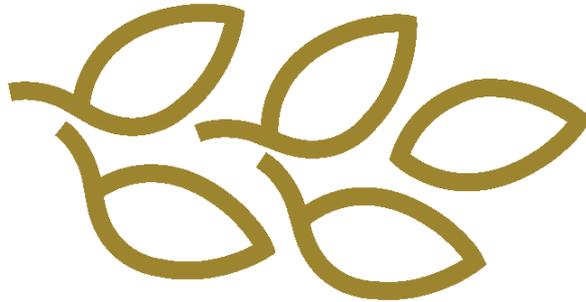


**Gwobr Ansawdd Genedlaethol  
Rhwydwaith Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach Cymru**



**Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes  
National Quality Award**

**National Quality Award Report  
of the visit to  
Ysgol Bryn Deva**

**6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

## Introduction

Congratulations on achieving the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes National Quality Award. We are pleased to confirm that Ysgol Bryn Deva has demonstrated meeting all the criteria of the National Quality Award. These criteria are set out against 7 health topics:

1. Food and fitness (nutrition and physical activity)
2. Mental and emotional health and wellbeing, including staff wellbeing
3. Personal development and relationships, including sex and relationships education
4. Substance use and misuse, including alcohol, smoking, and drugs (legal, illegal, and prescription).
5. Environment, including eco-initiatives and improving the school and wider environment
6. Safety, including a variety of topics such as child protection, sun safety, internet safety, and first aid
7. Hygiene including across school and non-school settings

(For further information on the NQA criteria please visit <http://gov.wales/topics/health/improvement/schools/?lang=en>).

The criteria are supported by a number of underlying principles, namely:

- The importance of pupil participation in core areas of school life which directly affect the health and wellbeing of children and young people e.g. teaching and learning, environment, pastoral care
- The importance of the understanding and commitment to action of the whole school community
- The existence of a positive approach to health
- Equity
- Links to other relevant national and local programme and policies.

Schools that achieve the NQA are implementing wellbeing initiatives at the very highest level. In this report we highlight the particular strengths of your school's approach to

promoting the wellbeing of everyone connected with the school. This report also identifies areas for continued development and consideration. We hope that the report is both an encouragement and a useful guide as pupils and staff at Ysgol Bryn Deva seek to maintain and extend the excellent approach and embedding it even further in to school life.

Marina Carter

**Summary of Visit**

Ysgol Bryn Deva is a 4-11 years Primary School with approximately 300 pupils on roll. The school is set on a residential housing estate, close to the River Dee and bordering parkland, with a number of facilities for the local community. Approximately 30% of pupils are eligible for free school meals with a similar percentage identified as having additional learning needs.

On arrival at Ysgol Bryn Deva, despite the wet and cold summer day, my colleague, Mr Williams and I received a warm welcome from Mrs Crostin, Headteacher, Mrs Smith, co-ordinator and later pupils.

Discussions with staff, observations and reading of school documentation indicate that the senior management team provides strong leadership and the organisation of relatively small classes with teaching staff and support staff helps to command respect from staff, parents, pupils and governors. The ethos and organisation of the school demonstrates unity and care. All staff have a strong commitment to the aims and objectives of the healthy schools scheme and curriculum planning evidences aspects of health and wellbeing throughout topics in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Staff have an excellent understanding of the needs of the pupils, whether it is learning, personal or social.

Three polite and caring pupils proudly gave us a tour of the school, after watching a video presentation by representatives from the school council, eco-committee and e-cadets. The pupils knew their school well and assured us that all pupils have a voice. Pupil participation is taken seriously, with elected representative groups meeting regularly in line with statutory guidelines. We were fortunate enough to observe a school council meeting at a time when suggestions from the school suggestion/comment box were read out and discussed. The eco-committee also has a post box for suggestions. Pupils are responsible for keeping the outdoor environment attractive and tidy with their planting and litter picking. The eco-committee have energy monitors, who check lighting and computers at break times and record findings on class charts and the e-cadet's code is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

The indoor environment is clean and bright, with stimulating and informative displays along corridors, in the library, hall/dining area and classrooms. Displays relate to many aspects of health, including emotional wellbeing, fitness, nutrition, safety and caring for the environment, in addition to pupil participation. The outdoor environment owes much to the work of the school council and the eco-committee. There are three

pergolas which can be used for story and circle times, a gardening area, a Forest Schools area and a large playground, providing opportunities for play and learning.

