



Esgob Morgan Junior Voluntary Controlled School.

Ffordd Siarl, Ashley Court, St. Asaph, Denbighshire.

LL17 0PT

Diocese : St. Asaph.

Local Authority : Denbighshire.

Inspection Date : June 18th/ 19th 2018.

Last inspection : N/A.

School ref.no. : 663 3062.

Headteacher : Mr.Tim Redgrave.

Inspector's name : Mr. Neil Roberts.

School context:

Ysgol Esgob Morgan is a Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales Junior school situated in the western part of the cathedral city of St.Asaph, Denbighshire. The school is named after Bishop William Morgan who first translated the Bible into Welsh. The school attained its Church in Wales status in the Autumn Term, 2015.

There are currently 107 pupils on roll who are taught in four single age classes. There are 4 full-time teachers, 4 full-time teaching assistants and 2 part-time support assistants.

The school identifies 26% of pupils as having Additional Learning Needs, which is above the national average. Around 16% of pupils are eligible for free school meal, which is just below the national average.

No pupils have been excluded from the school during the last twelve months leading up to the inspection.

The children come predominately from the immediate locality though there are some from the surrounding area.

English is the main medium of teaching and learning and all pupils are taught Welsh as a second language. No pupils speak Welsh at home.

The building and grounds are well maintained. Innovative changes have been made to create more spacious accommodation. The outdoor learning environment is spacious and attractive. It has been developed extensively and is used for a range of educational activities. The school benefits from a large field and playground, developing forest school and its own " Fferm Esgob " which the children are responsible for maintaining.

The cathedral and parish church are within walking distance of the school and are visited regularly.

The school is proud of its developing Church in Wales status.

The Headteacher has been in post for nine years.

This is the school's first Section 50 inspection.

The school was inspected by Estyn in April, 2018.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ysgol Esgob Morgan as a Church in Wales school are good.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan V.C. Church in Wales School is a warm, welcoming and happy Christian place of learning where an ethos of love, care and mutual respect for one another influences all that the school sets out to achieve. The school aims to provide a rich, varied and stimulating learning environment in which Christian values are central to all aspects of school life.

The school has worked enthusiastically and effectively for over the past two years to establish and develop its Church school status. Leaders, staff and governors share a clear vision and commitment to further develop this status.

Christian values underpin the school's ethos and teaching. Core values are shared and promoted within a strong context of Christian belief and practice. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith through meaningful and relevant learning experiences.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan has good and developing links with the parish church and cathedral, Diocese and the community it serves. These close links help to promote the school's developing Church school status.

Children value their membership of the school and show a strong enthusiasm to learn and develop positive social skills based on consideration for others. The school's Christian ethos encourages pupils to behave sensitively and appropriately.

Religious Education and Collective Worship make important contributions to the life of the school. Children are given opportunities to worship God, reflect on the school's Christian values and use the Bible to guide them in their work and lives. The school aims to develop an appreciation and understanding of the Christian faith whilst respecting those of other faiths and cultures.

There are clear indicators that Ysgol Esgob Morgan is a Church in Wales school with signs, displays, symbols and artefacts in classrooms and communal areas. The prospectus, website and documentation also make its Church school status clear.

Established strengths

- The vision and leadership of the Headteacher in developing the school's Church status which is well supported by staff and governors.
- The happy, caring and inclusive nature of the school which is enhanced by positive and respectful relationships between pupils and staff.
- The pastoral care and support given to all pupils in order that they may achieve their full potential.
- Good and developing links between the school, parish church, cathedral and Diocese.
- The very good behaviour and attitudes of the pupils.

Focus for Development

- To review the school's Mission Statement in order to more accurately reflect its Christian values and Church in Wales status.
- To develop areas for prayer, spiritual development and reflection within the school and in the school grounds.
- To further develop the role of Worship Leaders and pupils in the process of planning, delivery and evaluation of worship.
- To adopt more formal procedures to report termly to the Governing Body on Religious Education, Collective Worship and other important issues.
- To continue to develop and promote the school's Church in Wales status.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

The contribution of Religious Education to the Christian Character of the school is good

Ysgol Esgob Morgan provides a happy, caring, sociable and stimulating learning environment which impacts positively on the health and well-being of staff and pupils alike. The school aims to serve its pupils by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice, in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the church at parish and Diocesan level. It also aims to ensure equal access to a curriculum that reflects the issues and needs of a diverse society. Learning experiences help to reinforce pupils' understanding of the importance of contributing positively to their community. Considerable importance is given in promoting a sense of belonging and developing positive values and attitudes.

