Section 50 Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn Voluntary Controlled Primary School,

Drefach,
Llanybydder,
Ceredigion.
SA40 9SX

Diocese: St. David's.

Local authority: Ceredigion
Dates of inspection: April 29th, 2026.
Date of last inspection: N/A
School's unique reference number: 667/3061
Headteacher: Miss C. Davies.
Inspector's name: Mr Neil Roberts B.Ed.

School context

Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn Volumtary Controlled Primary School is a Welsh medium Primary school situated in the village of Drefach, near Llanybydder. The school was opened in September 2017 as a result of the merger of three local primary schools. The Headteacher was appointed in April 2014 with responsibility for the three schools prior to the opening of the new school. The school obtained its status as a Voluntary Controlled School in September 2019 and was consecrated in September 2024. There are currently 108 pupils on roll within a modern, spacious and well resourced building. The school has access to an extensive outdoor area. Learners are organised into 4 classes with a Cylch Meithrin also on site. The school has identified 3.5% of learners as having additional learning needs. The FSM indicator is 6.2 % - but this figure is variable. Attendance for the last academic year was 95.8%.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn V.C. as a Church in Wales school.

Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn's vision statement **"O'r Dyffryn i'r Ser**", "**Reach for the Stars"**, confirms the school's Christian foundation, with a firm commitment to enable its learners to develop and thrive. The school aims to ensure that all its learners feel at home in a welcoming, safe, happy and inclusive learning environment where a strong ethos of love, care and mutual respect for one another permeates all aspects of school life. Every child is recognised as being unique and an important member of the school family. Learners are very well supported by all adults to reach their full potential, develop a positive self- image and recognise their uniqueness in God's eyes. All are challenged to achieve their potential by developing Christian values and by demonstrating respect, co-operation and fair play. **"To treat others as you would like to be treated"** is a

theme that runs through each school day ". The school is very proud of this, its "**Golden Rule "and** the children strive to follow its example daily. Learners value their membership of the school family, show interest and enthusiasm to learn and demonstrate social interaction based on consideration of others. They are given opportunities to worship God and reflect on the school's Christian values to guide them in their work and lives.

The school aims to provide high quality, stimulating and differentiated learning activities based on firm Christian principles, a proud sense of Welshness and an awareness of the spiritual emotions of life in a Christian environment. Since its opening day and its consecration, the school's Church in Wales status has developed significantly alongside its strong Welsh ethos, culture and heritage – an achievement of which it is justifiably proud.

Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn Voluntary Controlled Primary School is proud of its status and Christian ethos, reflected in its visual identity and spiritual activities. There are clear indications to visitors that this is a Church in Wales school, with distinctive signage, symbols, displays and artefacts at entrances, classrooms, communal areas and within the spacious school grounds. The prospectus, website and documentation all make the school's Church status clear.

Established strengths

- The Christian vision and leadership of the Headteacher which is very well supported by staff and governors.
- Excellent relationships between staff and learners which contribute significantly to the happy, inclusive and family ethos of the school.
- Learners' understanding of the school's values and how they impact on their daily lives.
- Strong links with the church, clergy and local community which strengthen the school's Christian character.

Recommendations

- To continue to develop the school's distinctive Christian character and its close and effective partnerships with the Church and Diocese.
- To encourage and develop learners to plan and organise Collective Worship regularly.
- To develop an area of the outdoor environment as a spiritual place which learners and staff may use for prayer and reflection.
- To share the school's good practice and continue to work closely with other Church schools.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is meeting the needs of all learners including the contribution of Religion, values and ethics to the Christian Character of the school

Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn fosters a sociable, supportive and stimulating learning community which impacts positively on the wellbeing of staff and learners alike. A strong feature of the school is its close family ethos where the sense of fellowship is apparent. This aspect is enhanced by respectful and positive relationships between learners and staff. There is a clear focus on pastoral care. Learners are very well cared for by staff and are aware that they may approach adults at any time to discuss

personal or sensitive issues or concerns. Relationships are founded on a strong sense of understanding and caring for others. As a result, learners feel secure, loved and valued.