Governors are very supportive of school health policies. Our discussion with the Chair of Governors indicated that they receive training and attend presentations about roles, responsibilities and school policies relating to health, such as personal developments, food and fitness, safety, hygiene and pupil participation. On another occasion we met a parent governor who reaffirmed this.

This group of stakeholders included other parents who spoke very positively about the school, in particular for their care for pupils and their families and the communication and involvement of all stakeholders. Indeed one family had moved into Connahs Quay and specifically chosen Ysgol Bryn Deva for their nurturing ethos and openness. Another parent volunteers in the school and has now secured a university place to train to teach.

### **Highlights of the visit**

Ysgol Bryn Deva is a school which gives a very high priority to the care and nurturing of each of the pupils as individuals. It has been identified as sector leading practice in its work "to improve care, support and guidance and enrich pupils' wellbeing". Two very contrasting initiatives are noted to have had a great impact on standards of pupil wellbeing and standards of attainment.

- Touching the Sky is an innovative initiative to improve fitness, tackle childhood obesity and improve the wellbeing and academic achievement of pupils in Key Stage 2. It includes 'Bryn Deva 100 club' which involves all pupils running daily and other physical activities. Together with other incentives pupils who complete 100miles of laps can reach a gold award. The school works closely with a range of outside partners, including the local University, the local community and parents. The initiative is embedded into the life of the school and involves all staff and pupils. The focus on developing fitness and importance of healthy living is included across the curriculum. Pupils who make the largest improvements in their fitness levels get to trek up Snowdon as a reward. Parents are very supportive and attend healthy cooking workshops, helping them to support their children.
- Clwb Seren Bach, the schools nurture group, is an excellent provision which identifies pupils in the Foundation Phase who struggle to cope in whole class settings. The small group intervention room is a safe environment, which is visually stimulating and well resourced. It is funded by the Pupil Deprivation Grant and is run by 3 appropriately trained, caring and dedicated staff. Pupils are assessed on entry and attend the group 2-4 terms, whilst remaining members of their mainstream class. Their needs are assessed termly and outcomes include "very good improvement in social and emotional skills", "progress in national assessments which is substantially above what is expected". Ysgol Bryn Deva was the first school in Wales to receive the Quality Mark for this facility. An additional outcome is that parents are "more positive about their own parenting skills" Estyn June 2016.

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/best-practice/improving-wellbeing-and-standards-attainment>

- Something which seemed very clear during our visit was the positive, caring relationships throughout the school and with the community. Pupils know they are safe and the care that is demonstrated reinforces the teaching and learning about personal developments and relationships. Lessons about body parts, growing up, personal hygiene and keeping safe are taught by class teachers to mixed gender groups.
- The environment is a credit to staff, pupils and partners in the community. There is a bright and welcoming Reception area, which displays the schools awards and accolades. It is obvious that a lot of thought and care goes into making everywhere safe, bright and informative. Passion and dedication for presentation is evident all

around the school. Pupils respect this and are proud to show and discuss their displays.

- The Library, as a wonderful 'chill out 'zone made us "Wow" with its reward tree for the achievements of pupils in the nurture groups. When they reach the top they can then choose a (non food) treat from the reward box. Other reward systems for all pupils are very well thought out and include stickers for eating a healthy lunch, good behaviour, sport achievements, Star of the Week and Superhero.

