

School

- ❑ My placement school is an English medium primary school.
 - ❑ It has around 240 pupils as of 2019.
- ❑ There are 17.3% of pupils with free school meals, which is below the national average percentage of 20%.
- ❑ The school has a high number of EAL students at around 80%.
- ❑ My placement school have their own visions and aims which centre around the child, their families and communities. One aim I believe demonstrates this is *"To give pupils a strong sense of their cultural identity whilst being aware of, and respectful towards, other communities, locally and globally."* (My placement school, Accessed 9.2.2020.) This aim shows that knowing their own identities is important to the school, however, being respectful of other people's own identities and differences should be as important.

From these key points about my placement school, I can see they have a high number of mixed cultures and religions due to the high percentage of EAL students in the school. During my time in my placement school, I observed that the children's individual cultures were celebrated and displayed around the school. I noticed a display board in the reception of the school showing all the different countries that the pupils were from. This display also included statistics about the number of different languages spoken in the school, which was 22. I attended my placement school at a time when Chinese New Year was being celebrated. In the class I was in, they made Chinese New Year cards to take home to their parents. The children also read a story about Chinese New Year and the origin behind it. Although only a few pupils are from China in the school, everyone got to celebrate the New Year and they all got to learn about a new culture that was different from theirs.

Start at my feet

Learner

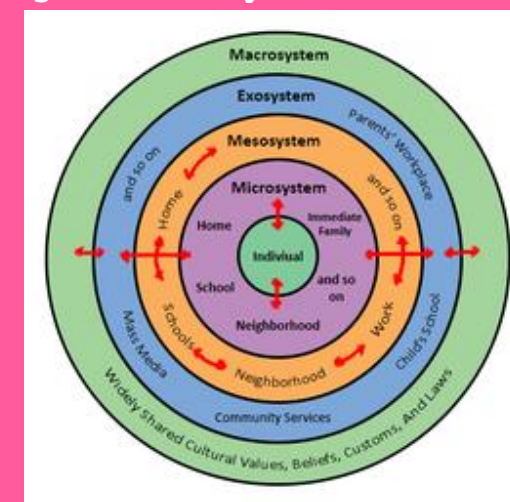
The pupils should be at the heart of schools and always prioritised. Whatever is being planned within a school, the learners should always be considered. In my placement school the pupil's well-being is always a central factor. Being aware of how the children are feeling can often determine how well they will approach the lesson being taught, and whether they will engage with the class and their teacher. My placement school has a pupil voice group where the children's own opinions and thoughts are heard and taken into consideration. Estyn's report on effective practice when supporting pupil wellbeing (Estyn,2019) shows that letting the children express their own opinions and how they are feeling can help the school keep track on their pupil well-being. Estyn's effective practice example also stated that the having extra-curricular activities help pupil's well-being. My placement school have many different extra curricular activities from fitness to writing clubs. This gives the children the opportunity to engage with other possible hobbies they may not have experienced before.

- My placement school also have a safeguarding policy which states that as a school they will ensure that their pupils:
- are safe
 - are healthy physically and mentally
 - are able to be happy and accomplish
 - are able to have good well-being;
 - make a helpful contribution.

I believe that these bullet points summarize how important the children's well-being is in my placement school. If the children are not happy in school, then they may not be able to focus in class and be able to fully engage during lessons.

Community

Being apart of the community as a school can be viewed as extremely significant. Having links with both the businesses, families and other schools around can benefit pupils greatly. In my placement school I noticed that including the children's family in their learning was an important aspect when trying to help the children achieve. The high percentage of EAL students in my placement school means that most of the children's parents speak little to no English. This can be seen as a barrier when trying to communicate and include parents in their children's learning. However, my placement school organised English lessons after school for parents to attend. This not only helps tackle the problem of teachers not being able to communicate with parents, but also helps to strengthen the relationship between the school and the pupils families. Estyn (Accessed 10.2.20) shared a video regarding effective practice within a school. The video suggested that involving parents in their child's learning can be beneficial to the child's educational development as the parents are familiar with what is going on within the school and can reinforce what the child has learnt during the school day at home.



Urie Bronfenbrenner Ecological Systems theory shows that a child has different environments around them and all are personal and different to them. However, he suggests that the ecological systems are all interlinked and all of the systems should connect with each other. He suggests that if the child's ecological systems do not connect very well with each other, then it may affect their development in the future. Bronfenbrenners theory supports how my placement school organises how they link their community with their pupils. They make sure that most aspects of the children's lives are connected, for example, the school organise many school trips to the local theatre, the local beach and park. The school organising these trips to places around the community help to ensure that even if at home they don't get to experience these things, they can have the opportunity to do so in school and link most of their ecological systems together.

References

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