

## **MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**SUBJECT MERTHYR SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS 2013/14**

### **SACRE Synopsis: Main findings**

During the academic year Autumn 2013 - Summer 2014, seven Merthyr schools were inspected.

- Five primary schools
- Two secondary schools

#### **Spiritual Development**

Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in all seven inspection reports.

#### **Collective Worship**

##### **Meeting statutory requirements**

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does **not** comply with statutory requirements. We can therefore assume – as Estyn has not noted any other instances of non-compliance - that all other schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

##### **Quality**

Four reports made comment on the quality of collective worship

##### **Good features (Primary and Secondary)**

- Good opportunities for prayer and reflection are provided
- They participate willingly in assemblies and are interested
- Assemblies.... provide useful opportunities for reflection and help to promote pupils' spiritual development well.

##### **Shortcomings**

None

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For SACRE to discuss and consider the report

**Merthyr Primary School Inspection Reports for Academic Year 2013/14: SACRE Synopsis**

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
<p>Goetre primary school</p> <p>December 2013</p>	<p>The curriculum and other activities provided ensure that pupils gain an appropriate awareness of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No Comment</p>	<p>Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate</p> <p>Members of staff plan many successful intervention programmes to develop pupils' literacy and numeracy skills that meet the particular and often complex needs of the school's pupils well. This is a strong feature of the school's work. However, carrying out such a wide range of interventions limits the time allocated to covering other aspects of the statutory curriculum in the Foundation phase and at key stage 2.</p> <p>The curriculum provides few opportunities for pupils to learn about sustainability and global citizenship.</p> <p>Members of staff plan a suitable range of extra-curricular activities and special events.</p>

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
St Mary's RC Primary School October 2013	It supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development successfully, <b>particularly through religious education.</b>	Yes	No comment	<p>Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate Overall, the school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils. The school values the diversity of pupils' backgrounds. Through the school's topics on environmental issues, pupils show a good understanding of the importance of caring for the world around them. The school provides few opportunities for pupils to develop a good understanding of the wider world. The school has purposeful links with both the local community and the parish. Many pupils benefit from opportunities to take part in local events such as attending mass at St Mary's Church. Pupils have good links with the local area such as singing at community events and raising money for local charities.</p>
Gellifaelog Primary March 2014	Good opportunities for prayer and reflection are provided in school and daily class assemblies. Moral and spiritual learning is also reinforced well in lessons and through visits from members of faith communities.	Yes	Good opportunities for prayer and reflection are provided	<p>Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The school's curriculum is effectively organised and meets statutory requirements. Understanding of global citizenship is developed successfully through lessons about other continents. Pupils throughout the school participate in beneficial fund raising activities relating to the needs of those in other countries.</p>

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
<p>Abercanaid Community School</p> <p>July 2014</p>	<p>The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No comment</p>	<p>Current performance: Good  Prospects for improvement: Good  The requirements of the Foundation Phase and the National Curriculum, as well as the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework are met.  The school has a calm, inclusive and caring ethos. It promotes tolerant attitudes.  Pupils learn about the lives of people in other countries and from different cultures. However, their awareness of their role as global citizens is limited and the school does not have any links with schools abroad.  The school has appropriate links with the local community. For example, pupils sing at the parish church and a local business supports pupils' charity fundraising events.</p>
<p>Pantysgallog Primary</p> <p>July 2014</p>	<p>Staff and visitors to the school use assemblies and occasions well to encourage pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>They participate willingly in assemblies, follow the content with interest and sing with enthusiasm. . Pupils have frequent opportunities to reflect on their decisions</p>	<p>Current performance: Adequate  Prospects for improvement: Good  The school is a caring community. The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that meets statutory requirements.  Education for sustainable development and global citizenship has a high profile in the school.... and develop an understanding of the role they and others play in society and in the world.</p>

### Merthyr Secondary School Inspection Reports for Academic Year 2013/14: SACRE Synopsis

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Bishop Hedley RC High School  November 2013	A range of learning experiences promotes pupils' moral, social and cultural development effectively. Assemblies, tutorial sessions and chaplaincy support provide useful opportunities for reflection and help to promote pupils' spiritual development well.	Yes	Assemblies.... provide useful opportunities for reflection and help to promote pupils' spiritual development well.	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school has a very caring, Christian and inclusive ethos. It applies the principles of equality very well. Pupils show respect for diversity and the school is active in promoting racial equality... and tackling racial discrimination. The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets the needs and aspirations of the full range of pupils. The school develops pupils' awareness of sustainability and global citizenship well.
Afon Taf High School  March 2014	The school's personal development programme promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. It also includes the opportunity to discuss and reflect on life's fundamental questions through the school 'thought for the day' theme, which is coordinated with assemblies.	Yes The school meets the requirement for a daily act of collective worship	Includes the opportunity to discuss and reflect on life's fundamental questions through the school 'thought for the day' theme/ assemblies	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets statutory requirements. There are suitable arrangements for developing pupils' understanding of global citizenship. Many pupils are actively involved in school life such as ... collecting harvest parcels for the elderly. They are also regularly involved in raising funds for charities, which includes supporting the school's link school in Ghana.

\* Estyn monitoring

**Heol Gerrig**

Estyn conducted a monitoring visit to the school in **November 2013** as a follow up to its inspection in July 2011 and as the school has made sufficient progress has been removed from the list of schools requiring special measures.

**Recommendation 3: Improve curriculum planning to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum and religious education**

This recommendation has been fully addressed. Teachers' planning ensures that there is appropriate coverage of the National Curriculum and religious education at key stage 2. There are detailed schemes of work in place that cover the full range of learning experiences across all subjects.