The Church in Wales

News Release

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First review of church schools shows they outperform

Pupils at schools with a strong Christian ethos consistently achieve above the Wales average while parents value their spiritual dimension, a major review on education concludes.
The 168 Church in Wales schools – which have more than 20,000 pupils across Wales – are praised in the review for setting high academic standards and providing a supportive, nurturing environment in which children flourish.
The Education Review, which is the first undertaken by the Church in Wales into its schools, also challenges claims that faith-based education is selective. It found that almost 80% of Church in Wales schools serve the children in their locality without regard to their parents' faith position. Of the remaining 20% the review found positive, mixed school communities, diverse in their intake and outlook.
The report is launched today at the Governing Body meeting of the Church in Wales at the University of Wales, Lampeter. It looks at all aspects of the Church in Wales' involvement in education and schools, including religious education and collective worship.
Taking data from the Fischer Family Trust, used by the Welsh Government, it found that Church in Wales schools, as a group, perform strongly across Wales, with Key Stage 2 results in core subjects consistently above the average for Wales and showing strong 'value added'.
The review also highlights the significant commitment of time and energy given by parish clergy across Wales, showing that three-quarters of them are involved in their local schools. It also emphasises the need for good Religious Education and for Collective Worship in all schools that is thoughtfully and carefully planned and presented. It gives clear recommendations for developing the expertise of teachers, support staff and parish clergy, to ensure their work in schools is most effective.

Welcoming the review, the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said,

"This review clearly shows how schools with a strong Christian ethos nurture and encourage our children and help give them the best possible start in life. That is why Church in Wales schools are successful and why there is a strong demand for places at them. We commissioned the review because we are committed to education and want to continue working, alongside the Welsh Government, to ensure these high standards are maintained and as many pupils as possible are able to benefit."

The Review also shows that the Church in Wales is committed to every learner in Wales, not just those who attend a Church school, said the Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron, who is the Bishop with responsibility for education. He said,
"The Church in Wales believes in education. Not just Religious Education, or "Church School" education, but the best education possible for every citizen of Wales. We are committed because we believe that education is a fundamental way to help every individual develop and grow into the fullness of the person that God wants them to be: to meet the potential that God gives in every human life. The present education review is designed to focus the energy of the Church to serve the nation of Wales by supporting the highest standards of education."

The Revd Edwin Counsell, Education Advisor for the Church in Wales, believes the Review Group's report has come at a critical time:
"We have long felt that our schools are making a positive contribution to the learning and development of pupils; this report has, for the first time, started to measure that impact. The high performance of church schools is consistent, whether that is large schools or small

schools, rural or urban. I am delighted that the hard work of teachers and support staff, governors and families and the excellent progress of pupils in Church schools has been recognised. This report shows that the Church in Wales is part of the education landscape of our nation; that we have a stake holding over time and a vision for the future. This is good news for the children and young people of Wales."

The report considers the context of the Church in Wales' education work with both local and national government and recognises that strong systems of pastoral care and the well-being of the whole child is central to achieving the high standards to which all are committed for our young people. Significant work to support pupils with additional learning needs is held in high regard by the Review Group.

The report sets out a five-year work programme for the Church in Wales to build on strong foundations and ensure that it continues to make a full contribution, through education, to the well being of children and young people across Wales. It recommends the Church in Wales develops a better Wales-wide strategy to support schools, increases provision through the medium of Welsh and engages more with young people in Further and Higher Education.

The Education Review will be launched today at the University of Wales, Lampeter, and will include a presentation from pupils at St John Baptist High School, Aberdare. It will be followed by a press conference with the Archbishop, the Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Rev Gregory Cameron, Rev Edwin Counsell, and the pupils and teachers taking part in the presentation.

