

Start at my Feet

School X is an English medium community school located on the outskirts of Bridgend, South Wales. The school caters for children aged 3 to 11 years old, with approximately 500 pupils currently on roll, including a large Nursery unit and 14 classes ranging from Reception to Year 6. School X is a ‘Rights Respecting School’ meaning it is a place where children’s rights are respected, taught, practised, learned, promoted and protected. Approximately 6% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), which is lower than the national average of 19%. 11% of pupils have Additional Learning Needs (ALNs) and only 1.9% of pupils have English as an Additional Language.

Lev Vygotsky’s Socio-Cultural Theory

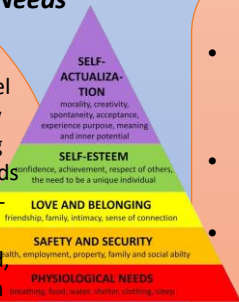
Lev Vygotsky, a Soviet psychologist, emphasizes that parents/carers as partners are vital, as he maintained that all a child learns is via their interactions with knowledgeable partners. Children spend the majority of their time with their parents/carers prior to school stressing the importance of the parents/carers role in demonstrating appropriate behaviour and assisting with a developing understanding of their environment. Parents/carers and teachers help children to grow, develop and learn more about their surrounding world.

How does School X support children with Additional Learning Needs (ALNs)?

- Individual Development Plans (IDPs) are reviewed, and new targets are set with parents 3 times a year.
- School X has a dedicated Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) who is responsible for overseeing the support that is given to children with ALNs.
- One Page Profiles are shared amongst staff and with the child’s parent/carer. The profile is updated each year with help from a Learning Support Officer (LSO).
- School X works closely with the Local Authority and is supported by Educational Psychologists and Speech and Language Therapists.
- School X is in regular contact with social services regarding the care and support for children who are looked after by the Local Authority.
- ALN pupils in Year 6 are given the chance to visit their new comprehensive school before the rest of their class and meet with the ALNCo.
- School X has a School Nurse who provides children and their parents/carers with information regarding health conditions such as eczema, asthma and diabetes.

Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow, an American psychologist, is best known for the Hierarchy of Needs; “a five-tier model representing the needs that Maslow identified as being key to motivating human behaviour.” If lower-level needs are not met, this will result in higher-level needs not being fulfilled. For example, if a child is hungry and tired, they will be unable to concentrate in class and are less likely to achieve academic success. Thus, affecting their Esteem and being unable to Self-Actualise.



How does School X form professional relationships with parents/carers before their child starts Nursery?

- 3 stay and play sessions – children get to explore their classroom and parents/carers meet with members of staff to discuss any concerns they may have.
- Staggered entry for Nursery pupils in September with length of day built up gradually.
- Information evening for parents/carers of new Nursery pupils – a chance to meet the Headteacher and members of staff in the school’s Nursery unit.
- Additional meetings with parents/carers of children with highlighted ALNs which can sometimes lead to home visits.

Bridgend is a town in South Wales, 20 miles west of Cardiff, the capital of Wales. According to the Office for National Statistics, Bridgend has a population of 145,500; an increase of 4.5% in the last 10 years. Bridgend has the lowest percentage of Welsh speakers in South Wales, with only 18% of people being able to confidently speak the language. Bridgend has an area size of 25,500 hectares which is great for School X to take its pupils on trips to places like Coity Castle, Kenfig National Nature Reserve and the seaside resort of Porthcawl.

Google Classroom – announcements and sharing information - lets parents/carers see their child’s work in class.



Termly class newsletters

How does School X share information with parents/carers?

Parent guides and Big Maths support resources on School X’s website.



Information evenings – Read Write Inc., motor skills and Areas of Learning Experiences (AoLEs).



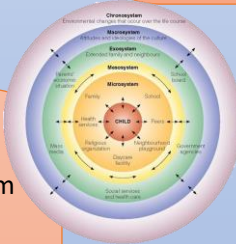
School Gateway – an app used to send short messages and longer emails/attachments to ensure parents/carers are kept fully informed. It is also used for parents/carers to pay for their child’s school trips.



Schoolgateway

How does School X form positive working relationships with parents/carers?

- Google Classroom – photos of lessons and activities their child has taken part in and Seren yr Wythnos.
- Parent and Friends Association (PFA) – a small active group which meets at least once a term and provides funding for Christmas gifts, Year 6 leavers’ trip and improvements to school grounds.
- Governing Body – involved in areas such as safeguarding, health and safety, finance and curriculum.
- Parent Council – parents/carers come together each term to discuss extra-curricular activities and homework.
- AoLEs Open Event – a chance for parents/carers to find out about upcoming topics being taught in the Foundation Learning (FL).
- Outdoor Learning and Play (OLAP) – fun and interactive activities for parents/carers and their children to engage with. Helps to develop communication, language and social skills. School X also has Literacy and Numeracy Play sessions, but their OLAP sessions have proven to be most popular amongst parents/carers and their children.



Urie Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems Theory

The ecological systems theory by Urie Bronfenbrenner, a Russian-American psychologist, “referred to several environments that influence children’s development as they grow older.” It is within the Microsystem that children will spend most of their time with parent/carers, at school, and in their neighbourhood. It is essential that school’s in Wales, including School X, take into account different pupils individual needs, culture and circumstances when designing the school curriculum. For this reason, a school’s curriculum should start at a child’s feet.

How do links with the local community support learning at School X?

- Bridgend College – A-level students who are studying Childcare do placements with School X in the FL classrooms.
- St. David’s Church – pupils are given the opportunity to watch choir performances and learn about Christianity.
- Ospreys in the Community – a not-for-profit foundation in close partnership with Ospreys Rugby visits School X for a variety of sessions including Sport & Physical Activity, Education & Employability and Health & Wellbeing.
- Nature Quest and Sea Quest – local education companies providing an opportunity for pupils in School X to learn about the importance of looking after our ‘natural world.’
- Grace Church – Pastors visit the school and take assemblies on a Monday.
- School X is a community school and is very much a part of the local community and is used for community activities such as dance, football, choir, rugby and gardening as there is no community centre in close proximity.