The school aims to provide its learners with a distinctive, high quality and relevant education within the context of Christian belief and practice in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales. Learning experiences reflect the issues and needs of a diverse society and reinforce pupils' understanding of the importance of contributing to their community. Considerable importance is focused on promoting a sense of belonging and developing positive attitudes.

Christian values are at the heart of all that the school aims to achieve and are embedded in its daily life. They support its ethos and have a significant impact on its development as a Church in Wales school. These core values have an important effect on the attitude and development of learners. They are keen to learn, polite and considerate and demonstrate courteous behaviour to fellow learners, staff and visitors. Older pupils show a caring attitude towards the younger children. Learners plan, organise support for those in need. The school supports local and national charities annually. These have included Children in need, Macmillan, the community food bank and Bags2school, amongst many others.

Learners take pride in their work and achievements. Pupil voice is an important and influential element of the school and has contributed significantly to its Christian vision, ethos and development as a Church school. Learners take on leadership roles through numerous councils and committees, developing key life skills. These include School council, Church committee, Health and wellbeing, Eco, Digital and Siarter Iaith. The Church Committee – Pwyllgor Eglwysig, was formed upon the school's opening, establishing the principles of discussion and consultation. Learners were involved in designing signage for the new school and in considering a name that would help to distinguish the school as a Christian place of learning. An impressive stained-glass window was soon designed and created at the main entrance, reflecting the window at nearby Llanwenog church. There are several impressive artefacts within the school grounds which have been influenced by the learners, including a wooden cross and a remembrance memorial to the fallen. The hall contains a display created from the schools involved in the merger. The committees are consistently active – all classrooms have a designated area for quiet prayer and reflection. Learners are empowered to have a voice and influence in their learning and community.

The school has developed a broad and balanced curriculum. Staff deliver quality provision across the school, offering interesting and challenging learning experiences. Learners are encouraged to investigate and question and are engaged in both independent and collaborative RVE activities. Skills, knowledge and authentic experiences are incorporated into the curriculum, enabling learners to learn about their community, Wales and the world. Welsh Christian culture and a

sense of Cynefin are included in planning. By challenging learners with the “Big Questions “, within RVE, learners discuss and debate confidently. An inclusive approach to RVE allows learners to compare Christian beliefs with other religions and cultures and helps to develop an empathy towards diversity within society.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community.

Collective Worship at Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn is delivered on a daily basis and follows a Christian structure, The school ensures that the principles for all acts of worship are inclusive and spiritual. Worship is important to the life of the school and is regarded as a special occasion which provides all members of the school community with an opportunity to come together as one Christian family, providing a clear and positive focus for the day ahead.

Planning for worship is balanced to incorporate key Christian events, the Liturgical year, Bible stories, and the school’s Christian values and themes. Focus is also given to celebrating important figures and occasions in Welsh Christian history and culture. The school also includes stories and topics from other religions and cultures, charity work and national events. These occasions are underpinned by the school’s core Christian values. Learners are encouraged to model their behaviour and attitudes on important aspects of their worship experiences and relate them to their own lives. Collective Worship also focuses on significant moments in the life of the school. The school recognises and celebrates the successes and achievements of all its learners on a weekly basis. Success, individuality and diversity is acknowledged joyfully. Acts of worship reflect broad Anglican traditions.

Learners enjoy participating in worship and are given opportunities to lead worship on a termly basis. The Church Committee assist fellow learners in preparing for worship for the school community and learners from other pupil voice groups also engage in leading worship during each term. During worship, learners are attentive and participate enthusiastically when invited to respond. They are confident when discussing issues which may arise. When questioned, all were able to recall many Bible stories from both the Old and New testaments, displaying a good understanding of the underlying moral messages. They spoke with enthusiasm about worship and their involvement and expressed their feelings expressively. Learners enjoy composing their own prayers which they often share with the school family. Worship is a positive and rewarding experience for learners and helps them to develop an awareness that life involves choices of belief, attitudes, behaviour and relationships.