For a photograph of pupils from St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham, click here: http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/imagelibrary/image_details.php?imageid=408

For a copy of the full report or more information, please contact:

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Church in Wales schools for case studies

Alderman Davies CW Primary School
St David's Street
Neath
Headteacher: Mrs Caryl Dobson
01639 769772

Ysgol Gynradd Y Parchedig Thomas Ellis
Stry Maeshyfryd
Caergybi
Headteacher: Mrs Alison Moncur-Jones
01407 762387

St John Baptist CW High School
Glan Road
Aberdare
Headteacher: Dr Susan Mitchell
01685 875414

Christchurch CW Primary School
Rodney Street
Swansea
Headteacher: Mrs Joy Allen
01792 510900

Henllys CW Primary School
Ty Canol Way
Cwmbran

Headteacher: Mr Mark Durbin
01633 877796

Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru

Datganiad Newyddion

ATALIWYD tan 17 Medi 2009

Yr adolygiad cyntaf ar ysgolion eglwys yn dangos eu bod yn rhagori

Yn ôl adroddiad pwysig ar addysg, mae disgyblion mewn ysgolion a chanddynt ethos Gristnogol gref yn gwneud yn well na'r cyfartaledd dros Gymru ac y mae rhieni yn gwerthfawrogi'r dimensiwn ysbrydol.
Canmola'r adolygiad 168 ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru – lle y mae mwy nag 20,000 o ddisgyblion – am osod safonau academaidd uchel a darparu amgylchedd gefnogol lle y mae'r plant yn ffynnu.
Mae'r Adolygiad Addysg – y cyntaf a wnaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru mewn perthynas â'i hysgolion – hefyd yn herio'r haeriadau bod addysg sydd ynghlwm â chrefydd yn cau plant allan. Darganfu fod bron i 80% o ysgolion yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn gwasanaethu plant yn eu cymuned heb ystyried crefydd eu rhieni. Am yr 20% arall, cafwyd eu bod yn gymunedau positif, cymysg ac amrywiol o safbwynt derbyn plant a'u golwg ar y byd.
Lawnsir yr adroddiad heddiw yng Nghorff Llywodraethol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru ym Mhrifysgol Cymru Llanbedr Pont Steffan. Mae'n ystyried pob agwedd ar ymwneud yr Eglwys yng Nghymru ag addysg ac ysgolion, gan gynnwys addysg grefyddol a chydaddoli.
Ar sail data o Ymddiriedolaeth Teulu Fischer, a ddefnyddir gan Lywodraeth Cymru, cafodd fod ysgolion yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, fel grŵp, yn gwneud yn dda ledled Cymru, a bod eu canlyniadau mewn pynciau craidd yng Nghyfnod Allweddol 2 yn gyson uwch na'r cyfartaledd dros Gymru, ac yn dangos 'gwerth ychwanegol' cryf.
Tanlinella'r adolygiad yr amser a'r egni sylweddol a rydd clerigion plwyf ledled Cymru i ysgolion. Mae eu tri chwarter yn ymwneud â'u hysgolion lleol. Pwysleisia hefyd yr angen am Addysg Grefyddol dda ac am Gydaddoli a baratowyd yn feddylgar ac a gyflwynir yn ofalus ym mhob ysgol. Gwna argymhellion clir ar ddatblygu arbenigedd athrawon, staff cynnal a chlerigion plwyf, i sicrhau bod eu gwaith yn wir effeithiol.

