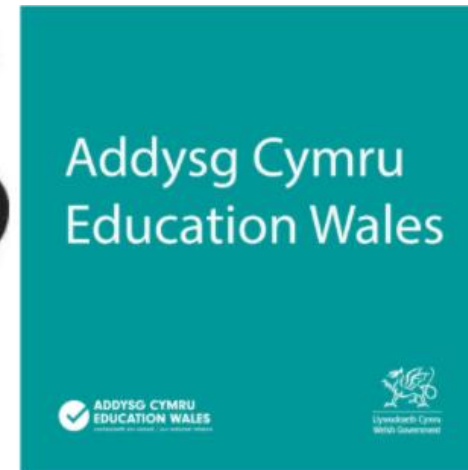




NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENQUIRY PROJECT

Ysgol Gynradd Aberteifi (Cardigan Primary School)
Final Report 2019-2020

School background

- ▶ Children are admitted into part-time education at the school in the term following their third birthday, and then full-time in the term following their fourth birthday.
- ▶ Ysgol Gynradd Aberteifi currently has 432 pupils on roll (September 2020). There are 204 pupils in the Foundation Phase (40 part-time) and 228 pupils in Key Stage 2 (Boys - 206 ; Girls - 226).
- ▶ 29% (126 pupils) are provided with support for additional learning needs.
- ▶ 38% of pupils live in homes where at least one of the parents speaks Welsh fluently.
- ▶ 17.2% of pupils speak Welsh at home.
- ▶ FSM - The percentage of FSM at the school (22%) is consistently approximately double the average for Ceredigion and also higher than the national averages.

Enquiry Question

How do authentic and interesting experiences in the 'Expressive Arts' (art, drama, music, film and digital media) improve pupils' oral skills?

Methodology

- ▶ An internal PLC (Professional Learning Community) was established with a view to developing an Expressive Arts area of learning across the School with the emphasis on improving pupils' oral skills.
- ▶ A questionnaire was designed to gather pupils' views about their current opportunities within Expressive Arts disciplines as well as their feelings about speaking and their ability to present information, share ideas and voice their opinions.
- ▶ A staff questionnaire was designed to identify the training needs of teachers within the five disciplines.

Celfyddydau Mynygiannol

* Required

1. Ym mha ffwyddyn ydych chi? *

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

☐ 6

2. Ydych chi'n cael digon o gyfleoedd yn *

	Cerdd	Uwcer	Welthiau	Dim o gwbl
Celf	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dawns	☐	☐	☐	☐
Drama	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. Ydych chi'n cael cyfle i edrych ar: *

	Ydw, yn aml	Ydw	Nac ydw
walrh artistiaid lleol?	☐	☐	☐
walrh artistiaid adnabyddus eraill?	☐	☐	☐
gerffuriau?	☐	☐	☐

5. Ydych chi wedi gweithio gydag artist: *

	Ydw	Nac ydw
yn yr ysgol?	☐	☐
tu allan i'r ysgol?	☐	☐

6. Cerdd

Ydych chi wedi cael cyfle i: *

	Ydw, llawer iawn.	Ydw	Nac ydw
berfformio o flaen cynulleidfya yn yr ysgol?	☐	☐	☐
berfformio o flaen cynulleidfya tu allan i'r ysgol?	☐	☐	☐
gyfansoddi can / alaw?	☐	☐	☐
weithio gyda cherddor?	☐	☐	☐
gael gwrsi offerynnol?	☐	☐	☐

Findings

Staff:

Staff are confident in different disciplines - the staff's strengths lie in different disciplines within the Expressive Arts.

Staff need to upskill according to teachers' specific needs. It is quite a challenge given the broad nature of the disciplines.

There is a need to upskill staff to develop pupils' oral skills through the Expressive Arts.

There is a need to create a training package tailored to target the specific professional learning needs of staff at the school.

Pupils:

Analysis of the pupil questionnaire showed that the focus of the project was too broad, because working with five disciplines and measuring the impact is quite a challenge!

There is a need to focus on one discipline within Expressive Arts in order to improve pupils' oral skills (drama).

What worked well?/ Which aspects were most useful?

- ▶ Using an internal PLC as an effective tool for driving improvement across the school (There is 1 member of staff from each department within this PLC to develop the leadership skills of all staff at all levels).
- ▶ Ensuring opportunities for research by staff at all levels across the school.
- ▶ Building on the good relationship the school has built up with the Small World Theatre in Cardigan to create a bespoke package tailored to the training needs of the school's teaching staff.
- ▶ Organising training for staff based on their specific training needs.

Challenging Aspects

The main findings in terms of limitations were:

- ▶ The nature of our questionnaire generated data that was too broad and thus generated an excess of data. No specific focus. This led to the need to refine the enquiry question.
- ▶ Lack of time - completing the questionnaire with 390 pupils was time consuming. Perhaps we should have considered limiting the focus group. There was no time to continue with the questionnaires as the school had to close unexpectedly because of lockdown.
- ▶ Some pupils responded badly to the questionnaire - the questionnaire was rather long and repetitive so pupils lost focus.
- ▶ The nature of schools in the past has expected to see a rapid impact as a result of introducing new strategies. As a school we had not considered that the enquiry cycle could take some time.

Would you recommend professional enquiry to your colleagues?/ What advice would you offer to colleagues considering undertaking an enquiry project?

- ▶ Professional enquiry is an effective tool for developing enquiry skills in staff, and ensures that the school operates as a learning organisation.
- ▶ Ensure that the enquiry question ties in with the nature and needs of the school.
- ▶ Ensure that the enquiry question is specific - an open enquiry question can lead to too much information.
- ▶ The use of an internal PLC is an effective tool for driving improvement across a school.
- ▶ You need to understand that this process is not quick - in order to carry out enquiry work of value, you need to allocate time for the process. You cannot expect quick results and impacts.