

**COUNCIL: 19 JULY 2018**

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## **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT**

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### **Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award – Christ the King**

Christ the King R.C. Primary School has achieved the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award, the highest stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. It is awarded by Unicef UK to schools that have fully embedded children's rights throughout the school in their policies, practice and ethos. To achieve the Gold Award, the school had to evidence that they had explicitly adopted a child rights approach and embedded it in school policy, practice and culture. The school clearly showed that the programmes had a positive impact on children and young people's learning and well-being.

I was delighted to visit the school on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to meet the Headteacher, Rachel Woodward, staff and pupils and to congratulate them on their significant achievement. The pupils at the school see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and are advocates for social justice, children's rights at home and abroad. Their work to attain the Gold Award should be recognised as sector leading and contributes to the city's ambition to put children's rights at the heart of the city and our work towards achieving Unicef Child Friendly City status.

We currently have 15 schools that are active within the Rights Respecting Schools programme in Cardiff. After providing a range of training opportunities, a further 22 schools are expected to register by the start of the next academic year. I want to wish the best of luck to those schools that will be starting the programme.

### **Estyn Inspections Update**

Based on the most recent Estyn inspection outcome, 73.6% of Cardiff schools have been judged as good or excellent for current performance or standards. Further to the figures provided in my statement last month, fourteen schools have now been inspected and had reports published since the start of the current academic year. Eight of the fourteen schools have been asked to submit case studies for their excellent practice and two schools (Ysgol Y Wern and The Bishop of Llandaff High School) have been judged as excellent in all five inspection areas. In the same period, two primary schools and one secondary school have been judged as requiring improvement by Estyn under the new framework. Progress is being reviewed in the areas of recommendation.

## **Donaldson Review**

Professor Graham Donaldson was commissioned by Estyn and Welsh Government to review the future of inspection in the context of the new curriculum. The report, which was published last month, proposes that school inspections are paused for a year, which would allow schools and inspectors to focus on the new curriculum. However, schools under Special Measures would still be inspected. The report also recommends a move towards a culture of self-evaluation for schools. This would mean that school performance would no longer be graded as excellent, good, adequate or unsatisfactory. Professor Donaldson has said that the changes are needed to make sure that Wales develops a high-quality and dynamic education system. His report is currently being considered by Welsh Government.

## **Teach First in Wales at Eastern High School**

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Eastern High School hosted the Opening Ceremony for Teach First in Wales. The event formally welcomed the new Teach First Graduates to the 2018 Summer Institute programme who will be deployed in Cardiff secondary schools and schools across the Central South Consortium area from September 2018. Attendees were welcomed by the Chief Executive of Teach First and Julia Longville from Cardiff Metropolitan University who work in partnership with Teach First to provide professional development and training. Headteacher of Eastern High School, Armando Di-Finizio, spoke about what makes a great teacher and his Deputy Headteacher, Innes Robinson, a former Teach First Graduate spoke about being a Teach First Ambassador. The highlight of the evening was music from the steel pans at Fitzalan High School and the cast of Grease from Eastern High School who performed songs from their musical production.

Cardiff Council, in partnership with the Central South Consortium and the other four Councils that form part of the Consortium, have supported this initiative which seeks to recruit and train young graduates into teaching and make the difference to young people's lives through education.

## **Adult Community Learning**

As part of the inclusive growth programme, it is imperative that we support some of the most vulnerable people in our city to reach their full potential. Adult Community Learning worked closely with Into Work Services and Vision 21 (Cyfle Cymru) to provide trainees with the opportunity to develop the skills and qualifications required for work in a variety of sectors including horticulture, catering, retail and office skills. The learners all have varying degrees of learning difficulties, but are determined to help out or work in their new kitchen, which is scheduled to open in autumn 2018. Food Safety Level 1 tests have been successfully completed by the first group of learners and this will be rolled out to more learners over the year.

## **Youth Work Excellence Awards 2018**

Cardiff Council Youth Service was successful in winning two awards at this year's Welsh Government Youth Work Excellence Awards in the following categories:

- Engagement with Formal Education, Employment and Training – Early Intervention & Prevention Team; and

- Outstanding Youth Worker – Louise Coombs.

Special mention should also be made of the Families First Cardiff Young Commissioners, who were runners up in the Promoting Young People's Rights Award category.

### **Open Your Eyes Week**

As mentioned in the Investment & Development Statement, Open Your Eyes Week – which is now in its fourth year – provides an opportunity for a wide range of business representatives to visit primary schools to speak to pupils about the diverse career opportunities that the city has to offer and to help raise their career aspirations as they prepare to move from primary to secondary school. As part of this year's event held during the last two weeks of June 2018, successive Open Your Eyes Weeks were organised involving the cluster primary schools for Cardiff West Community High School and Fitzalan High School respectively. Later this year in early November, an Open Your Eyes Week will also involve the cluster primary schools for Corpus Christi R.C. High School.

Using links created through the Cardiff Commitment, Open Your Eyes Week is seeing more businesses and organisations becoming involved, visiting more schools and speaking to more children in the city. This year, the following 38 businesses and organisations are taking part in Open Your Eyes: Admiral Law; BBC Wales; Better Cardiff; Blake Morgan Law; Cadwyn Housing Association; Cardiff Blues; Cardiff Third Sector Council; Cardiff University; Celsa Steel; Digital Profile; FOR Cardiff; Hilton Cardiff; HMRC; ISG Construction; ITV Wales; Kier Construction; Lovells; Mandy St John Property Developer; Microsoft; Millennium FX; Morgan Sindall; National Theatre Wales; Network Rail; Orchard Media; Park Plaza Hotel; Powell Dobson; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Radisson Blu Cardiff; Royal Air Force; Santander; Selco; South Wales Police; Specsavers; University of South Wales; Wales Air Ambulance Charitable Trust; Wales Millennium Centre; Welsh National Opera; and Welsh Rugby Union.

### **Headteachers**

I want to congratulate the Headteacher of Kitchener Primary School, Mrs Ruth Jackson, who was awarded a MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list for her services to education. I am sure that Members would also join me in wishing the following Headteachers, who will be retiring at the end of this academic year, all the very best for the future:

- Grangetown Nursery School – Jan Comrie
- Roath Park Primary School – Colin Skinner
- Severn Primary School – Julie Morris MBE
- St Patricks R.C. Primary School – Paul Catris
- Whitchurch High School – Huw Jones-Williams

**Councillor Sarah Merry**  
**Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills**  
**13<sup>th</sup> July 2018**