



School A is a primary school in the Broadlands estate, which is on the outskirts of Bridgend. It is an English medium school that has approximately 500 pupils ranging from the age of 3 and 11. Within the school there are 14 classes as well as a large nursery unit. Each year group has its own two classes.

Bridgend is a town in the Bridgend County Borough of Wales, which is in South Wales. It has a population of approximately 145,500 people. Most people speak English, with a limited amount speaking Welsh. Some people speak other languages as 1.5% of the people in the area are of Asian ethnicity. The town is named after the medieval bridge over the River Ogmore. In Welsh, Bridgend is called Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. This translates to 'the end of the bridge on the Ogmore'.

How does the school engage with the local community?

- Broadlands estate – There is no community centre in the area. Therefore, the school is used for community purposes .
- The school has been used for community groups – dance, sports, Grace Church.
- The school is used as polling station – enables people of all ages to visit the school, thus engaging with it.
- The school facilities are used by Simply Out Of School – which is an after-school provision.
- Broadlands Community Fun Day – The school hosts a fun day once a year, which includes: rides, attractions, arts and crafts stalls, animals and much more. This allows the people of the area to visit the school as well as engaging with people from other areas who may have heard about the day.

ALN Support Across the School

- Parents/carers and agencies – School A holds meetings with the parents of ALN learners in order to understand the child's needs. For instance, social services could get involved if there are safeguarding needs. Also, there is early help support available – the school could provide 1:1 support for pupils if needed.
- Transition points – The school understands that transitions can be difficult for any child, especially those with additional needs. Therefore, the school aids children in making their transitions easier. For example, a new child starting nursery or a child just about to start comprehensive school.
- ALN reviews – Within the meetings with a child's parents or carers and professionals, an individual development plan is created and then reviewed every term (3 times a year). At each meeting, new targets are set for the child. Also, the child's one page profile is also shared prior to the meetings held with the parents.

Language, Faith, Culture and Socio-economic Context

- Language – In the school, not all children use English as their first language. Some children have never spoken Welsh before as they have come from another country. In School A, there is a minority of children who come from an Asian ethnic background.
- Faith – In School A, majority of the pupils are Christians. However, not all of the children follow Christianity; some of them do not follow any religion.
- Culture – Due to some children coming from Asian backgrounds, there is a diverse range of cultures in the school.
- Socio-economic – The unemployment rate in Bridgend is growing. Therefore, there are children from different financial backgrounds across the school; some from high income families and some from low-income families.

Start At My Feet

How have links with the community supported learning?

- Grace Church – Every Monday, the pastor from the local church takes an assembly. He talks about the values of Christianity, hence why the assembly is known as the Monday Values assembly. In Bridgend, approximately 40.4% of the population are Christians. Therefore, it is important that these assemblies take place as it allows children to explore their faith, while being in a safe, familiar environment.
- Island Farm – Brett Exton, a local in Bridgend, visits the school and educates children on Island Farm. Island Farm was a prisoner of war camp, which is just on the outskirts of Bridgend.
- Bridgend Foodbank – Every year, the school supports Harvest. Majority of the children donate food for Harvest, which is then donated to the food bank. This allows the children of the school to understand the importance of helping others to eat.
- Charity fundraisers – The school enables children to feel heard by allowing them to choose which charity they would like to support. Each term, the school council selects which charities they would like to fundraise for. Previous charities have been charities such as Emmaus, Velindre and Ty Hafan.
- Rotary Club – The school work with the organisation to educated children on how to stay safe on the roads. The pupils of the school then complete a road safety quiz.
- Sony – The school also works with Sony, who assist learners in improving their digital competency framework. A parent of a child in the school works for the organisation. Therefore, the school and the company have formed a link in order to educate children on technology.

Positive Relationships with Parents

- At School A, the staff believe in being proactive rather than reactive.
- If a child is unsettled in the morning, then the teacher will keep in contact with the parent throughout the day.
- It should be about connection and not correction - in regards to children.
- The staff are prepared for difficult conversations.
- Confidentiality is always a focus.
- The staff believe that being honest is the best way to move forward.
- Every little thing makes a difference - staff are always kind and polite.
- Teachers ensure that they are organised with information that parents need - information about trips, reminders of events, change in information.

