

START AT MY FEET

MY SCHOOL

IN 2001 MY PLACEMENT SCHOOL WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED. IT IS AN ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL. THEIR MISSION STATEMENT IS 'PROUD TO BE A COMMUNITY SCHOOL, STRIVING FOR SUCCESS FOR ALL'. THIS IS SHOWN THROUGH OUT THE SCHOOL. THEY CURRENTLY HAVE AROUND 500 PUPILS THAT ARE SPLIT BETWEEN 23 CLASSES RANGING FROM THE AGES 3 TO 11. 62 OF THOSE CHILDREN ATTEND THE NURSERY FULL TIME BEFORE MOVING INTO THE SCHOOL.

MY PLACEMENT SCHOOL IS A PIONEER SCHOOL, THIS MEANS THEY HAD BEEN WORKING WITH THE WELSH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PIONEER SCHOOLS TO STEER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CURRICULUM FOR WALES. THEY ARE ALSO A SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY WHICH IS A NATIONAL AWARD, THAT IS AWARDED TO SCHOOLS THAT ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO BEING A SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL. AS A GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL, THEY HAVE FULLY IMPLEMENTED THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO THE SCHOOLS ETHOS AND THEIR CURRICULUM.

THE SCHOOL ALSO HAS ACCESS TO THE FLYING START PROGRAMME. IT IS PERFECT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4, THIS PROGRAMME ALLOWS THE CHILDREN TO GET THE RIGHT START TO SCHOOL LIFE BEFORE THEY MOVE UP INTO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.



THE LEARNERS

THE LEARNERS RIGHTS ARE AT THE VERY CENTRE OF THE SCHOOL. IN EACH CLASS THE LEARNERS GET TO DECIDE WHAT RIGHTS RESINATE WITH THEM THE MOST AT THE START OF THE YEAR AND THEN THOSE RIGHTS WILL BE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE CLASSROOM. A LARGE AMOUNT OF THE LEARNING IS OUTSIDE, THEY TRY AND DO AS MUCH OUTSIDE PLAY AS POSSIBLE. THEY DO AN EVEN SPLIT OF TIME BETWEEN THE TEACHER, THE TA AND WORKING INDIVIDUALLY. THEY DO THIS IN HOPES THAT THE CHILDREN GET PLENTY OF TIME TO IMPROVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THEY BELIEVE THAT PLAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT VEHICLE FOR LEARNING THAT THEY CAN UTILISE IN FOUNDATION PHASE. YOU WILL SEE MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT THE TEACHER LAYS OUT FOR THE STUDENTS TO DO WILL BE PLAY BASED, THESE ACTIVITIES ARE CALLED 'AMSER CWEST' AND THE STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE WHICH ONE THEY WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE.

THEY ARE APART OF THE MINI EXPLORERS INITIATIVE, IT IS ALL ABOUT HELPING THE SERVICE CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE IN THE SCHOOL TO MEET OTHER CHILDREN WHO ARE IN A VERY SIMILAR POSITION AS THEM. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW THEM TO GROW RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF AND BE ABLE TO HAVE A SAFE ADULT TO GO TO.

FOREST SCHOOLING IS ALSO AVAILABLE, IT IS AN AMAZING WAY TO DEVELOP THE CHILD HOLISTICALLY. IT IS PERFECT TO HELP THE CHILD TO GO OUT INTO NATURE AND USE THE NATURAL WORLD TO HELP THEIR SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN EACH OF THE CLASSES THEY HAVE A 'TAKE WHAT YOU NEED TROLLEY'. THESE TROLRIES ARE FULL OF DIFFERENT THINGS THAT THE CHILDREN IN THE CLASSES MIGHT NEED, FOR EXAMPLE THEY HAVE FRUIT FOR THE CHILDREN WHO DON'T HAVE THEM AT SNACK TIME OR SUNSCREEN FOR THE SUMMER.



THE COMMUNITY

The school places a huge emphasis on how important the community is to them throughout the school, this not only goes for their local community but the wider community of their students. The children in the school come from a wide range of backgrounds and they try to be as inclusive as possible for these children.

Before the children even start my placement school they receive a phone call where they will try to get as much information about the child in question from the parents, so that they can have an idea of the starting point of each child before they come to school. One other technique the school uses to get to know the child and the family before they start school is 'home visits', in which one of the safeguarding officers will go to the house and have a more intimate home meeting in hopes that the family will see that the school is an open and safe place for not only their child but also them. During these home visits it gives the school an insight into how the home life of the child is and allows them to start making plans on how the best way may be to help them.

The school uses an array of methods to keep in contact with the families of their children. They use three different kinds of social media to keep the families updated, these being 'FaceBook', 'X' and 'Instagram'. They use all these social media platforms in the hopes that they will be able to reach each generation of parents as some of the younger parents may not have FaceBook so having an Instagram gives another branch that they can use to reach more and more parents. They also have access to a messaging app called MyEd which 80% of the parents use to be able to get hold of the school easier and faster, this also sends out the school letters instead of having them printed out as they are more likely to get to the parents that way. However they do realise that not all households will own a device so do allow for some of the children to take home some of the schools equipment so that they can be used at home.

The school has an incredible relationship with their local community, they often use this relationship to bring in local workers for example their local pc who comes in on a regular basis to speak the students on a number of different topics. It is not only people from the local community that they bring into school they have also welcomed people from the wider community for example Mr Phormula who is a bilingual beat boxer that comes into schools and talks about important topics such as the environment through the medium of music and rap.

The schools does it's very best to help the community in anyway they can, for example they have a larger version of the the 'take what you need trolley' that they named the 'take what you need corner'. This corner is filled with everything a family could need from nappys to coats to washing up liquid. They also run a local choir that has over 60 members and is ran once a week

Also Provided:

- A community room
- A soup kitchen
- Celebrations of children's home countries
- Celebration of national causes e.g. black history month

