



Tremeirchion V.C. Church in Wales School

Tremeirchion, St. Asaph.

LL17 0UN.

Diocese : St. Asaph
Local authority : Denbighshire
Dates of inspection : March 12th/ 13th 2018.
Date of last inspection : January 2012.
School reference number: 663/3020
Headteacher: : Mr. Gethin Jones.
Inspector's name : Mr. Neil Roberts.

School context:

Ysgol Tremeirchion is a Welsh medium, Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales Primary School providing education for the village of Tremeirchion and the surrounding rural area. The school was first established in 1765. The original building was built over one hundred and fifty years ago and was adapted and extended in 2003. There are four main classrooms and the outdoor learning environment is spacious and attractive. The school has good outdoor resources for its pupils.

There are currently 73 pupils on roll including 12 part-time Nursery children. The school's numbers have increased significantly in recent years.

There are 18% of children who have been identified as having Additional Learning Needs. Just over 3% of pupils are entitled to free school meals which is significantly lower than the national average. 66% of pupils are from Welsh speaking homes and very few are from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The Headteacher has been in post since January 2011. There are currently 4 teachers and 4 Learning Support Assistants.

At present, no child has been withdrawn from Religious Education or Collective Worship.

The school's last Section 50 inspection was in January 2012.

The school was inspected by Estyn in January 2018

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ysgol Tremeirchion as a Church in Wales school are good

Ysgol Tremeirchion V.C. Church in Wales School is a warm and welcoming Christian place of learning. A strong and established ethos of love, care and mutual respect for one another permeates all that the school sets out to achieve. The school aims to provide stimulating, enjoyable and meaningful learning experiences in which Christian values are central to all aspects of school life.

Ysgol Tremeirchion's vision is related to the unity of the family. The school's mission/vision statement – "Un teulu gyda'n gilydd" – "Together as one family" – was chosen in collaboration with the pupils in order to focus clearly on this aspect. The clear aim of this vision is identified within the documented aims of the school as follows:

“ Our vision is to create a happy school ; one family together; supporting each other; preparing our young people with the necessary skills to develop as well rounded, caring and confident individuals ready to to embrace new experiences and challenges”

Ysgol Tremeirchion is an inclusive school where respect for each other and the wider community is encouraged and developed appropriately. All children are valued equally as unique individuals and encouraged to develop their full potential. Pupils are well supported by all adults to express their own opinions and feelings. In return, pupils feel valued, supported and well cared for. Pupils value their membership of the school and possess a strong willingness to learn and achieve.

Ysgol Tremeirchion has good links with Corpus Christi church. These links are continuing to develop. The school makes effective use of the convenient location of the church to promote and develop its Christian ethos.

Religious Education and Collective Worship make important contributions to the life and focus of the school and have a positive impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. Children are provided with opportunities to worship God, reflect on the school's values and to use the Bible to guide them in their work and lives. The school aims to develop an appreciation and understanding of the Christian faith whilst also respecting those of other faiths and cultures.

There are indicators within the school that this is a Church in Wales School with displays, artefacts, signs and symbols in classrooms and communal areas. However, the signage at the front of the school and near the main entrance needs to be updated in order that the school's Church in Wales status is more clearly acknowledged and visible to visitors

Established strengths

- The school's established Christian ethos which permeates the life of the school and provides a caring, happy and stimulating learning environment.
- The vision and leadership of the Headteacher which is well supported and promoted by Staff and Governors.
- The care and support provided to all pupils in order that they may strive to secure their full potential.
- Good and developing links between the school, church and local community.

Focus for Development

- To review the scheme of work for R.E. to ensure that it reflects and develops the school's Christian values and conforms to curriculum requirements.
- To develop and embed the role of pupils in the process of planning, delivery and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- To adopt more formal procedures to report termly to the Governing Body on developments in R.E., C.W. and other important issues.
- To update the signage at the entrance to the school to clearly acknowledge its Church in Wales status to all visitors.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

The contribution of Religious Education to the Christian Character of the school is good

Ysgol Tremeirchion has a strong, caring Christian ethos that underpins the life of the school. It provides a secure, sociable and stimulating learning environment which impacts positively on the health and well-being of staff and pupils alike. Considerable emphasis is given in promoting a sense of belonging and developing positive values amongst all stakeholders. Learning experiences reinforce pupils' understanding of the importance of contributing to the life of the wider community. Children demonstrate pride in their school and community.

