

# ***Gwella Inspection Report (under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005)***

## **Ysgol Llangaffo A Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School Llangaffo, Gaerwen, Ynys Môn, LL60 6LT**

*Diocese* : **Bangor**  
*Local Authority*: **Gwynedd**  
*Head* : Mrs. Manon Morris Williams

*Date of Inspection*: **Mehefin 16, 2014**  
*School's unique number*: **661-3035**  
*Gwella Inspector*: **Canon Robert Townsend**

### **1 School Context**

Ysgol Llangaffo is located in the village of Llangaffo which is around six miles from the town of Llangefni in Anglesey.

There are 52 pupils between 3 and 11 on the school register including 7 part-time nursery pupils. They have been arranged into two classes, one for the Foundation Phase and the other for Key Stage 2. The school admits pupils to the school full-time in the September following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Two thirds of the pupils come from outside the school's catchment area.

Around 46.15% of the pupils are from homes where Welsh is spoken as first language.

There are no pupils from a minority ethnic background. 15.56% of the pupils have additional learning needs (school action plus to provision – percentage based on full-time pupils), which is far higher than the national percentage. A few pupils (4.44%) have a statutory statement of special educational needs. 2.22% of the pupils are eligible to receive free school meals, which is far lower than the national figure.

The head teacher was appointed to the post in September 2006.

### **2.1 The school's distinctive Christian character and effectiveness as a Church in Wales school is excellent**

### **2.2 The school's prospects for improvement as a Church school is excellent.**

Ysgol Llangaffo is succeeding in serving its community by providing education of the highest quality in the context of Christian belief and practice. The school is a happy, caring and safe establishment where learners have the opportunity to experience a curriculum that is rooted in Christian values. Learners are aware that these values derive from the Gospel and Jesus' example.

### **3 Established strengths**

1. The school Head Teacher's vision for the school as a Church in Wales school
2. Partnerships that promote extensive and varied contributions from people of the local faith community people for the pupils' benefit
3. The local clergy's contributions to school leadership as well as worship and learners' development
4. Planning for worship
5. The contribution of religious education to the Christian character of the school
6. A school curriculum that is based on Christian values

Every issue from the former Section 50 inspection has been addressed.

### **4 Focus for development**

- 1 Implement the development points that have already been identified in the school's self-evaluation document
- 2 Find good practice in other church schools in Wales and discover whether their good practice can contribute to Ysgol Llangaffo's future development as a church school.

## **5 The school, through its outstanding Christian character, is excellent at meeting every learner's needs**

The School's vision is to provide an atmosphere and conditions where every pupil can flourish, and the school's ethos statement reflects this - *Ffynwn yng Ngholeuni Crist (We flourish in the Light of Christ)*. This is confirmed by the colourful wall-hanging in the hall. In talking about this ethos statement, learners easily explain of values on which the school concentrates, namely hope, peace, perseverance, wisdom, friendship, thankfulness and respect, and go further to root their response in Biblical examples of the values. In talking about perseverance, one pupil spoke about Jesus' difficult journey to the Cross, and in talking about hope another pupil mentioned a period in the Old Testament, when the Jews were refugees and longing to go back to their own country.

There is a very homely atmosphere and feeling in Ysgol Llangaffo and visitors regularly refer to this feeling. There is a caring attitude throughout the school with the oldest pupils often assisting the youngest pupils.

The feeling of working together to succeed is prominent in the school. 100% of the pupils noted in the Summer 2013 questionnaire that everyone respected each other and that the School's teachers and staff listened to them and helped them. The last school year's attendance was 96.3% for pupils of compulsory attendance age. The school has a close relationship with parents, and if any problems arise the majority of parents noted (Summer 2013 questionnaire) that somebody from school would be available to listen to them. During the meeting with the parents, their opinion about the positive effect of the school's Christian character on their children was strongly expressed, although they were not regular attenders of houses of worship.

The tracking system's results (teacher assessments, National and internal tests) show that every pupil is making progress against his/her prior attainment and against his/her personal targets. This succeeds thanks to a thorough knowledge of the pupils and an excellent relationship with them. Lesson observations show that the pupils have positive attitudes to learning.

The school's distinctive Christian character is enhanced by volunteers who assist in School. Individuals assist in developing the school Garden and other volunteers read with groups of pupils and individuals in School. The volunteers work with a group of (MA) pupils, a group of pupils and individuals who are targeted and individuals who receive early intervention. A number of Church volunteers also supported the school on a pilgrimage to Llanddwyn Church – support that was essential in order to ensure pupils' safety but it was also a way of strengthening the partnership.

The same good partnership exists with the local clergy, who are an integral part of life at the school. They have led 'Big Questions' sessions where the pupils feel completely free to ask deep questions e.g. "do we have to die?" Confirmation classes are offered in school to those who wish. The Ministry Area curate holds *Godly Play* sessions with FP pupils that have encouraged the pupils' curiosity and encouraged them to think.