Christian values are at the heart of all that the school sets out to achieve and influence every aspect of school life. Ysgol Esgob Morgan promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to all pupils. Children have worked with staff to identify and develop appropriate and relevant core school values. These values have had a positive influence on the attitudes and behaviour of the pupils. They behave very well and consistently show respect, care and consideration for others. They are very supportive of each other. They are confident, enthusiastic about learning, and courteous and welcoming towards visitors. They are proud to be members of their school.

The inclusive Christian ethos of the school supports the development of self-respect and self-esteem in pupils. Each child is valued as a unique individual and encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential, regardless of ability, race or gender. Ysgol Esgob Morgan promotes equality, diversity and racial tolerance.

Children are encouraged to take an active role in their learning and take responsibility for their own actions. Most pupils are able to work independently and with confidence. They develop the skills that will enable them to be effective members of the school and local community. Children are encouraged to discuss and reflect regularly. Most pupils are confident to discuss any issues, concerns or questions they may have with adults. They share opinions and ideas and talk about how people with different beliefs, religions and cultures can live alongside each other.

A strong feature of the school is its close family ethos. This family atmosphere is enhanced by respectful and positive relationships between pupils and staff. Pupils are nurtured within a praise culture and there is a strong emphasis on pastoral care. All pupils are very well supported by adults. As a result, pupils feel valued, secure and well cared for.

The school's Christian nature, supported by clearly defined core Christian values, has an important effect on the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic development of all learners.

There are clear indicators to visitors that this is a Church in Wales school. Signs display the school's name and status. Christian values, artefacts, displays, examples of work and resources are displayed throughout the school. Areas within all classrooms have been established to display R.E. work, artefacts and Christian symbols. The accommodation, however, does not make it easy for reflective areas to be developed within each room. The Headteacher, staff and governors have indicated a desire to form communal areas within the school for pupils and staff to access space for personal prayer and reflection. The school has also identified its wish to develop an area within its extensive grounds as a spirituality garden.

The school's links with the church are good and are continuing to develop. Pupils visit the parish church each half-term and the cathedral on the first Wednesday of every month. These visits are planned to support the R.E. curriculum and to celebrate significant Church festivals e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter. These occasions are well supported by parents and members of the community. The school also has a good relationship with the Diocese. This has had a positive influence on the school's development as a church school. Father Rex Matthias visits the school regularly to work with the pupils, participate in worship and offer support and advice. Other visitors include members of the parish church and cathedral, "Open the Book", and the Bishop's Visitor. All help to support worship and their contributions are valued and appreciated by the school.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan effectively promotes the children's understanding of sustainable development, fair trade, global citizenship, healthy living, recycling and the stewardship of God's earth.

Pupils are encouraged to do what they can to help others in need. The school is committed to supporting a range of charities annually – both locally and nationally. Pupils show compassion and are proud to be able to help others.

The School Council and Eco Committee are actively involved with the development of the school. Pupils work enthusiastically when considering and implementing issues that impact on the daily life of all members of the school family.

All statutory requirements for Religious Education are met in full.

The school ensures that R.E. has a high profile. Lessons are delivered as part of the regular weekly timetable and provision is monitored by the Headteacher and R.E. co-ordinator as part of the school's monitoring cycle. R.E. is planned thoroughly in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. Planning strategies make the most of cross curricular links and encourage pupils to develop a broad range of skills. Planning includes aspects of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the DCF is also incorporated. The school's planning procedures ensure that its core Christian values are included along with links to the Liturgical calendar. Planning is based around the "Big Question" – giving children the opportunities to "Engage, Explore and Express". A range of teaching and learning styles are used which encourage children to become actively engaged in lessons. Pupils are given opportunities for discussion and often make contributions during lessons. They are able to evaluate and offer their own ideas after discussing, questioning and investigating. Pupils enjoy R.E. and participate enthusiastically in most lessons. Information Technology is used well and imaginatively. Regular visits to the parish church and cathedral, together with visits to the school from members of these establishments, have enhanced the children's experiences and understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican traditions and practices.