A strong feature of the school is its close family ethos where love and respect for one another are evident. It is an inclusive learning community in which pupils feel safe, happy and valued. The family atmosphere is enhanced by positive and respectful relationships between all pupils and members of staff. There is a clear focus on pastoral care. Pupils are well supported by staff. Each child is valued as an important and unique member of the school family and nurtured to reach their full potential regardless of ability, race or gender. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and develop the required skills that will help them to be effective members of the community. Older pupils show a particularly caring attitude towards the younger children.

Christian values are at the heart of all that the school aims to achieve and are embedded in its daily life. These values have a positive influence on the attitudes and behaviour of the children. Pupils show confidence, are enthusiastic to learn and welcoming towards visitors. An area in the main corridor displays the school's core values. Each classroom has a designated area with a Christian focus with values, artefacts, symbols, prayers and examples of work on display to encourage pupils to demonstrate their commitment to the school's Christian ethos. The school is working to complete an area of the garden as a special place which pupils may use for spiritual development, quiet reflection and prayer.

The school's values, aims and Mission statement are displayed on the school website, in the prospectus and on all correspondence. The website also includes a section which acknowledges the very close links between Corpus Christi church and the school.

The school's links with the church and the community are very strong. The Vicar and Bishop's Visitor visit the school regularly to lead and participate in worship and advise on religious matters. Both play important roles in nurturing and developing links between the school, church, Diocese and local community. Their roles are highly valued by the school.

Pupils visit the church as planned features of the R.E. curriculum and to celebrate significant Church festivals – Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter. The school also holds its Eisteddfod in the church.

Ysgol Tremeirchion has a good relationship with parents and members of the local community. The school plays an active role in the life of the village. A memorable occasion was the "Tremeirchion Living Advent Calendar". Windows were lit each day around the village to mark the countdown to Christmas Day. The pupils created a stained glass window effect by selecting 24 Christmas themes and placing the completed work in the main window at the front of the school. Members of the community were invited to the school to see the window being lit and unveiled. Pupils sang a selection of carols to mark the occasion.

Ysgol Tremeirchion's strong Christian ethos has developed alongside its established Welsh ethos. Prominent focus is given to important aspects of Welsh Christian culture and major features of the Liturgical calendar. The school effectively develops pupils' bilingual skills, enabling them to communicate daily with confidence in Welsh and English. Children are given opportunities to participate in learning experiences that reflect and promote Welsh language, culture and heritage.

The school effectively promotes the children's understanding of the principles of fair trade, healthy living recycling and the stewardship of God's earth.

Pupils are encouraged to do what they can to help others in need. The school is committed to supporting a wide range of charities, both locally and nationally. These have included – Operation Christmas Child, Supporting the local food bank, Children in Need, Sport Relief Action Medical Research and St. Kentigern.

The School Council and Eco committee are actively involved with the development of the school. Members of these committees work enthusiastically when considering important issues that impact on the daily life of the school.

All statutory requirements for Religious Education are met in full.

Religious Education has a high profile within the school's curriculum and is provided in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. Lessons are delivered as part of the regular weekly timetable.

Thorough planning strategies make the most of appropriate cross curricular links. Themes are chosen to link closely to the school's Christian values. Planning includes aspects of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the DCF is incorporated across the curriculum. Information Technology is used well and imaginatively. The school's planning procedures also incorporate a range of teaching and learning styles which aim to enthuse pupils in R.E. lessons. There is a strong church element within Religious Education. The scheme of work offers pupils a variety of opportunities to extend their understanding of the Christian faith through well planned and imaginative lessons. Identified activities include – writing prayers, educational visits to the cathedral, church and chapel, Welsh saints, significant Christian stories, belonging to different religions and understanding religions and places of worship.

Whilst maintaining its strong Christian ethos, the school encourages its pupils to understand why and how people worship and increase their awareness of other religions and cultures. Ysgol Tremeirchion embraces and promotes diversity and celebrates and respects different faiths and cultures.

Pupils throughout the school show interest in Religious Education. They have positive attitudes and listen attentively. They display a good knowledge of the key aspects of Christianity and the Bible and have a good awareness of the importance of notable days in the Church calendar. They dramatise, discuss and comment on stories and celebrations from the Bible and from other cultures. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions appropriate to their age and ability, reflect upon the meaning and messages they have heard and consider how they have had an impact on their own lives and those around them.