Religious education contributes greatly towards the school's distinctive Christian character. Pupils are challenged to think deeply, and then to refer their thoughts back to the foundation of the school's values, namely Jesus.

Christian values have a very positive effect on learners' development and these values have been deeply rooted in the school's daily life. All members of the school community express the particular Christian characteristics of school values and the considerable effect that they have on pupils' daily lives and achievements. Ysgol Llangaffo's notable Christian character is excellent in meeting learners' needs

## **6 The effect of collective worship on the school community is excellent**

Collective worship includes a wide range of Christian themes with a strong emphasis on the School's Christian values and Christian festivals. This ensures that the pupils have a good understanding of the nature of worship, faith, Christian traditions and practices. A collective worship plan, with a two year cycle, has been created to ensure continuation, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Collective worship has a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and learners understand the central situation that He has in the Christian faith. A variety of hymns are sung, and full use is made of resources.

Each week different groups of KS2 pupils prepare worship. There is a variety of items in these services from dramas to quizzes. KS2 pupils were seen leading worship and presenting drama based on the story of Elias. This deepens KS2 pupils' understanding of themes and stories, encourages them to think of effective methods of presenting the story or theme and offering a variety of collective worship experiences for FP pupils. Collective worship regularly includes Biblical material and learners can relate this to the school's key values and their own lives.

Another objective of worship is to ensure that pupils understand the nature and purpose of prayer. During the services the pupils have an opportunity to reflect and an opportunity to say a personal prayer. The pupils are encouraged to write prayers for specific occasions e.g. harvest, or to respond to critical situations, such as the war in Syria. As of this ensures that collective worship is a spiritual time.

Another element of close and effective co-operation between the school and lay people of their Ministry Area who contribute to worship in the school is *Open the Book (Agor y Llyfr)*. A group of adults from every part of the Ministry Area have set up a group which prepares stories and props. This is done in detail and very creatively once a fortnight. Pupils take part in every story, whether as part of the story-telling or on the 'technical' side with the props. The effect on the pupils is considerable, because they were repeating stories, and describing the props - with everybody telling me about the walls of Jericho. Seeing a big fish 'swimming' across the hall and 'swallowing' Jonah was priceless! Although the group's language was English, it added to the education value of the presentation when the worship leader went over the values of the story in Welsh, and extended the pupils' bilingual vocabulary and promoting their cross-linguistic skills.

Collective worship is inspirational and inclusive. It engages every learner and its effect can be found clearly in every part of the school's community life. In a questionnaire 100% of parents noted that the school's values and attitude has a positive effect on their child, that reflects the fact that the effect of collective worship on the school community was excellent.

## **7 The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

*Not relevant for a controlled school*

**8 The effectiveness of the school's leadership and management as a church school, is excellent**

The Head Teacher has a clear Christian vision, that has been communicated effectively and incorporated by the remainder of the staff and the School's wider community. The vision was created and discussed jointly with all stakeholders. The school ensures that the whole curriculum is steered by a particular Christian vision that contributes well to pupils' behaviour and attitudes as well as their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

In self-evaluating the School's Christian character, a priority was added to the SDP that includes a specific plan to develop the School's Christian character. The plan includes positive action steps and sets a definite timetable to be followed. The governors are monitoring the progress in their meetings.

The Ministry Area's Team Leader is an effective critical friend for the school as a church school, and is very willing to contribute for the sake of developing the pupils in any way. His extensive input is appreciated.

The Head Teacher and staff model and promote behaviour and values that contribute positively to creating a school ethos where pupils and staff feel that they are respected and appreciated

The school takes advantage of training offered by the Diocese, as well as its days in the Cathedral for Year 6, which the school considers as training days for the staff, due to the new ideas and experiences that are to be seen on such occasions.

In summer 2011 year 5 pupils won a competition creating a banner for celebrating the bicentenary of the National Society. In October 2011 three of the School's pupils represented the Diocese in a special service in Westminster Abbey in London. The experience was genuinely one to remember, not only for the pupils but for their parents also. It was good to witness the friendliness and closeness between the pupils, the Diocesan director and the Bishop on that day.

<b><i>The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship</i></b>	<b>YES</b>
<b><i>The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education</i></b>	<b>YES</b>
<b><i>The school has acted upon recommendations from the previous inspection report</i></b>	<b>YES</b>
<b><i>The school's Admission's Policy meets statutory requirements (VA only)</i></b>	<b>n/a</b>

*The content of this report should be considered alongside the Estyn team's Section 28 report.  
I would like to thank the Headteacher, Staff, Governors and Pupils of Ysgol Llangaffo,  
for their welcome and cooperation. God's blessing for the future.*

**Canon Robert Townsend June 2014**