers will also receive an admissions pack to make them feel at ease.
- School A also do home visits before children entre the school. This helps the school understand the child's home situation so their able to support families in the best way possible. During this they explore the resources within the house e.g. Books, the family history/experiences with school e.g. If parents are illiterate or struggle with school themselves.
- To help children settle in, school A run parent/toddler groups which is run by the early years staff. During these sessions adults get to 'stay and play' too to build social interaction with their child. Its main purpose is for the children to build relationships with their future teachers and LSAs, so they feel more confident to enter the school.
- School A also offer flying start which is free childcare before children start school at 3 years old. By that time, the families and children will be familiar with the school.

How the school engages with faith and culture.

- There are many faiths and cultures in the community, so school A ensure they are all represented and feel welcome. They celebrate Christmas, Eid, Hanukkah, and Diwali etc. By making the day special for all children and educating others on these holidays and religions. They also have days like dignity day when children learn about respect.

I will be referring to school A throughout which is a primary school I visited to gather information for this poster. There are 646 learners (2022) and 29.4% of those are eligible for free school meals.

How the school works with parents, carers and the child.

- Family support officers (FSO) deal with any issues involving the child's family or when family might be playing a factor in the child's welfare or behaviour. The need for this has increased since covid19.
- Things they might deal with include:
- Attendance is one of the issues school A faces. The FSO can support this problem by finding the root cause of the problem and putting certain interventions in place to help support the child back into school. They also may carry out a home visit to assess the issue further. If they don't succeed, then legal action may take place.
- If a child has Attachment issues it can cause problems coming to school. It can make them anxious about leaving their parent or carer. They might find difficult to entre school in the morning or stay in school all day. Family emotional learning support assistant (ELSA) may help the child and family to produce some strategies to make it easier to come to school. For example, having a visual chart or attendance or a keep's sake from the carer.

How the school works with vulnerable learners?

- The schools FSO and ELSA also work closely with Young carers, refugee children service children, children with English as additional language (EAL) and children with adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). School A have an open-door policy where everyone is welcome, and they do their best to support children and their family's needs. They try to build up trust and relationships with the family/home and school which acts like a bridge for the children so they can get to know the school. They make sure they know they're not alone in their situation by holding regular sessions with other children going through the same thing. The school also raise awareness around the school by taking part in dignity day for example.
- School A make sure to effectively communicate with all parents and carers in a variety of ways. The children's progress, behaviour and any information is displayed on an app called seesaw. This ensures that parents receive it quickly and correctly. They are also able to access information on the school's website and social media platforms. However, if parents/carers cannot access this then paper letters can still be sent out as well as information from teachers directly.

How the school engages with the community.

- School A has their community at the heart of what they do. They have plenty of outside agencies that come into the school alongside health visitors and their hall is regularly used for things like their community choir.
- Some of the outside agencies that the school have brought in include energy sparks, eco committee, and even Mr Phormular. These are all educational agencies that can bring together the community. Parental engagement is usually a factor when these agencies come in to encourage parents/carers to be involved in their child's learning.
- Health visitor are also regularly in school A. they provide screening and immunisations like vaccines or hearing tests. They also provide education fir parents on sleep patterns etc. Hospital clinics are also welcome in the school to enable children to have an ADHD pathway assessment in school.

How the school promotes bilingualism.

- School A Is in Wales so its compulsory for children to learn Walsh. There are also many Welsh speakers around the school. This means that school A prioritise bilingualism as much as possible to ensure all the community feels welcome.
- The school use Welsh in everyday discussions with children so the get used to using both languages. Children from as young as 3 are using Welsh in the classroom.
- Parents are given information in both languages so they can choose.
- Around the school there are posters and artwork in Welsh and English along with other languages too as not everyone in the community speaks either Welsh or English so they can feel included too.

Start at my feet!

