



Start at my Feet



How the school engages with the community to support learning

- **Local Fundraisers**- the local fundraisers gives the opportunity for pupils to be heard. The pupils decide which charity that would like to support per term and how they would like to show their support. The charities range from race for life, Welsh air ambulance, homelessness as well as other local charities. Having the children play a main role connects them to the community and gives them the opportunity to see that not everyone has the same opportunities.
- **Foodbank**- The pupils are asked to bring in food from home that they do not use. The children are involved in organising the food and helping to deliver it to the charity. The school also hosts a day where the homeless and families struggling come to the school for hot food and drinks, the school choir sing, and the children do art and crafts.
- **Religion**- The school invites the pastor out and he delivers assemblies to the children. The pastor talks about the Christian religion and what it means. The school has opportunities for the children to visit the church and take part in the Harvest festival and the carol service. The school acknowledges other religions inside the school and celebrates traditions like Diwali. It shows the children respect and teaches them empathy.
- **Emergency services**- The school invites district nurses, firefighters, police officers, etc. The district nurse comes in and delivers the flu jab. The police officer and firefighter come in to deliver talks about the role and risks of the job as well as delivering workshops. This builds a trusting relationship with these people and teaches them life lessons.

How the school supports families and children in need.

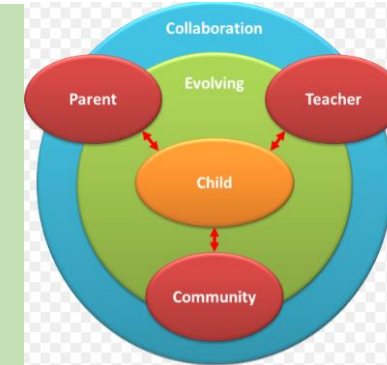
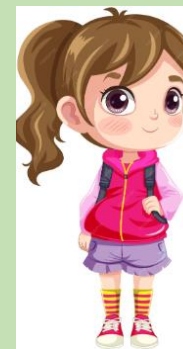
- **Family support officers**- Within the school there are family support officers, they offer emotional support for the family, arrange the toddler groups and they welcome new families into the school. The family officer helps parents overcome any issues they are facing and serve as a welcoming face, so parents know they have someone to talk to and someone to support them.
- **Home check ins**- For families that are struggling financially and children that are struggling intellectually, the school offers mornings or afternoons for a family officer to come and do a home check in. If the family officer sees that the washing machine is not working the school lets them use theirs. For the children, the family officer brings a learner bag filled with books and toys that go with the book.
- **Find out Friday**- To engage fully with families the school has arranged a weekly Find out Friday. This is a group session where families are given the opportunity to talk about any issues in the community that may be affecting their children. It gives the families a chance to voice their concerns, share experiences and share advice. Each week a different representative of the community will attend, for example the police or the fire service.

The Governors

The Governors make a point to understand what is going on in the community and sharing that with the staff of the school so that they as a team can review what is working for them and looking at the curriculum and making sure what they are doing as a school is impacting the children's well-being positively. The Governors and the teachers used the new curriculum to improve their teaching by making lessons more fun and engaging, so children are going home happy and are excited about the following day. This new way of teaching is improving children's independence and supporting them in wanting to learn in a new and exciting way.

School A Information

School A is located in a large community and are greatly involved in the wider community. The school is one of the largest in Wales and is called a pioneer school, meaning they work closely with the Welsh Government and other local schools. The school currently has 633 pupils, this number is continuously rising, reaching around 900 within the next 3 months. 33% of pupils are eligible for free school meals, this starts from the age of 3 years old. There is a section inside the school that supports children with additional needs, 25% of pupils need this additional help. The individual school budget per pupil is £4834 going towards improving the quality of the teaching environment.



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

Home visits- The school offers home visits to families before their child starts school. The senior member of staff can visit the home if the parents need it, they will discuss the process of what will happen when the child starts school, what their day will involve and the support they will receive. This is done for the families that are either unable to get to the school or feel more comfortable in their own environment.

Toddler Groups- School A arranges morning sessions where families can bring their toddlers in to play with other children. This will help the child when starting school as they will be familiar with the environment and will be familiar with the members of staff. Parents are able to communicate with other parents and form relationships with each other to gain support from each other.

Look around school- Before the child starts school, school A offers the family a time where they can come look around the school to familiarise themselves with the environment and make the transformation from home to school easier. The look around the school involves taking the families into the classroom their child will be going too and introducing them to the other children inside the class.

Transitioning- The school understands that starting school can be extremely difficult for some children. In supporting these children the school offers a transition where the child comes in one day a week, then two days a week and so on. This transitioning helps these children adapt to the school environment and grow comfortable in that environment. The child will be able to experience a full day at school and familiarise themselves with their new day to day structure.

