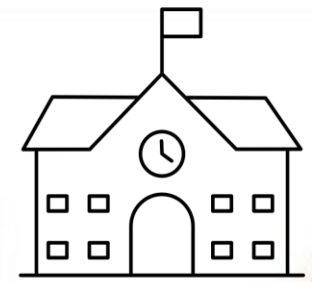


Start At My Feet



How Does School X Work With Families Before A Child Starts School?

- School X host weekly 'parent and toddler' groups in their 'flying start' setting to help welcome new families into the school before a child begins the Foundation Phase. This helps form relationships with parents/guardians as early as possible.
- Before a child starts in reception, members of staff will conduct a home visit. This provides the reception staff with a bigger picture of the child's home life and the resources available to the family. For example, toys, home appliances, bedding and clothing. If any concerns are raised as a result of these home visits, the reception staff are able to help the families implement change and access the resources they need.
- School X host regular 'Open Days' where parents/guardians can join key members of staff in a tour of the school. They are able to ask questions to the staff and access any support they desire.
- During the admissions process, School X will contact the parent/guardian of the child enrolling. They use pupil packs to gather as much information about the child as possible. This includes the child's likes/dislikes and strengths/weaknesses as well as any key information.
- School X use social media to promote their school to families considering beginning the admissions process. For example, they use Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This allows parents to see what pupils at School X achieve and enjoy day-to-day, giving valuable insight into what could be in store for their child.

How Does School X Encourage Families To Support The Different Areas of Learning For Their Child?

- School X host 'Stay and Play' sessions which allow parents of reception children to come into the classroom and join in with activities throughout the morning. This educates them in the best ways to stimulate their child's development at home.
- The use of apps such as 'Seesaw' within School X allow teachers to capture the work and activities completed by pupils in their class and upload these for families to access. This allows parents/guardians to remain up-to-date with their child's learning, enabling them to stimulate conversations and awareness about topics that their children are learning within the home.
- 'Parental Engagement' sessions allow teachers to support parents in their children's academic learning. This could involve developing parental literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, involvement in children's activities, or more intensive courses for families in crisis. School X provide these sessions through their Family Support Officers, as well as additional sessions taking place with groups of refugee families, or EAL families (English as an Additional Language).

How Does School X Engage With The Community To Support Learning

- School X provide weekly 'Find Out Friday' sessions where families are given the opportunity to talk about any issues in the community that may be affecting their family life. Each week, a different professional representative from the community will attend the session. This could include doctors, police officers or the fire service. Parents/guardians are welcome to raise any concerns they may have during these sessions.
- There is a community PC computer available within the school. This will aid all members of the local community as well as parents and carers who may need to access the internet to support their child or family in any way.
- School X has access to 80 devices – including chromebooks, laptops and iPads. These are available to pupils who cannot access the internet at home to complete any work necessary.
- School X host weekly 'Community Choir' sessions. Here, all members of the community and the school, including parents, are welcome to come together and sing. They host concerts occasionally sing to those in nursing homes within the community. This allows all members to feel valued within the school and within the choir collaboration, developing the relationship between School X and its community.
- School X host a 'Soup Kitchen' each lunchtime. Any members of the community in need of a warm meal are welcome.
- School X offers a program called the 'Dock-Leaf Project' for community members to gain qualifications within the school to increase their employability in the future.

The Role Of Family Support Officers & Family Engagement

- Family Support Officers offer emotional support, toddler groups to welcome families, home visits and check-ins with families in need, and help in contacting third-parties (such as social services or the council).
- They aim to break down barriers for parents and act as a lifeline for families. Many parents within the community do not have a healthy relationship with the concept of schooling due to their own personal experiences as pupils. The family support officers aim to alter this perception by supporting the parents in a gentle and friendly manner.
- Parental engagement sessions (that link to the curriculum) allow the school to work in partnership with families to aid the development of their children.
- The 'ELSA family programme' is available for families to attend, giving them the opportunity to discuss attendance or engagement issues. Here, roadmaps are discussed to help improve the child's relationship with school. Here, home visits may occur to understand the root cause of the attendance issue. Staff use sticker charts to track and reward increased attendance.

The Context Of School X

- 646 Learners (2022).
- Aged 3-11.
- 23 Classes.
- 26.4% of learners are eligible for free school meals over three-year average (2022). This is above national average.

According to the most recent inspection (2017);

- Very few pupils speak Welsh at home.
- School X identifies around 25% of pupils as having additional learning needs.
- 10 pupils have a statement of special educational needs.

School X as a recognized School of Sanctuary

• School X has become a school of sanctuary, which means it has been recognized for its good practice in fostering a culture of welcome, belonging and solidarity for those seeking safety. Within this, School X host weekly sessions with all children of these families across the school. In these sessions, the children are able to play, develop their English language and discuss any issues or concerns they may have. Parents are also welcome to these sessions to develop their English language as well as the children, and to also meet additional parents in circumstances similar to themselves.

Socio-Economic, Faith and Cultural Aspects of School X

School X works with pupils from a wide range of financial and cultural backgrounds. For example -

- EAL students (English as an additional language).
- Students that practice a variety of Faiths and Religions.
- Students from different cultural backgrounds and learners from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Students from low-income families (this number is above average)
- Children in Care & Foster Children

