

School X's links with the community:

School X exercises many links involving different aspects and stakeholders in the community. A few examples of these include:

- *Community library reading sessions*- School X has an adjoining library on site which offers the opportunity for learners to engage with books and partake in reading sessions provided by the librarians.
- *Church links*- The local church partners with School X in a variety of events and projects, such as Nativity performances and assemblies.
- *Zanzibar project*- School X has partnered with a school in Zanzibar to establish a global link whereby pupils write to each other, send uniforms and also have the opportunity to visit each other through organised trips. There are displays around the School X of photos and letters written by pupils that showcase the link between the two schools.
- *'My school in the museum'*- Some children in School X spend up to six weeks where their classroom is set up in a local museum.

Impacts on the learner:

It is believed that young people need reading to help them learn about writing and they need oral language to help them learn about both (Roskos, Christie, Richgels, 2003).

This supports learners to be 'knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past' (Welsh Government, 2015).

This community link accommodates the need for learners to be more 'ethically informed citizens' (Donaldson, 2015).

Experiencing the world beyond the classroom gives the learners real world experiences that engage and inspire (Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, 2018).

Key information about my placement school:

- My placement school, referred to as School X for the purposes of this assignment, is an English medium community school located just outside of Swansea City Centre. In 2019, the school had 429 pupils enrolled (Welsh Government, 2019).
- Around 35% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. Around 18% of pupils come from ethnic minority backgrounds and about 16% speak English as an additional language. No pupils speak Welsh as their first language, as stated by the schools Estyn Report (Estyn, 2014).
- School X is 61st out of the 80 primary schools in Swansea in terms of its school budget per pupil (Estyn, 2014). This gives a clear indication of the high levels of deprivation and additional needs within the school.
- According to the schools Equality Policy, the school aims 'To raise awareness of the Equality Act 2010, promote equality and consider wider equality and diversity issues faced by the school community and beyond' (School 'X' equality policy, 2019). This policy supports Article 2 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child whereby it states, 'You have the right to protection against discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you speak another language, have a disability, or are rich or poor.' (Save The Children, Date unknown).
- Another section of the schools Equality Policy states to 'Reduce gaps in attainment and attendance between various protected groups within school' (School 'X' equality policy, 2019). These policies emphasises the schools inclusivity despite the diverse nature of race, gender and socioeconomic status within learners.

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School X's links with the parents:

School X focuses on the engagement and involvement of parents to aid teaching and learning as well as to promote and build positive, open, trusting relationships.

Examples of these family partnerships include:

- *Home visits carried out by nursery teacher*- This happens prior to the child starting school to enable parents to meet their child's teacher, gain the opportunity to introduce themselves and discuss any worries or concerns before their first day. This idea of 'getting to know parents' is also supported by Margy Whalley who says that to be effective in engaging parents, we need to get to know the families (Whalley, 2007).
- *Parental engagement sessions*- This link is designed for parents to experience examples of teaching that takes place in their child's classroom.
- *F.A.S.T project (Families and schools together)*- F.A.S.T is a project facilitated by School X to provide families with a sense of community by learning how to cook healthy and affordable meals together and sharing what they have made by sitting around a table.
- *Coffee and communication class*- This parental link gives the opportunity for parents whose child has been recognised as having ALN to meet together in a relaxed environment to converse openly about their struggles and questions surrounding ALN.

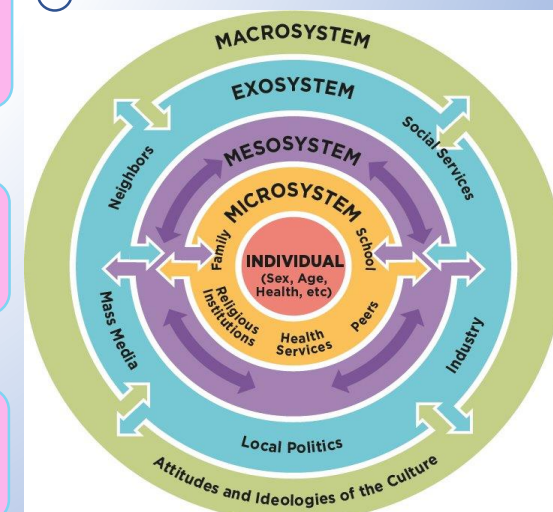
Learners are better understood by the relationship built between the family and teacher and therefore impacts on factors such as attendance and attainment (Thomas, 2014).

Learners needs are met by creating an environment designed for parents to explore and reflect on their child's learning (Whalley, 2007).

The health and well-being AoLE states 'health and well-being are important to enable successful learning' (Welsh Government, 2020).

Parents are able to gain advice and support and therefore apply positive and beneficial changes to support their child to thrive despite their ALN.

Start at my feet



Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory supports the understanding that learners are influenced by the relationships and interactions between themselves and their environments. (Psychology Notes, 2019).

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