The majority of pupils make good progress in line with their age and ability and acquire important new knowledge and skills.

Religious Education provision is well supported by a range of good quality resources. The subject is monitored as part of the planned school monitoring cycle. The Headteacher and R.E. co-ordinator lead the monitoring process. The school has indicated that it plans to review R.E. provision as part of its long term school development plan.

Religious Education makes an important contribution to the life and work of Ysgol Tremeirchion and to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its pupils.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective Worship at Ysgol Tremeirchion Church in Wales school meets all statutory requirements.

The Headteacher is the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Worship is delivered on a daily basis. Whole school worship takes place on a Monday and Friday. Good use is made of the church on these occasions. These acts of worship provide meaningful opportunities for all pupils to come together as one Christian family. Class assemblies take place on other days. Worship provides a valuable focus for the school day and fully reflects the school's Anglican ethos. It is a positive experience for all pupils and makes a significant contribution to the Christian ethos and values of the school. Members of staff participate in and lead worship regularly. The Vicar and Bishop's Visitor also lead worship on occasions.

Pupils assist with worship each week and also lead services at key times within the Christian calendar. Parents are also invited to attend these special occasions. Pupils read passages from the Bible, use a variety of prayers and affirmations and are given time for reflection on the message of the day which is linked to the theme of worship. Pupils have also compiled their own prayers which have been shared with the school community during worship. Children recite the Lord's Prayer and also pray together at lunch time and at the end of the school day. Pupils also participate in worship organised by Agor y Llyfr, who visit the school fortnightly. A well planned programme of themes, linked closely to the school's values , provide the children with an additional experience of faith and direct references to stories from the Bible.

The school's strong Welsh status and ethos is clearly promoted during Collective Worship in prayers, songs, responses and instructions. Significant attention is paid to celebrating important occasions in Welsh Christian history and culture. The school is proud of its Welsh status and Christian ethos and celebrates the Christian heritage of Wales effectively.

Christian values are at the heart of Ysgol Tremeirchion and all that it aims to achieve. This is reflected in its Collective Worship provision. Worship is well planned and themes are carefully balanced to include the school's core values and observation of the cycle of the Christian year. Christian values and teachings are highlighted through Biblical stories. Children are encouraged to model their behaviour and attitudes on these values and teachings and relate them to their own everyday lives where possible. Worship provides the pupils with numerous opportunities to reflect on God's teachings. Pupils are given opportunities to share their thoughts and given time to reflect on issues or concerns they may have.

Worship also focuses on important moments in the life of the school and the community. Recognising and celebrating achievements is something the school does well. Success and diversity are celebrated appropriately. " Seren yr Wythnos " awards are given to pupils as a recognition of their achievements during weekly celebratory worship.

Acts of worship reflect broad Anglican traditions. The Christian ethos of this school is reflected in the provision of a focus point with Christian symbols, appropriate music and hymns, responses and prayers and a period for reflection. A candle is lit to signify the start and closure of worship. Children are respectful, listen and respond well and participate enthusiastically when invited to do so. Pupils sing very well and with obvious pleasure. The school has produced its own hymn book which is used during worship. Children also enjoy singing the school song " Can Ysgol Tremeirchion ".

The school has a good range of resources to support worship. Good use is made of relevant displays, music and artefacts to promote interest and understanding. Every opportunity is used to ensure that acts of worship are interactive when appropriate

Collective Worship makes an important contribution to the life and work of Ysgol Tremeirchion and enhances its Christian ethos.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good

Ysgol Tremeirchion is well led by the Headteacher, who is open, clear and determined to move the school forward and further develop its Church in Wales status and ethos. He has been in post for seven years and has ensured that the Christian nature of the school has been communicated and modelled to pupils, parents and visitors alike. His clear vision for the school has permeated through the whole school – to staff, governors and extended school family, who all share this vision. The Headteacher, Governing Body and all staff work effectively in promoting the ethos and values of the school. All staff are involved in the strategic planning processes of the school and work well together to provide the best education, support and opportunities for all pupils in order that they might achieve their full potential. The emphasis is on the school's vision of the unity of the family – its “one family together” focus. The ethos is one where all children are cared for and supported in a safe, secure, loving and happy environment through the promotion of key Christian values. Members of staff are aware of their roles and becoming more confident in understanding their responsibilities, involving themselves in activities to move the school forward.

