

Start at my feet

The Parents

Placement X try to involve parents in school activities wherever possible. They believe that getting parents involved can impact child development and learning. Placement X send home reading books and reading records for the children to read at home. When the child reads with parent/carer, they can leave a comment in the reading record about the standard of reading and how much of the book has been read. This not only encourages the parents to get involved with their child's learning but also with the school and the teachers. Placement X often arrange reading café's, where the parents/carers can come into school and carry out activities with children set by the teachers, giving them opportunities to understand what the children are learning at school, showing ways to support the children in their reading, and also give them the opportunity to meet other parents and get to know the school and staff better. They also arrange these activities linked with other areas of learning such as number and play. Placement X carry out meet and greets at the beginning of every new school year, allowing parents to meet the teachers and for pupils to meet other pupils, It gets everyone together to ensure everyone feels comfortable with this change. One of Placement X's important parent teacher strategies is class dojo. This is a points system giving children point for achievements, when a point is given the parents/carers are notified through an app. Using this app parents can communicate with the school, being able to send photos and messages back and forth. Placement X also manages to get parents involved through sports days, Macmillan coffee mornings school fetes and lots of other activities along the same lines. This is seen as good practice. Whalley (2007) Would also suggest that placement X is carrying out good practice as she believes that parents have a significant impact on the learning and development of their child.

References

- Whalley.M (2007) *Involving Parents in their Children's Learning*. 2nd Edition
- NHS Scotland (2018) **Poverty affects educational attainment** Available at: <http://www.healthscotland.scot/news/2018/july/poverty-affects-educational-attainment> (Accessed 12/02/20)
- Welsh Government *My Local School*. Available at: <https://gov.wales/my-local-school-guide>
- Welsh Government (2020) *Curriculum for Wales Guidance* Available at: <https://hwb.gov.wales/storage/331eb63b-481f-4b0b-a607-5e6c3e41ae0f/curriculum-for-wales-guidance-070220.pdf>

According to My Local School, Placement X is a community school located in south wales. It is primary school for nursery, infants and juniors and has 319 pupils. The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) is 19.7.

25% of the children in placement X require free school meals, which is seen as a large percentage. This suggest that the area in which the school is located is a deprived area. Placement X is an English medium school although due to it being in Wales, Welsh is encouraged and taught throughout the school day.

Poverty

Placement X is suggested to be in a deprived area; therefore poverty may be a large issue at this school. In order to support families and pupils living in poverty Placement X help with school uniform. They do this by having a uniform exchange day, bringing in old uniform and swapping for other sizes, all parents and members of the community get involved to ensure every child has access to school uniform. Another strategy Placement X uses is that they keep uniform at the school in case children turn up in clothes which aren't warm enough for the weather or if the just don't own the school uniform. Placement X also try to support the parents by offering financial support session, parents come in and learn way how to handle their money better or be able to access the financial support from the government that they may need. Placement X ensure that all children can have the experiences and opportunities they need which families may not be able to afford. Although placement X ask for a fee for school trips, those who are unable to attend are often covered for by the school. The strategies carried out by Placement X are seen as good practice as there support families and children in more ways than they actually need to. Jane White (2018) would agree with this. She believes that poverty is such a major issue and seriously needs to be addressed, so support in any shape or form is very important.

Cerys Baker - 1804840 – ECAD 4008

The Community

Placement X believe that involving the community in their children's learning experience is very important. In order to do this placement X use topic titles such as "Out and about", this means the children will look at their local area and the surroundings. Placement X often take children to visit local places such as a local shop, parks, churches, mosques and care homes. Recently placement X and a group of children have been going to the local care home to sing to the elderly and simply visiting to have conversations and getting to know those in the care home. They have made cookies and other sweet treats which they've taken to the elderly and the staff in the home. Mrs J said that the children are looking forward to making it a regular activity. Placement X have other class topics such as hero's where they investigate local hero's, within this topic placement X enjoy having visitors from the community to talk about what they do and their past and current lives. The local community are also invited to any events held by Placement X and encourage them to get involved with the children.



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The Curriculum

Placement X is in South Wales, meaning that they follow the welsh curriculum. At this moment in time Placement X follow the foundation phase framework (2015) covering the 7 areas of learning. Placement X ensure that all areas of learning are met within the school experience, They have lots of role play areas and lots of areas of the classroom for arts and crafts. Placement X have displays showing welsh, numeracy and literacy work. Everything is shown on display boards specifically to the areas of learning. In Wales there has recently been a curriculum change. The new curriculum for wales (2022) involves 6 areas of learning rather than 7. Placement X will be starting to merge to the new curriculum starting September. Already, there are displays showing the areas of learning with ideas for topics which the school may cover. The ideas were chosen by the pupils. Placement X have already started trying out expressive arts by having visitors in to do workshops with the children. The welsh curriculum has a major influence on the children's learning as it's the basis of what teachers need to teach. This is obviously good practice from placement X and its staff as they are following the correct guidelines which are required by ESTYN.