Whilst maintaining its clear Christian ethos and focus, the school encourages its pupils to develop an understanding and awareness of other religious beliefs, traditions and cultures – respecting other people's views and celebrating diversity in society.

Religious Education provision is well supported by a developing range of appropriate and quality resources.

Religious Education makes an important contribution to the life and work of Ysgol Esgob Morgan and to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic development of its pupils.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective Worship at Ysgol Esgob Morgan meets all statutory requirements.

Collective Worship is delivered on a daily basis and reflects the school's core Christian values. Whole school worship takes place on three days a week and classes hold their own worship on other days. The school endeavours to ensure that the principles for all acts of worship are inclusive, spiritual and educational. Collective Worship is regarded as a special occasion which provides all members of the school community with an opportunity to come together as one Christian family. Worship provides a central focus for the day. Children enjoy participating in worship and often discuss issues which may arise. It is a positive experience for most pupils and makes an important contribution to the Christian ethos of the school.

The school's Christian values are at the heart of its focus for worship. Collective Worship is carefully planned and themes are balanced to include the school's core values and observation of the cycle of the Christian year. Innovative and meaningful use of the "Roots and Fruits" resource helps to support and enhance these themes. Christian values and teachings are highlighted through Biblical stories. Children are encouraged to model their behaviour and attitudes on these important features and relate them to their everyday lives where possible. Worship at Ysgol Esgob Morgan provides its pupils with many opportunities to reflect on God's teachings.

Whole school acts of worship reflect broad Anglican traditions. The Christian nature of the school is reflected in the provision of a focal point with Christian symbols, appropriate music, hymns and songs, responses and prayers and a period for reflection. A candle is lit to signify the start of worship and extinguished to notify the end.

Pupils listen well and participate enthusiastically when invited to do so. They have regular opportunities to lead and participate in worship. They read passages from the Bible and use a variety of prayers and affirmations, including The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. They also read their own contributions to the theme or focus and are encouraged to compose their own prayers which they often share with the school community. Pupils are also given opportunities to pray at times during the school day. Pupils sing well and with obvious pleasure. The school choir often contributes to the worship experience.

A strong feature of the school is the developing use of elected Worship Leaders. These pupils perform an increasingly important role in the school's worship provision and reinforce its emphasis on the value and contribution of pupil voice. Their current responsibilities include choosing music for worship, creating powerpoints to support the chosen theme, reading Bible passages and prayers and conducting surveys with their fellow pupils to discuss future developments. They meet regularly and are guided and supported by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. This is a positive and on-going development.

A full-time member of the teaching staff has been delegated responsibility for Collective Worship and Religious Education. With the full support of the Headteacher and all staff, she has been a driving force in the development of C.W. and R.E. and the progress the school has made as a church school. All staff are committed to the school's clear focus for improvement.

Visitors to the school make important contributions to the development of worship. Pupils enjoy participating in worship led by Open the Book, who visit the school every fortnight. Pupils listen attentively and dramatise, discuss and comment on stories from the Bible. Pupils have a good knowledge of the key aspects of Christianity and a growing awareness of the importance of festivals and notable days in the Christian calendar. Members of the parish church and cathedral and the Bishop's Visitor visit the school to provide additional advice and support. The school's regular visits to the parish church and cathedral extend and enhance worship experiences for all pupils.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan makes good use of the Welsh language in worship in prayers, songs, responses and instructions. Good focus is given to celebrating important occasions in Welsh Christian history and culture. The school's commitment to the development of the Welsh language and its heritage is enhanced through its Collective Worship provision.

Worship focuses on significant moments in the life of the school and community. The school reflects and celebrates the achievements and experiences of all its pupils. Celebrating achievements and success is something the school is proud of and is included in worship on a weekly basis. Success, individuality and diversity are celebrated appropriately.

Good use is made of a range of resources to support the provision of worship. Effective use is made of relevant displays, music and artefacts to promote interest and understanding. The school is developing a range of literature to support worship. Every opportunity is used to ensure that acts of worship are interactive when appropriate.

Collective Worship makes an important contribution to the life and work of Ysgol Esgob Morgan and its developing status as a Church in Wales school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is excellent.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan is very well led by the Headteacher who is open, clear and enthusiastic in his determination to move the school forward and further develop its Church in Wales status. He has a focus and vision for the school, has high expectations and has set a clear strategic direction for the school to progress. His vision for the school has permeated through the school, to staff, governors and extended school family, who all share these aims.

