Section 50 Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report Proforma

Llangattock VA Church in Wales Primary School

Ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Llangatwg

Llangattock, Crickhowell, Powys

NP8 1PH

Diocese: Swansea & Brecon

Local authority: Powys
Date of inspection: 15th May 2025
Dates of last inspection: 23rd - 24th February 2015
School's unique reference number: 666-3048
Headteacher: Katherine Durbin
Inspector's name and number: Jennie Downes

School context

Llangattock Church in Wales Primary School is a place of learning where everyone is valued and nurtured. The positive culture built on trusting relationships ensures the school remains true to its historic Christian foundation and deep sense of Cynefin. The number of pupils (NOR) is 111, aged between four and eleven. The FSM average is 11%, and the school identifies 4% as having an Additional Learning Need (ALN). Very few learners have EAL, and none have Welsh as their first language.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Llangattock as a Church in Wales school

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path'

Psalm 119:105

Lighting the Way / Goleuo'r Ffordd.

Llangattock Church in Wales VA primary school aims to: 'shine God's love in all we do'. The headteacher describes the school's Christian vision as a beacon that shines brightly in the community, encouraging all to flourish and grow.

Christian values are holistically woven into every aspect of school life, with the impact evident in the strong relationships formed between the school, community and church. Governors seek to ensure that the foundational 'gift' of spirituality and faith becomes a nurturing and positive experience for all learners. The development of the Spiritual Garden and the outdoor classroom areas illustrates the school's collaboration with stakeholders to enhance the learning environment. The locally sourced, sustainable materials in the Spiritual Garden are sensitive to the narrative of the landscape surrounding Llangattock.

Learners are eager to explain the significance of their design for the Spiritual Garden, 'a place which looks towards the mountains'.

A relationship of mutual trust is evident throughout the school community. The school fosters strong links with the Church of St Catwg. Members of the church community describe feeling 'blessed' to have the school involved in the life of the church. The culture of interdependent leadership and governance at Llangattock Church in Wales School is a strength, leaders value the contributions of all stakeholders.

Llangattock School creates a welcoming atmosphere and sense of belonging for all. During the children's School of Sanctuary service in St Catwg's Church, the school and community are invited to 'take great joy in what you are celebrating.' The wider community warmly embrace the learners' creative celebration, marked by music, prayer and messages of hope. The impressive learner-led event evidences the impact of Llangattock School's commitment to developing as an inclusive learning community, with all learners successfully working towards the four purposes of their learning and living fulfilled lives as Children of God.

Established strengths

- Positive relationships within the school, which reach out to the wider community.
- Strong leadership of the headteacher and governing body.
- A commitment to realising and reimagining the distinctive Christian vision.

Recommendations

- Review the school vision with all stakeholders, taking it into the future.
- Seek further investment to support the development as a learning organisation.
- Continue to develop RVE with support from the Church in Wales.

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?

Llangattock School's emphasis on high standards and expectations is effectively demonstrated through positive role modelling. The school provides a calm, supportive environment where all learners are encouraged and nurtured to respond positively to their learning and to do their best. Each individual is recognised and valued for their unique contribution to the school and the wider community. The whole school community is committed to working together as a team. The proactive PTA supports the Llangattock community by running the ambitious Dragon Deli café at the Green Man festival each year. A dedicated group of parents and teachers generously donate their time, skills and creativity to ensure the venture's success. The fundraising from the Dragon Deli is used to support the development of school improvement initiatives, such as the creation of the school's Spiritual Garden. The Spiritual Garden project exemplifies the collaboration between the school governors and the learners. To develop the garden, the Ethics Committee worked creatively with a governor and a teacher to design a 'reflective, calm space for everyone'.

Learners suggest fundraising activities and take pride in their contributions to the school's ethos. A young learner shares how their idea of an Easter raffle was developed to raise funds for the local care home and the school. Year 5/6 learners work collaboratively to support charities such as the Rainforest Trust.

The School of Sanctuary celebration demonstrates the school's commitment to fostering a culture of welcome, inclusion, and kindness towards both those they know and those they have never met. Sharing their thoughts and prayers in response to the plight of refugees, learners speak of the importance of 'compassion, love, and caring for the vulnerable'. Parents describe the school as having an 'incredible sense of welcome and love' and how this caring culture extends beyond school and into the wider community.

