Section 50 Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

Ysgol Gynradd Maesincla | Maesincla Primary School.

Caernarfon

Gwynedd.

LL55 1DF

Diocese: Bangor

Local Authority: Gwynedd
Dates of inspection: September 29th 2026
School's unique reference number: 6613005
Headteacher: Ms Manon Gwynedd
Inspector's name: Mr Neil Roberts B.Ed.

School Context

Ysgol Maesincla is a Voluntary Controlled, Welsh medium primary school situated in the historic town of Caernarfon. The school was originally constructed as a hospital and was founded as a Church school in 1941. There are 317 full-time and 42 part-time learners. The school has 11 classes, including a Nursery class. These include several mixed age classes and classes which provide support for some learners with complex needs. The Headteacher was appointed in 2019 and is supported by a Deputy. There are 13 full-time and 1 part-time teacher. All classes have support from a group of 22 teaching assistants. The school has reported that 48.4% of learners have ALN. The FSM indicator is 49.3%. 71.9% of learners speak Welsh at home. Attendance for the last academic year was 90.15%

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ysgol Maesincla as a Church in Wales school.

Ysgol Maesincla is a happy, welcoming and inclusive Christian place of learning where learners are placed at the centre of everything the school aims to achieve. Each child is valued as a unique individual and supported and challenged to maximise their true potential. The school is committed to the nurture and care of all its learners through a positive and personalised approach to learning within an engaging and stimulating learning environment. The positive nurturing relationships that exist across the school ensure that individuals, staff and families feel well cared for and mutually respected. The school provides effective provision for learners with complex needs.

The school has an established Christian culture and is proud of its church status at the heart of the community. Its Christian vision is embedded in its theological roots and, by combining the principles of a "Nurture School ", with its core values, ensures that its distinctive nature is clearly defined and consistently lived. These

principles have a strong effect on the school community, positively influencing the attitudes and behaviour of learners and encouraging them to grow and develop as kind, respectful and tolerant individuals, caring for their school, family, community, Wales and the wider world.

Themes of celebration, dedication, collaboration and co-operation promote the theory that the school community will learn the importance of its Christian values through regular, spiritual and meaningful prayer and worship. A rich and varied curriculum, founded in the Christian faith, which contains well planned, purposeful and engaging experiences, including diverse cultural and religious studies, enables learners to learn to live their lives with a good and developing set of values and morals.

The act of Christian service is developed through a range of charitable projects undertaken by learners and staff. By working collaboratively with all stakeholders, the school values the importance and significance of its Christian principles. Positive and respectful relationships between staff and learners contribute to its warm familial and inclusive character.

Ysgol Maesincla effectively promotes and celebrates its Christian status and fosters respect for other beliefs, cultures and ways of life.

Established strengths

- The Headteacher's inspiring Christian vision and leadership which is very well supported by staff and governors.
- Christian values are embedded in all aspects of school life and enable learners to understand how they may impact their lives.
- Positive relationships between staff and learners contribute significantly to the inclusive and caring ethos of the school.
- Strong links with the church, diocese and community reinforce the school's Church status.

Recommendations

- To encourage learners to plan and organise Collective Worship regularly.
- To continue to work closely with the Church and Diocese and further develop links with other Church schools to share good practice.
- To develop an area of the outdoor environment as a spiritual place which learners and staff may use for prayer and reflection.

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

RVE has an important role in supporting the Christian ethos of the school. Ysgol Maesincla strives to provide a distinct, high-quality education in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales. Staff have worked collaboratively to develop a broad and differentiated curriculum with a range of creative and meaningful

experiences which help to reinforce learners' understanding of the importance of contributing positively to their community. Planning is thorough with clear progression and lessons aim to be engaging and diverse, utilising a range of strategies. Effective organisation encourages both independent and collaborative exploration. Most learners work confidently, discussing issues and questions and sharing ideas enthusiastically. They are guided to develop the skills that will help them to be effective members of society. Learners are supportive of each other and display good knowledge of key aspects of Christianity and the Bible, with a good awareness of the importance of notable days in the Church calendar. Prominent focus is given to Welsh Christian culture and heritage. An inclusive approach allows learners to compare Christian beliefs with different faiths and cultures, developing respect for different perspectives and showing empathy to diversity within society.

Learner voice has a prominent role in the school and makes important contributions to its Christian purpose. Learners take on leadership roles in numerous councils and develop key life skills in the process. They are encouraged and motivated to do what they can to help others. They show compassion and a commitment to help those in need and are proud of their support of local and national charities. These have included Cancer Research, Children in Need, St. David's Hospice and Siop Shafins – a project run in conjunction with parents to provide items for the community.

The school's distinctively Christian values are evident across all areas of school life. Their influence and impact and reflect its warm, inspirational and inclusive character. Together with the school's status as a "Nurture School ", these principles have a major effect on the development, attitudes and behaviour of most learners. This partnership sets the context for all learning at the school. Due to the close nurturing relationships that exist, stakeholders feel safe, well cared for and respected. Learners articulate the characteristics of the school's vision and values and begin to understand the impact they have on their lives. Most are proud to be members of the school, keen to learn, polite and considerate and are courteous to fellow learners, staff and visitors. They are inspired to take responsibility for their own actions. Older learners demonstrate a caring and thoughtful consideration towards younger learners.

