

Roots and Wings



The Roots and Wings International Programme for School leadership. School Profile

Name and address of School : Ysgol Glan-y-Môr School, Heol Elfed,
Burry Port, Carmarthenshire,
SA16 0AL, Wales.

Phone number : 01554 832507

E-mail address : ts_day@glanymor.carms.sch.uk

Name of Head-teacher : Tim Day

Gender of Head-teacher : Male

Type of School : Secondary, mainstream, community, English-medium

School location: mixed – rural, semi-rural, post-industrial

Age Range of pupils : 11-16

Number of pupils : 760

Number of teachers : 47

Prosperity of the residential area from which pupils are drawn:

Mixed – some pockets of acute deprivation; some prosperous areas.

Racial background : Predominantly white, Welsh.

Number of pupils identified as having special educational needs : 260

Main aims and priorities of the school :

Ysgol Glan-y-Môr School is a mixed, community comprehensive school of 760 pupils. We cater for all abilities across an age range of 11 to 16, providing a well-disciplined, caring environment and laying great stress on high standards of work, behaviour, attitude and appearance.

Our school is situated at the heart of the town of Burry Port, though we draw our pupils from the coastal strip extending from Pwll to Kidwelly, and inland to Mynydd-y-Garreg and Trimsaran. Approximately 30% of our pupils live within walking distance of our campus but the majority are bussed in from a catchment area consisting of small towns and villages.

The school also receives a number of pupils from outside the catchment area.

Although the medium of instruction is English, the Welsh dimension is very important to us, and we have introduced elements of bilingual education in a range of subjects.

The area is semi-rural, with a few prosperous areas and several pockets of acute deprivation. Unemployment rates are high and economic activity rates are lower than the Welsh average. Car ownership is around 65%. Around 1/3 of our pupils are eligible for free school meals, one of the highest proportions in any Carmarthenshire secondary school. Most local communities in the catchment area have limited cultural and social facilities, so the school provides resources and transport for study and activity outside school hours. Access to computers is an important feature of this provision. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation illustrates some aspects of the nature of our locality, with four local electoral wards (comprising the bulk of our population) being among the top 15 most deprived wards in Carmarthenshire (out of a total of 65), with low income, unemployment and poor health being particular features of deprivation.

We have a highly-qualified, dedicated and experienced team of staff serving the needs of the whole school community. We offer a comprehensive programme of staff development, which provides opportunities for all staff to be involved in individual, team and whole school development activities. This even encompasses supply colleagues who are encouraged to avail themselves of the General Teaching Council for Wales bursary scheme.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive, collaborative and innovative learning community,

Our philosophy

We believe in the importance of providing young people with a well-disciplined, caring environment which allows each individual to realise his/her potential intellectually, emotionally, physically, spiritually and socially.

Whilst encouraging individual qualities such as independence of thought, self-discipline and pride in one's appearance, we also stress the importance of respect for others, team work and community spirit.

We aim to equip all our young people with the knowledge, skills and values to help them take their place as responsible, well-rounded, caring members of society.

Our approach to education may be summed up in five key words:

- Entitlement – what a pupil is entitled to receive from us. In the words of a recent OHMCI Report “Improving Attendance and Behaviour”, “Teaching and learning approaches play a significant part in affecting attendance, behaviour and thus overall performance”;
- Empowerment – preparation for life beyond school;
- Expectation – having high expectations of each other, as pupils, staff, parents, carers and all who have a stake in our school;
- Excellence – promoting excellence in all we do;
- Enjoyment – creating a sense of community or family and engaging pupils as willing learners and fulfilled citizens.

Our vision for the school

Our efforts and resources are directed towards raising standards of performance, so that we can achieve our ideal of continuous improvement and success in the key activities of teaching and learning.

We are committed to creating a disciplined and supportive learning environment, in which children strive purposefully to reach their potential. Our expectations of pupils are high. We seek to develop a strong sense of personal and social responsibility, and respect for moral standards.

We recognise the fundamental importance of partnership with pupils and parents, and expect high levels of commitment and support from both. We value our strong identity and relationship with the local community, and aim to continue to develop the range and quality of links in the future.

We wish to see our pupils have high expectations of themselves and to be ambitious so that they can succeed and cope in the rapidly changing outside world. We will endeavour to provide our pupils with the skills and attitudes necessary to meet the challenges they will face in future years.

Our aims

We believe that, with the right encouragement, every pupil is capable of achieving success in a variety of ways. We aim to promote this by:

- making the needs of pupils our prime concern
- providing a safe, disciplined and friendly environment for work and learning
- helping pupils to reach their maximum potential in all areas of the curriculum
- creating an atmosphere in which expectations are high and achievements are acknowledged and valued
- providing challenging experiences which take account of individual needs, interests and aptitudes
- encouraging mutual respect, integrity, honesty and loyalty
- developing confidence, motivation and self-discipline.

Aims for 2004-2007:

PROMOTING SUCCESS THROUGH EFFORT

1. *Our Standards of Attainment* - to have the highest standards of attainment in relation to schools of similar profiles, both locally and nationally. We will know how well we are doing in this respect by comparing our standards with our own previous performance, with individual pupil, LEA and national targets and with other schools across Wales;
2. *Our Curriculum* - to have a curriculum which enables equality of access and provision for academic and vocational attainment at Key Stage 4. We will know we have achieved this when our range of curricular experiences matches the needs of all pupils, and of society at large;
3. *Our Pupil Numbers* - to recruit 100% of pupils living in our catchment area seeking a predominantly English-medium, non-denominational, mainstream education.
4. *Our Staff* - to have a comprehensive provision of continuing professional development activities for all our staff, with an emphasis on professional and personal effectiveness, leadership and management;

IN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

1. *Our Parents* - to have improved levels of parental involvement in the life of the school, with far greater participation in parents' evenings and the P.T.A., and with more consultation with parents on a wide range of issues;
2. *Our Governors* - members of our governing body to be fully involved in the life of the school as appropriate;
3. *Our Educational Partners* – to maintain and further develop links with all our partner primary schools and further and higher education institutions, and to seek to share good practice with local secondary schools;
4. *Our Links With Other Agencies* - to have improved partnerships and arrangements for co-operative working with all other agencies which have a bearing on the life of our school.

Outline plan for 2004-2007:

Theme: Unlocking Potential – Through Effective Teaching and Learning

Our development plan is a statement of our priorities as a school. We are committed to improving standards in five key areas:

A – *Academic achievement* - raising standards of learning, teaching and assessment by a variety of strategies, including:

B – pupils' basic skills [language, numeracy and ICT];

C – pupil conduct;

D – daily attendance and punctuality;

E – the ethos of the school as a whole.

The following important principles underpin the implementation of this plan:

- Priority is given to the key purposes of the school, namely: learning, teaching and assessment;
- Staff development has a key role in raising standards;
- The whole school plan is supplemented by annual action plans for priority areas;
- Effective leadership and management across the school are fundamental in raising standards.

This Development Plan has been compiled with reference to local and national priorities, including:

 The LEA's Education Strategic Plan;

 The Learning Country;

 Extending Entitlement;

 Learning Pathways.

These are the whole school priorities for 2004-2007:

- **Standards – addressing shortcomings in teaching and learning identified by Estyn, data analysis and our own self-evaluation;**
- **Consistency – consistent implementation, monitoring and evaluation of school policies**