- Outside the pupils feel safe yet free to explore, socialise, exercise and relax. There are several different areas for all types of play. The outdoor play resource shed, containing recycled materials such as cardboard boxes, old telephones etc some of which were obtained from Flintshire environmental department, is a great addition and provides lots of fun for pupils. The Forest Schools area is exciting and well used by classes from Nursery to Year 6. It was wonderful to hear about the impact of this on a nursery pupil who no longer requires physiotherapy and an elect mute pupil who began to talk as a result of activities in this area.
- Pupil voice is strong and the school council, eco-committee and e-cadets represent the opinions of other pupils well. These groups are very active, pupils take their roles seriously and are elected by their peers and meet regularly. There are many examples of their impact including the outdoor facilities, with attractive planters and functional gardening; the renovation of school toilets as a result of a pupil survey; child friendly policies which are displayed in the entrance corridor and an ECO Code which is incorporated into curriculum topics throughout the school.
- Communication, both internally and externally, features high on the school's list of priorities. Regular newsletters and the lucid, easy to use website keep parents and the local community up to date with news. Information sessions and parents evenings are well attended. Important information and reminders are sent via 'schoop'. These methods give parents confidence in the school, knowing and understanding what is happening and helping them to share the responsibility of caring for their children. The school prospectus provides reader friendly information about the school, its core values, vision, the curriculum and activities. "At Ysgol Bryn Deva we strive to be the BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES, not a clone of someone else"
- Special note should be made to aspects relating to safety, in particular the hinge protectors have been fitted to all internal doors and a defibrillator which is located in the Reception area.
- To help tackle inequality, the school is involved in Families and Schools Together (FAST) is an award-winning programme. It brings parents, children, teachers and the wider community together, to make sure young children get the support they need to fulfil their potential at school - and in life.

**Areas for further consideration**

- Ysgol Bryn Deva is an education setting to be very proud of with, staff that are hard working and passionate about the pupils. The governing body supports the school effectively and make regular visits. From our discussions we felt that they could improve their role by challenging and helping to market the schools' facilities, the care, support and guidance and improvements in standards in the community.
- The school council could add to their excellent reputation for representing their peers and making valuable contributions to the school, by taking on more responsibility in the meetings. We feel that several pupils are capable of taking notes and then, with support of link staff member, compiling the minutes and setting the next agenda.
- The Food and Fitness policy correctly states that break time 'provision will be limited to fruit and vegetables, water and milk only from reception to Year 6.' Pupils mostly bring their own snacks and, whereas they are regularly reminded to bring fruit/vegetables, maybe a system of rewards for pupils regularly bringing these would increase the quantity of fruit and vegetables eaten by pupils in Key Stage 2.
- So much has been done in relation to the environment and Eco issues, that we would suggest you now go for the Eco-Schools green flag award.

## **Feedback to pupils**

Dear Pupils of Ysgol Bryn Deva,

On 6th and 7th June Mr Williams and I came to visit your school to verify that it is a health promoting school.

We both agree that after a warm welcome, a wonderful time looking around the school, talking to staff, parents and pupils and reading files full of all the healthy and exciting things you do at Bryn Deva, that this is most certainly a healthy school.

Many thanks to the pupils representing the school council, the eco-committee and the e-cadets for your excellent video presentation, which told us so much about how you have been able to change and improve many aspects of your school. It is good to hear that you feel safe, happy and valued by staff. You are obviously very proud of your school and take your responsibilities of representing your peers seriously. It meant that our two days got off to a very good start.

Special thanks also to Summer, Cory and Alex for showing us around the school building, the play areas, garden and the Forest School area. Your guided tour around the school was very informative and your knowledge and enthusiasm for your school is truly admirable. What colourful, informative displays we saw and you have such a variety of opportunities outdoors for activities and leisure.

One of the most notable things in your school was how happy and well behaved everyone seems and there is so much respect shown towards each other and towards the environment.

It is great that all pupils can have a voice and that you are able to make decisions about things that are important to you. Remember, you help to make your school a great place - somewhere that is

safe, happy, busy and where you can learn the importance of being healthy as you grow.

Keep up the good work and all the best for the future.

Marina Carter

**Feedback to local Co-ordinator**

Empty rectangular box for feedback.