

Safeguarding Health Check School Report

School: Ysgol Talylychau

Headteacher: (Acting) Mr Daniel Cooper

School Type: Primary

Designated CP Lead: Mr Daniel Cooper

Date and Time of Visit: 21.3.18

Primary Deputy CP Lead: Mrs Alana Walker

Secondary Deputy CP Lead: Mr Nick Gale

Visiting Consultants:

Emma Thomas, Mary Parry

Designated Governor: Mr Huw Pritchard

Summary: Thank you to the Acting Headteacher, the staff and pupils who welcomed the visit. Unfortunately, the chair of governors was unable to attend. The visit included formal discussions with the Acting Headteacher, members of staff and groups of Foundation Phase and KS2 pupils. In addition, the consultants visited the breakfast club, observed hand over procedures in the morning, lunch time arrangements and they were given a tour of the school.

There are currently 30 pupils on roll including 4 traveller children. Currently no children are active to children's services or receiving support from Team Around the Family. Free School Meals are 17%.

The following report represents a snapshot of evidence seen on the day of the visit.

Emerging strengths and best practice observed

Culture, ethos and values:

- Ysgol Talylychau is a small village school with a welcoming, caring and nurturing ethos. Safeguarding and the well-being of pupils are a high priority for the staff.
- There are positive relationships between teachers, pupils and their families. There is a real community feel to the school. The parents spoken to feel that their children are safe, nurtured and fully supported in their education.
- Communication is a strength at all levels, resulting in low level concerns being dealt with quickly.
- The classrooms and outdoor area are attractive and stimulating for the pupils, with the latter due to be further developed over the Easter holidays. Parents are actively involved with the fundraising and the hands-on development of this project.

Agreed areas for future development/support

Areas for consideration by the Local Authority

- Address the concerns logged by the school regarding the possible dangers of the flooring in the classrooms. This is a matter of urgency.
- Follow-up on other aspects of site safety, e.g. drain covers, facias and drainpipes.
- A guidance directory for new headteachers on key contacts.

- There are a number of traveller children who are being supported through flexi schooling. This supports their cultural values whilst ensuring that the children can access formal education.

Governance leadership and management:

- It was apparent from meetings with the Headteacher that safeguarding and the well-being of pupils is a high priority in the school.
- Safeguarding is on the agenda for the termly governing body under the Headteacher's report. In addition, the Head informed that he liaises with the chair of governors when issues arise and gave examples of this.
- The Headteacher has identified health and safety issues concerning the school site as the biggest challenge to safeguarding. He is working with the Local Authority and within the parameters of the very limited budget, and he is managing the risks effectively.
- The Headteacher has links with the agencies and resources that are available to support schools and makes appropriate use of them when necessary.
- Communication with parents and families is excellent with a range of methods being used to ensure that all parents have access to information e.g. the 'Talley Times' newsletter, twitter, text messaging.
- The Headteacher utilises the staff skills to support the overall ethos of a nurturing community school.
- In the short time that the Headteacher has been in post and the limited time available to him (one day a week) he has brought about a number of innovative practices. He has introduced parent and pupil voice surveys (e.g. Plickers), and positively reacted to any issues raised, ensuring transparency. He has sent a report to parents noting the concerns they raised and how the school intended to address these, e.g. a more flexible and effective homework structure.

Policies and practice:

- All policies relating to safeguarding are currently being revised and updated. The Head has devised a system where he can prioritise updating the policies and taking them to the governing body. For ease of reference, there is also a list of all safeguarding policies with dates of their adoption and the next review date.
- The staff interviewed have a very good understanding of the safeguarding procedures and feel confident that they could take appropriate action if necessary.
- The school records all levels of Child Protection concerns effectively and stores the

Areas for consideration by the Local Authority and the school:

- Training:
 - The two deputy CP Leads to receive higher level safeguarding training, given that the Headteacher is only on site one day a week, and the primary deputy CP Lead is not full time.
 - The chair of governors to receive safer recruitment training
 - Attendance training to be undertaken by Headteacher to support Welsh Government guidance on coding, e.g. flexi schooling
- Resolve the issues of the school website, ensuring that it is fully operational and subsequently, that up-to-date safeguarding information and policies can be uploaded onto it.
- Clarity on who is responsible in the LA for Evolve, in order for the Headteacher to gain administrative rights and be able to authorise risk assessments.

Areas for consideration by the school:

- Put a padlock on the outside storage door.
- Continue the process of reviewing the policies relating to safeguarding and ratifying them with the governing body.
- Investigate the possibility of putting fobs on the main outside doors and appropriate fire exits because currently the doors are locked, with each teacher holding keys.

Issues raised by the pupils:

The children we spoke to did not raise any issues of concerns that need to be addressed.

information securely.

- The school carries out risk assessments using the LA template, and they use Evolve for visits further afield, e.g. residential visits of the Urdd camp in Llangrannog and Pendine.
- Handover procedures in the morning are robust. Parents leave their children with a member of staff either at the breakfast club door or the main entrance. Registers are taken for breakfast club and children are handed over to the class.
- There is a tight procedure regarding non-attendance. Teachers contact parents themselves within a 20 minutes window of a child's unauthorised absent. The Headteacher has devised an attendance strategy 'Strive for 95' which has been received well by parents and has improved the overall school attendance.
- Behaviour is very good in school. There are effective strategies to encourage positive behaviour. All children have a clear understanding of the behaviour policy.
- The school receives good support from the school police liaison officer who delivers the full School Beat programme. This is re-enforced through the PSE and e-safety curriculum. Parents are given the opportunity to learn alongside their children in workshops, e.g. first aid and e-safety.
- The school has done the 360 Safe Cymru baseline assessment, and is now working along the continuum to develop these aspects.

A safe workforce:

- All staff have undertaken the basic safeguarding training and the Headteacher has undertaken the advanced level of training. The chair of governors has also received the appropriate safeguarding training. Staff have also undertaken the Prevent online training.
- The school follows Welsh Government guidance on safe recruitment and vetting checks. It keeps a single central register with other appropriate information stored in staff files. The Headteacher and a member of the governing body has attended the Safer Recruitment training course and have agreed that they will both be on any future appointment panel.
- The school has put together an induction pack, containing the school's safeguarding policies and procedures for any new member of staff or volunteers and ensures that this is refreshed with the staff regularly.

Pupils' voice: 8 pupils from across the school were interviewed. The comments below summarise their views:

- Pupils said that they are happy in school and concurred that the other pupils are happy here as well.

- They said that the teachers are very nice, kind and helpful and they feel comfortable in speaking to them about any concerns.
- They all said that their parents liked the school. They would recommend the school to other children.
- They talked about aspects of school they enjoy most, e.g. being with their friends, playing on the yard, school work, including maths and cookery, and making and playing with the bug hotel. They enjoy the after school clubs.
- They all said that they feel safe in school, for example they said that there is a teacher with them on the yard and the gate is locked.
- They said that the teachers and their friends would help them if they got hurt or were upset or worried.
- All the children understand the behaviour policy and spoke positively about it. They feel that the children are generally behaved well in school.
- They understand what bullying means. They feel that there is very little bullying in school and that the teachers deal effectively with any that does arise.
- KS2 pupils know the importance of e-safety. They talked about i-movies they had recently made about how to keep safe on-line.

Signed: *Emma Thomas and Mary Parry*

21.3.2018

Copies to: L.A. and Headteacher