

Denbighshire County Council

Developing well-being and nurture for looked after and vulnerable learners at Christ Church Primary School in Rhyl



Children who are looked after

At Christ Church Primary School we recognise that schools are key in helping to raise the educational standards and improving the life chances of children who are looked after, and in tackling the causes of social exclusion through careful planning, monitoring and evaluation. Schools can also provide a source of continuity and “normality” for children who may have been subject to emotional distress, abuse, and disruption. School can be the place where children maintain friendships and a place where they feel safe and can be themselves.

Raising levels of achievement has been strongly and clearly highlighted as a major part of improving the life chances of children who are looked after and schools play a pivotal role in this.

Initiative

A Professional learning community (PLC) has been established by some of the Rhyl Schools and coordinated by Kathryn Packer the Denbighshire LACE Coordinator. ALNCo and LAC coordinator Mrs. C Hughes attends regular meetings to work with a small group to develop a new Personal Education Plan for Denbighshire and to ensure that the designated teacher has received appropriate training and to ensure good practice is in place.

ALNCo and LAC coordinator Mrs. C Hughes to monitor the development of children who are looked after closely through regularly monitoring their Personal Education Plan (PEP) and assessment results. PEP review meetings are held with school, professionals,

social services and parents and carers. SEN Provision maps to be used throughout the school.

Monitor the educational progress of all children who are looked after and intervene, in co-operation with other agencies if required, if there is evidence of underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy, or other similar concern.

Three Nurture groups are run daily with Foundation Stage, lower KS2 and upper KS2.

The Sunflower Behaviour group runs three afternoons a week and supports children in Year 4 with behaviour and emotional needs. 1:1 sessions with our Learning and well being mentor cover a range of topics including anger management.

Wrexham football club carry out group sessions during Wednesday lunchtime and all afternoon on Friday. During the Friday sessions, Literacy and Numeracy is delivered through the topic of football. Develop Literacy skills through physical activities rather than classroom based activities, Communication and team work skills, Reading and writing skills, Develop positive behaviour, Develop a positive attitude towards learning with a Literacy and Numeracy focus. e.g. find their favourite football player, create fact files and prepare a presentation.

G2G Develop cross curricular skills through physical and practical activities rather than classroom based activities, Develop communication and team work skills, Develop a positive attitude towards learning with an IT and creative focus, Develop knowledge and understanding of IT equipment., Develop story telling skills and Develop new friendships.

Danger Point - Develop the children's awareness of safety both at home and in the community, Developing children's awareness of water safety which is particularly important for the children who live in this area. Developing Literacy skills through activities. Developing road safety and awareness of dangers on the road. Developing and enhancing knowledge of internet safety, alcohol and drugs and bullying. It support our SEAL programme through practical activities It also supports the programme run by PC Brown which is carried out with every year group.

Horse riding. Develop children's understanding of looking after animals. Caring for others - feeding and cleaning animals. Safety when working with animals. Road safety and awareness of dangers Following instructions and listening to others. Working with others and developing friendships. Developing relationships with siblings. Outdoor activities and visiting new places.

Technique Science Day. Develop Numeracy and Science skills through physical activities rather than classroom based activities. Develop communication and team work skills. Develop a positive attitude towards learning with a Science and Numeracy focus.

Develop knowledge and understanding of Science topics. Develop new friendships

Unearthing programme to be run 1:1 with our Learning and well being mentor.

Residential trips and visits have developed working with others and developing friendships. Developing relationships with siblings. Outdoor activities and visiting new places.

Impact

Three children who are looked after have accessed the Sunflower Behaviour Group. Two children have now returned to class full time and one child remains in the group. The group is very successful and improvement has been seen in all pupils with regard to their behaviour and emotional development.

One child has attended Stepping Stones Behaviour Support and has now returned to class full time. He has shown massive improvement in his behaviour and academic progress.

Three children have received additional support through Behaviour Support Outreach Sessions and continue to show improvement in their behaviour.

One child participates in the Pyramid after school club ran by our Learning and Well being Mentor. This has helped to build confidence and self-esteem.

Three children now receive one to one full time adult support funded through moderation. Two children have support for behaviour and one child has support for educational needs. Denbighshire Council have commented on the excellent paperwork provided which has ensured children have accessed the support they require.

All of our children who are looked after access Nurture groups, the Sunflower Behaviour group or receive one to one sessions with our Learning and well being Mentor. Many of the children have completed the Unearthing Programme which has highlighted key areas where support or intervention may be needed.

All of our children who are looked after have made academic progress in the last year. This can be seen on our tracking grids and assessment results.

A bespoke curriculum has been created for two children who are looked after supported by their one to one support workers. This has ensured less incidents relating to aggressive behaviour at times of the day which they found challenging.

This academic year there have been no exclusions or trancies for children who are looked after.

Four children who are looked after access the Wrexham Football club sessions to develop Literacy and Numeracy twice a week. This has been very successful and motivated the children to display positive behaviour, alongside developing their basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy. Their behaviour charts have shown less incidents at break times and improved behaviour throughout the

week.

Data sheets have successfully been used to monitor the children's progress alongside regular assessment opportunities throughout the school year. These are shared with all members of staff.

Year Group SEN Provision maps have successfully tracked opportunities for the children who are looked after and have highlighted areas where additional support may be required.

Horse riding has been very successful and among many things it has helped to develop some new friendships between LAC and developed nurturing skills for the pupils. This has very positive feedback from pupils, staff, parents and carers as it provides an opportunity for an activity which very few of the children have accessed previously.