The R.E. and C.W. co-ordinators work well together in developing provision and focusing on developing monitoring and evaluation which is reviewed as part of the school's agreed programme. This collaborative approach has impacted positively on members of staff and consequently on the drive to improve standards.

The Headteacher and staff ensure that R.E., C.W. and the general curriculum are informed by distinctive Christian values that contribute positively to learners' good behaviour and attitudes to learning and to their academic, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The Governing Body have a clear understanding of the purpose and Christian vision of Ysgol Tremeirchion. They are very supportive of the school and work well to ensure that its continued development is a high priority. Governors contribute positively to the life of the school and maintaining an improving standards. They are fully committed to working as part of the school team or family. The Chair of the Governing Body meets regularly with the Headteacher to offer support, advice and encouragement and to help identify areas for development.

The Headteacher ensures that the professional development of all staff is considered and prioritised when required. Staff are advised and encouraged to attend relevant courses associated with Religious Education and Collective Worship together with other developmental issues which reflect the school's Church in Wales status.

The Headteacher is very pro-active in promoting good links with the church and the local community. Both play very important roles in the life of the school. There is a clear understanding among parents and members of the local community that the school is a Church in Wales school.

The Headteacher works effectively with the Diocese, the school's secondary cluster and other local Church in Wales schools to discuss and develop important issues.

Parents and guardians are very supportive of the school. Parents provide an important contribution to school life. Ysgol Tremeirchion has an “open door” policy and parents and guardians are encouraged to visit the school regularly. Communication between the school and parents is very good. The school ensures that parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress. Religious Education and other important issues have a clear focus in written reports to parents and parents evenings.

Ysgol Tremeirchion is well led and managed with a clearly articulated vision for the future which is underpinned by clear Christian values.

The school has fulfilled the recommendations from the last Section 50 Inspection in 2012.

I would like to thank the Headteacher, Staff, Governors and Pupils of Ysgol Tremeirchion for their welcome and co-operation. Mr. Neil Roberts B.Ed.

Report under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005

Arolwg o dan Adran 50 o Ddeddf Addysg 2005

Parents' Questionnaire - Holiadur Rhieni

There were 17 responses - Yr oedd 17 ymateb

	YES / YDWYF	NO / NAC YDWYF	
Are you aware that this is a church school?	17		<i>A ydych yn ymwybodol mai Ysgol Eglwys yw hon?</i>
Do you believe that the school is a place which is built upon clear Christian values?	17		<i>A ydych o'r farn fod yr ysgol yn sefydliad sydd wedi ei adeiladu ar sylfaen Cristionogol glir?</i>
This is a Church School, that is a school with a Christian character. Was this fact important when you were choosing a school for your child/children?	17		<i>Ysgol Eglwys, sef ysgol gyda chymeriad Cristionogol, yw hon. A oedd y ffaith yma yn bwysig wrth I chi ddewis ysgol i'ch plentyn/plant?</i>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
The school has a distinctive Christian character	10	6	1			Mae cymeriad Cristnogol nodedig yn perthyn i'r ysgol
The school's distinctive Christian character makes a significant contribution to pupils' education	9	7	1			<i>Mae cymeriad Cristionogol nodedig yn gwneud cyfraniad awyddocaol I addysg y disgyblion.</i>
Pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience	7	6	4			Ym marn y disgyblion, mae'r addoli ar y cyd yn brofiad gwerthfawr
The school has effective links with the local church and other faith communities	12	5				Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r eglwys leol a chymunedau ffydd eraill.
The school keeps parents well informed about the work that pupils do in Religious Education	8	5	4			Mae'r ysgol yn hysbysu'r rhieni yn dda am y gwaith a wna'r disgyblion mewn Addysg Grefyddol
The school encourages pupils to care for God's Creation(the environment) as well as for themselves	9	7	1			Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ofalu am Greadigaeth Duw (yr amgylchfed), yn ogystal â'n nhw eu hunain..
The school encourages pupils to consider people in other countries, and how they can assist them, when help is required	11	6				Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ystyried pobl mewn gwledydd eraill, a sut fedran nhw eu cynorthwyo pan bo angen.
The school ensures links are made with the local community	8	6	3			Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r gymuned leol..
	Cytuno'n llwyr	Cytuno	Ynail na'r llall	Anghytuno	Anghytun o'n llwyr	