The school’s strong relationship with the church is reflected in its worship provision. The vicar and Diocesan Education officer are regular visitors to the school. The vicar visits on a weekly basis to lead worship. These occasions are joyfully anticipated by learners and staff and provide a fulfilling contribution to the Christian ethos and character of the school, impacting positively on the spiritual development of all stakeholders. The vicar also visits to lead worship when celebrating important festivals in the church calendar – e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Collective Worship at Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn is not restricted to the school building. It is a shared occasion usually planned and delivered by learners, staff and clergy who are joined in celebration by governors, parents and members of the local community. This extended school family share worship at St. Gwenog’s church, Learners and teaching staff also visit to participate in activities planned for the

RVE curriculum. Activities have included mock baptisms led by the vicar and lessons on the history of the church, its nature and character, including its structure, furniture and architecture and its purpose and function within the community. The relationship between the school and the church is at the heart of community life and is integral to the present and future development of the school. This partnership has a positive effect on learners by promoting a sense of belonging and commitment to the locality whilst enhancing the spirituality of all its members.

The effectiveness of the leadership of the school

Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn is very well led by the Headteacher who is committed to move the school forward and further develop its Church in Wales status. Since her appointment in 2014, prior to the opening of the new school in 2017, she has been at the forefront of the drive to further the school's progress. She has a Christian vision and focus for the school, and a sense of direction for the school based on the principles of care, respect, compassion and wellbeing for the school family. This vision has permeated throughout the school to all stakeholders who share this vision. It has extended to the wider school family - parents and the local community, and strengthened the sense of community spirit. The school is at the heart of the village and the Headteacher is effective in promoting this partnership of school, church and locality. There is an understanding that this is a Church in Wales school. The Headteacher has ensured that the school's Christian character and ethos has been communicated and modelled well.

All members of staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are involved in plans aimed at taking the school forward. They strive to provide the best educational experiences for all learners to achieve their full potential and explore ways to

further enhance the school's church status – the development of future links with the Christian Aid organisation is a prime example. Staff work well collaboratively and are valued for their commitment and contributions to the team ethos. Teachers and teaching assistants work well together within a motivational atmosphere. Learners are taught in an inspiring, caring and respectful learning environment through the promotion of discreet Christian values. A culture of positive learning is fostered whereby contributions from all stakeholders towards school improvement are appreciated and impactful.

The school works with the diocese to discuss areas for development, particularly with regard to worship and RVE.

The Governing Body have a very good understanding of the nature and purpose of a Church school and are fully aware of their statutory requirements. Governors effectively support the promotion of the school's Church status in accordance with the Trust Deed. There is a commitment to ensure that the legacy of this developing Christian foundation is at the heart of school life.

Governors are very supportive of the staff and learners, dedicated in their support to develop the school's status and determined to ensure that the school's progress as a church school remains a high priority. They visit the school regularly and contribute positively to many areas of school life, offering support, encouragement, advice and constructive challenge based on mutual respect. They take part in various activities such as learning walks, listening and talking to learners, book scrutinies and attending worship and pupil led events. Governors monitor progress

of the School Development Plan and are provided with information regarding matters pertaining to the school's church status by the Headteacher.
The school recognises the importance of developing and maintaining good relationships with parents – who are very supportive. Communication between the school and parents is very good. The school ensures that parents are well informed about their child's progress. In return, parents are appreciative of the school's open-door policy and feel comfortable and confident when meeting staff. They are very positive and enthusiastic about the school's church status and full of praise for its caring, respectful and happy ethos and culture. Parents particularly appreciate the support, care and respect shown to all learners to nurture and develop their spirituality, which they attribute to the Christian values which are an intrinsic part of the school.

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective acts of worship

YES

Religion, values and ethics is objective, Critical and pluralistic

YES