All members of staff are supportive of the school's aims. They are aware of their responsibilities and carry out their roles effectively. The Headteacher and R.E. / C.W. co-ordinator work very well together in developing provision and promoting the school. This collaborative approach has impacted positively on members of staff who are becoming increasingly confident. Teachers and teaching assistants work well together within an engaging and motivating learning environment. Staff are involved in the school's strategic planning process and help to ensure that the pupils receive the best education, support and learning experiences in order that they get the best chances to achieve their full potential.

The Headteacher and co-ordinator are very proactive in promoting links with the church and local community. There is a clear understanding among parents and members of the community that this is a Church in Wales school. The school works closely with the Diocese and with other church schools to discuss and develop important issues.

The leadership focus of the school ensures that the children are cared for and supported in a safe, loving and happy environment through the promotion of key Christian values. Collective Worship, Religious Education, and all aspects of the life of the school are informed and influenced by distinctive values that contribute to learners' good behaviour and attitudes to learning and to their spiritual, moral, social cultural and academic development.

The Governing Body have a good understanding of the nature, purpose and vision of a Church in Wales school. They contribute positively to the school and aim to ensure that its continued development is a high priority. They are committed to working as part of the school team and are involved in the strategic planning process. The Chair meets regularly with the Headteacher to offer support, advice and encouragement and to help identify areas for development.

Parents are very supportive of the school and make important contributions to school life. The school has an open door policy and parents are encouraged to visit the school regularly when required. Communication between the school and parents is very good. Parents are kept fully informed about their children's progress. R.E. and other issues have a focus in written reports and in discussions at parents evenings. Parents and members of the community attend worship and special occasions at the school, parish church and cathedral.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan is very well led and managed with a clearly articulated vision for the future. The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body work effectively to promote and develop the Christian ethos and values of the school.

I would like to thank the Headteacher, staff, governors, pupils and parents of Ysgol Esgob Morgan for their warm welcome and co-operation.

Mr. Neil C. Roberts.

Parents' Questionnaire - Holiadur Rhieni

There were 17 responses - Yr oedd 17 ymateb

	YES / YDWYF	NO / NAC YDWYF	
Are you aware that this is a church school?	17		<i>A ydych yn ymwybodol mai Ysgol Eglwys yw hon?</i>
Do you believe that the school is a place which is built upon clear Christian values?	16	1	<i>A ydych o'r farn fod yr ysgol yn sefydliad sydd wedi ei adeiladu ar sylfaen Gristionogol glir?</i>
This is a Church School, that is a school with a Christian character. Was this fact important when you were choosing a school for your child/children?	13	4	<i>Ysgol Eglwys, sef ysgol gyda chymeriad Cristionogol, yw hon. A oedd y ffaith yma yn bwysig wrth I chi ddewis ysgol i'ch plentyn/plant?</i>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
The school has a distinctive Christian character	10	6	1			Mae cymeriad Cristnogol nodedig yn perthyn i'r ysgol
The school's distinctive Christian character makes a significant contribution to pupils' education	9	7	1			<i>Mae cymeriad Cristionogol nodedig yn gwneud cyfraniad awyddocaol I addysg y disgyblion.</i>
Pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience	7	6	4			Ym marn y disgyblion, mae'r addoli ar y cyd yn brofiad gwerthfawr
The school has effective links with the local church and other faith communities	12	5				Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r eglwys leol a chymunedau ffydd eraill.
The school keeps parents well informed about the work that pupils do in Religious Education	8	5	4			Mae'r ysgol yn hysbysu'r rhieni yn dda am y gwaith a wna'r disgyblon mewn Addysg Grefyddol
The school encourages pupils to care for God's Creation(the environment) as well as for themselves	9	7	1			Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ofalu am Greadigaeth Duw (yr amgylchedd), yn ogystal â'n nhw eu hunain..
The school encourages pupils to consider people in other countries, and how they can assist them, when help is required	11	6				Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ystyried pobl mewn gwledydd eraill, a sut fedran nhw eu cynorthwyo pan bo angen.
The school ensures links are made with the local community	8	6	3			Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r gymuned leol..
	Cytuno'n llwyr	Cytuno	Ynail na'r llall	Anghytuno	Anghytun o'n llwyr	