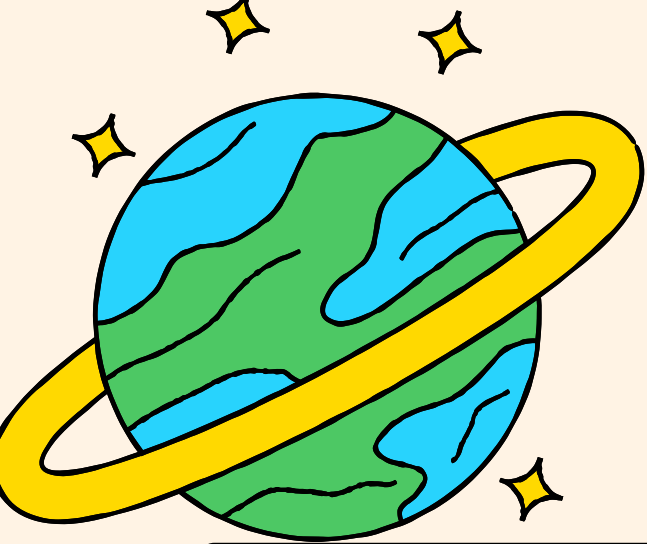
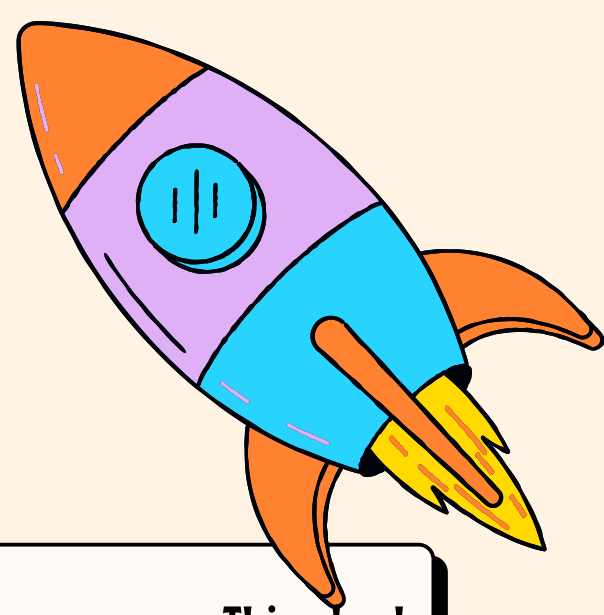




Start at my Feet



In 2001, my placement school was opened and today, approximately 633 pupils are on roll, with approximately 62 children in full-time nursery. This school provides education to children aged between 3 and 11 years of age, spread within 23 classes. There are also 2 classes in a Learning Resource base for pupils aged 3 to 11 who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum conditions. 29.3% of pupils are eligible for free school meals and there are approximately 25% of learners who require additional learning needs. It is a modern and extremely well-resourced school, which is fully-equipped inside and outside. They also cater for children, their families and the wider community. This school offers Flying Start, lower school, a Learning Resource Centre and upper school.

The Learners

Children's Rights are at the heart of the school and through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and as a Golds Rights respecting school, they aim to empower and strengthen children's voice and choice. They ensure that their children grow up in a spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

The children's educational experiences are shaped by values and dispositions of those who work to educate them. These underpin the range of relationships, the thinking and professional practice of teachers in the school.

Many resources are provided for the pupils at this school, for example free school meals and a 'Take What You Need Trolley' in every classroom. These trollies could include items such as spare school uniform, hats and scarves, and pieces of fruit for snack time. The school edges towards inclusivity, ensuring no child is left out for whatever reason.

Learning techniques such as 'Forest Schooling' are available to learners in order to improve their social, emotional and spiritual development, as well as improving their health, well-being and resilience.

Parent Engagement

Family Support Officers are available within the school and they offer families:

- emotional support
- weekly toddler groups to welcome new families to the school
- home visits and check-in with families in time of need
- help in contacting third parties for support, for example regarding housing and benefits

Parents are invited for parental engagement session to show them how to support their children at home, which are related to what they are being taught in school.

Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA's) are available within the school and they provide an ELSA family program for families to discuss difficulties with regard to children engaging in learning or attending school.

The school also includes group sessions called 'Find out Fridays', where families can discuss about any issues in the community that may be affected upon their children. It gives families the opportunity to voice any concerns, share experiences and share advice. Each week a different professional representative from the community attends these group sessions. For example, the police, fire services and local doctors.

The 'Dock Leaf Project' was introduced in order to tackle issues such as unemployment and the local economy. Parents and carers are welcomed to volunteer twice a week in school if they are unemployed. It has seen over 100 participants enter into full-time employment on completion of their qualifications. That being, there has been a significant positive impact on the local community, by generating over £5 million.

Since engaging families with the school, many positive impacts have been achieved, for example:

- group sessions are full of participants every week
- there has been a great impact on children's learning and attendance
- there has been a greater balance of children's experience within the home and the school

The school's eco-committee have recently held an event for parents and carers to attend in order to discuss how they could save electricity, energy and money. The pupils designed a poster for the parents to express to them how much energy is wasted everyday and in return, the impact towards the parents and carers was huge.

The Local Community

This school has highly effective partnerships with parents, local schools and the community that have positive impacts on pupils' standards and well-being, meaning they aim to encourage and involve families and the local community in the work of the school. For example, during special occasions such as 'Diversity Day', families and the local community are invited into the school to celebrate this day. The school provides food, such as soup and sweet treats, as well as a range of beverages. Involving the children's families and the local community is very important to this school because it gives the children the opportunity to engage and involve themselves with everyone around them. It is a great way of developing social skills, not just for the children, but everyone who gets involved. Choir is another social activity the school offers to the learners, their families and the local community.

It runs once a week and during these sessions, it gives everyone who attends the opportunity to meet new people and create or improve on special bonds.

At the entrance of the school, there is a 'Take What You Need' corner completely free for children, families and the local community to help themselves to. Within this area, there could be:

- school uniform
- shoes
- hats, scarves, gloves
- bathroom equipment
- sanitary products
- books and toys

It is filled with anything and everything that a family may need, all provided by teachers, families and the local community.

Promoting the Welsh Language, Culture and Faith

This school is an English medium school, however they aim to develop a school with a strong Welsh ethos, where learners are proud to use the Welsh language. They also aim to promote ethically informed citizens who are ready to take their place in Wales and the world. There are statutory requirements placed which state that all pupils must attend a daily act of worship, for example prayer, in order to contribute to pupils' moral and spiritual development. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship at any time. This school also includes daily Welsh during lessons, meaning much teaching is delivered through activities and games, reading and weekly diary writing session in Welsh in the upper school.