Wrth groesawu'r adolygiad, dywedodd Archesgob Cymru, y Dr. Barry Morgan:
"Dengys yr adolygiad hwn yn glir sut y mae ysgolion a chanddynt ethos Gristnogol gref yn annog ein plant ac yn rhoi iddynt y cychwyn gorau posibl mewn bywyd. Dyna pam bod ysgolion yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn llwyddiannus a bod galw mawr am leoedd ynddynt. Comisiynwyd yr adolygiad am ein bod wedi ymrwymo i addysg a'n bod yn dymuno parhau i weithio, gyda Llywodraeth Cymru, i sicrhau y cynhelir y safonau uchel hyn ac y gall cynifer o ddisgyblion ag y bo modd elwa arnynt."
Yn ôl Esgob Llanelwy, y Gwir Barchg Gregory Cameron, yr esgob sy'n gyfrifol am addysg, dengys yr adroddiad bod yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn ymrwymedig i bob disgybl yng Nghymru, nid yn unig i'r rhai hynny sy'n mynd i ysgolion yr Eglwys. Dywedodd:
"Mae'r Eglwys yng Nghymru yn credu mewn addysg. Nid yn unig Addysg Grefyddol, nac ychwaith 'addysg Ysgol Eglwys', ond yr addysg orau posibl i bob dinesydd yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig am ein bod yn credu bod addysg yn ffordd sylfaenol o gynorthwyo pob unigolyn i ddatblygu a thyfu i fod y person cyflawn y mae Duw am iddo fod: i gyflawni'r potensial a rydd Duw i bob bywyd dynol. Cynlluniwyd yr adolygiad addysg hwn i ganolbwyntio egni'r Eglwys ar wasanaethu cenedl y Cymry trwy gefnogi'r safonau uchaf mewn addysg."
Cred y Parchg Edwin Counsell, Cynghorwr Addysg yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, i adroddiad y Grwp Adolygu gyrraedd ar amser tyngedfennol:
"Yr ydym wedi teimlo ers amser fod ein hysgolion yn gwneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol at addysgu a datblygu plant; am y tro cyntaf erioed, aeth yr adolygiad hwn ati i fesur eu heffaith. Mae perfformiad da ysgolion yr Eglwys yn gyson – ysgolion bychan a mawr, gwledig a threfol fel ei gilydd. Rwy'n hynod falch fod gwaith caled athrawon a staff cynnal, llywodraethwyr a theuluoedd, yn ysgolion yr Eglwys wedi cael ei gydnabod. Dengys yr adroddiad hwn fod yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn rhan o dirwedd addysg ein cenedl; bod gennym gyfranddaliad a gweledigaeth at y dyfodol. Mae hyn yn newyddion da i blant a phobl ifanc Cymru."

Mae'r adroddiad yn ystyried cyd-destun gwaith addysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru gyda llywodraeth leol a'r llywodraeth genedlaethol, ac yn cydnabod bod cyfundrefnau cryf o ofal bugeiliol am les y plentyn cyflawn yn ganolog i gyrraedd y safonau uchel yr ymrwymwyd iddynt. Rhydd y Grŵp Adolygu fri mawr ar y gwaith sylweddol a wnaed i gefnogi disgyblion a chanddynt anghenion dysgu ychwanegol.
Gesyd yr adroddiad raglen bum mlynedd i'r Eglwys yng Nghymru i adeiladu ar y sylfeini cryfion a sicrhau ei bod yn parhau i gyfrannu'n llawn, trwy addysg, at les plant a phobl ifanc ledled Cymru. Mae'n argymell bod yr Eglwys yn datblygu gwell strategaeth genedlaethol i gefnogi ysgolion, yn cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth drwy gyfrwng yr iaith Gymraeg ac yn ymwneud mwy â phobl ifanc mewn Addysg Bellach ac Addysg Uwch.
Lawnsir yr Adolygiad Addysg heddiw ym Mhrifysgol Cymru Llanbedr Pont Steffan. Bydd cyflwyniad gan ddisgyblion Ysgol Uwchradd Ioan Fedyddiwr, Aberdâr. Wedyn bydd cynhadledd i'r wasg gyda'r Archesgob, Esgob Llanelwy, y Gwir Barchg Gregory Cameron, y Parchg Edwin Counsell, a'r disgyblion a'r athrawon a gymerodd ran yn y cyflwyniad.
For a photograph of pupils from St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham, click here: http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/imagelibrary/image_details.php?imageid=408

Am gopi o'r adroddiad llawn neu wybodaeth bellach, cysylltwch ag:
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Ysgolion yr Eglwys yng Nghymru at astudiaethau achosion

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