Ysgol Maesincla is at the heart of community life and its links with the churches of LLanbeblig and Santes Fair are very strong. These links foster a strong sense of community with learners taking an active role in worship and community events. These visits strengthen learners' spiritual experiences, strengthen and promote an understanding of the values of the Christian faith together with a sense of belonging and a commitment to the community. The school is very well supported and guided by the Rector, whose advice and encouragement are highly valued. He has an important and influential role in developing links with the Church, Diocese and community.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community.

Whole school worship is central to the life of the school and takes place on a daily basis. It follows a distinctive Christian structure. The school endeavours to ensure that the principles of worship are designed to be inclusive, spiritual, joyful and

engaging, reflecting its Christian values and the principles of a “Nurture School”. Worship is regarded as a special occasion and an integral part of the school day, allowing all members of the school family to come together as one Christian community, providing a unifying focus for each day with opportunities for prayer, celebration and reflection. Parents/carers and members of the community regularly attend worship.

Worship is carefully planned and balanced to ensure that the school’s core values are prominently included together with the observation of notable festivals in the cycle of the Christian year. Themes are carefully chosen to be relatable to young learners and consistently linked to Christian teachings, ensuring that the worship experience is spiritually enriching, providing learners with opportunities to consider God’s guidance. The Bible is consistently referenced, and learners are asked to reflect on what they have witnessed and heard and contemplate how these things can impact on their lives and the decisions they may make.

Worship is a positive experience for most learners who enjoy their regular participation and are confident when discussing issues and questions which may arise, helping them to develop an awareness that life involves making choices based on attitudes, behaviour and relationships. When questioned, learners enthusiastically recalled many Bible stories and referred to them with enjoyment and pleasure together with a good understanding of their underlying moral messages. Worship also reflects themes and occasions which may refer to local, national or worldwide situations. These occasions are delivered considerately. As well as having a clear Christian focus, worship helps learners to develop an awareness that life involves choices of belief and ways of life, acknowledging respect for other beliefs and cultures.

Acts of worship reflect broad Anglican traditions. The Christian status of the school is reflected in the provision of a focal point with Christian symbols and artefacts, displays, music, songs and hymns, traditional prayers and responses, including the Lord’s Prayer and Grace, and a period of quiet reflection. Stimulating and impactful displays around the school enhance and celebrate the school’s Christian heritage and focus. Worship also focuses on important moments in the life of the school and community. Recognising and celebrating personal achievements and success is something the school does well. All achievements, individuality and diversity are acknowledged regularly and joyfully.

The weekly visit from the Rector to lead worship, supported by learners, makes an important contribution to worship provision. His visits are inclusive and inspirational, enriching the worship experience and offering theological depth and meaning to each occasion. These visits strengthen the school’s connection to the church and wider community and support its development as a Church school. Collective Worship is a shared experience with the community and is not restricted to the school building. Learners and staff visit the churches at Llanbeblig and Santes Fair to celebrate occasions such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Ysgol Maesincla has a positive and embedded process of Collective Worship that is well planned, celebratory and relevant to the aims, needs and Christian ethos of the school. It is a key part of the school’s way of life, contributing to the personal growth of its learners and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

The effectiveness of the leadership of the school

The Headteacher has been consistent in her desire to promote and develop the school's Church in Wales status. Her energetic and inspirational leadership has set a clear vision for the school. This commitment has ensured that the school's Christian ethos has been communicated and modelled effectively to all members of the school family and the extended community. She has high expectations and a sense of purpose which influence the school's well-established culture of care and respect, where the emphasis is on the care, happiness and wellbeing of all learners. Christian values, together with the Nurture School principles inform all areas of school life and are engrained in the school's strategic processes and identified as areas for future development.

The Headteacher, staff and governors work effectively together in promoting the Christian nature and values of the school. All members of staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities, are involved in strategic planning activities and work very well collaboratively to provide the best educational experiences for all learners. They are committed to the school's focus for further development. Staff possess experienced and extensive expertise in order to deliver the curriculum and are valued for their commitment and contributions to the team ethos. Positive working relationships between staff and learners are a strong and positive feature of the school. Learners are taught, supported and treated by staff within a loving and respectful learning environment informed by distinctive Christian principles that contribute to their good behaviour and positive attitudes towards learning. The professional development of staff is considered and prioritised when required. Staff are advised and encouraged to attend relevant courses associated and identified within the school's development plans.

The Governing Body have a clear understanding of the nature, purpose and vision of a Church in Wales school and are fully aware of their statutory responsibilities. They recognise the deeply embedded Christian character of the school, are committed to its further development and are very supportive of the staff. Governors visit the school regularly and contribute positively to many areas of school life, offering support, advice, encouragement and constructive challenge based on a mutual bond of respect and trust. They are enthusiastic and keen to develop further. There are regular planned opportunities for governors to take part in learning walks, lesson observations, book scrutinies and community activities. Governors play an essential role in monitoring the school's distinctiveness, reviewing the curriculum and attending worship. Information regarding all aspects of school life, progress reports and details of RVE, Collective Worship and aspects pertaining to the school's Church status are regularly reported to governors by the Headteacher.

Leaders prioritise the development of close relationships with parents/carers and the local community who are very supportive. Parents/carers appreciate the school's caring, family ethos and the personalised approach each child receives. They are positive and proud of the school's Church status and value opportunities

to attend worship, praising the spiritual ethos that permeates these occasions. They appreciate the support shown to learners to nurture their spirituality, which they attribute to the Christian values which are an intrinsic part of the school.

Ysgol Maesincla is very well led by all leaders who work very well to promote and develop its Christian status for the benefit of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all its learners.

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective acts of worship

YES

Religion, Values and Ethics is Objective, Critical and Pluralistic

YES