The impact of collective worship on the school community

Gathering for worship and prayer is an integral and natural part of life at Llangattock School. The school community values worship that is creative and meaningful. The learners' Ethics Committee and Worship Leaders participate in the planning, preparation, and recording of Collective Worship. The learners play 'You Shall Go Out With Joy' on glockenspiels. The children sing, pray, and recite the Grace in both Welsh and English. The creativity of the children's spirituality creates a tangible and moving atmosphere during the worship. The Church seasons are a valued part of the worship cycle, with the festivals of Harvest, Advent, Christmas, and Easter celebrated by the school community during the school day, and by the school family, who are warmly welcomed into the Church of St Cadwg on Sundays. The learners have a respectful relationship with the church community and enjoy visiting the Church regularly. They share their understanding of the meaning of 'Sanctuary' and explain how, in response to their Big Question, 'What have refugees got to do with me?', Bishop John visited the school to support its journey towards becoming a School of Sanctuary. He shared his faith and what it means to be guided by the values of Jesus.

In class, all learners are introduced to the concept of prayer. The interactive prayer spaces encourage learners to engage in prayer and consideration is given to the personal needs and spiritual development of learners. Younger learners utilise their digital competency skills to create interactive prayers of gratitude using the iMovie app. Children attending the school's Prayer Club are encouraged to cultivate a personal relationship with God. The symbolic use of a 'boat' illustrates the person of Jesus within the Christian faith. The lighting of candles which represent the Trinity, fosters a sense of calm and stillness. Creating bookmarks depicting their prayers offers an effective and safe way for learners to express their thoughts and feelings.

The effectiveness of religion, values and ethics

Llangattock School is working with colleagues from nearby Church in Wales schools to develop a culture of peer support and to realise the school's development as a learning organisation. In partnership with the Church in Wales Lead RVE Advisor, teachers from Llangattock School are developing an approach to planning for the progression of objective, critical, and pluralistic Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) through the Statements of What Matters, descriptions of learning, and RVE sub-lenses.

Learners are encouraged to engage fully with their learning journey in RVE through enquiry-led learning and the exploration of Big Questions. Younger learners use their curiosity to investigate the importance of building on 'firm foundations'. Using a range of materials, learners construct models and structures, applying their understanding and problem-solving skills to consider the meaning of 'The Parable of the Two Builders'.

Older learners employ their critical thinking skills to explore the charitable mission of Christian Aid. Inspired by the charity's 'United by Hope' message, learners examine the concept of 'hope' through considering the values outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The learners utilise a diamond ranking activity to evaluate which 'value' holds significant priority when actively working towards ending world poverty, and then use their digital skills to organise and present their ideas.

RVE concepts are integrated throughout the curriculum's Areas of Learning and cross-cutting priorities, particularly when exploring Welsh heritage through the lens of Cynefin. Older learners develop art sculptures based on their responses to Cynefin. Younger learners create images of Celtic saints along with a symbolic design for each saint. At a whole-school sharing event, learners showcase their Cynefin work in an 'art gallery' and create a café serving 'stained glass' biscuits which incorporate their symbols.

The effectiveness of the leadership of the school as a church school

Through a collaborative leadership style, the headteacher and governing body ensure that the distinctive Christian vision of Llangattock School is fully realised and embodied. Developing a strong school team has cultivated a shared responsibility for school improvement.

Foundation governors emphasise the importance of providing learners with a 'positive experience of faith' so that they can grow and flourish. Ensuring the spiritual well-being and intellectual fulfilment of learners is central to the school's Christian vision. The concept of 'shining the light further' is an aspect of the vision that the leadership and governance of the school seek to explore and further develop.

The staff at Llangattock Church in Wales Primary School are effectively working towards achieving the school's development priorities. The emphasis on transforming the school into a learning organisation and promoting collaboration across the cluster of schools is an area the school is keen to advance into the future. This involves the pupil voice groups, which meet with peers from a neighbouring school to create learner-led collective worship. The leadership team believes that investment in this collaborative approach has enhanced the school's provision, particularly regarding its Christian ethos. The school is eager to continue its collaboration with the Church in Wales Education. Through such investments, the headteacher and governing body can ensure that the Christian distinctiveness and ethos of Llangattock Church in Wales Primary School will continue to flourish and grow.

The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	**Y**
The school meets the statutory requirement for religion, values and ethics	**Y**
Religion, values and ethics is objective, critical and pluralistic	**Y**