

COUNCIL: 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT

School Results 2017/18

The provisional results for Cardiff in 2017/18 show a broadly positive picture. Results at the end of primary school have improved from last year's figures and are consistent with the strengthening pattern of provision, as reflected in Estyn inspections and categorisation during the previous school year. The picture at the end of Foundation Phase (Year 2) reflects the changes to the Foundation Phase framework, which inhibit direct comparison with previous years.

In secondary schools, the results for the main indicators show improvement on 2016/17 when the first of the new assessment arrangements in some subjects were introduced. In the Level 2+ measure, there was a 2 percentage point improvement.

Taken together and setting these initial results against the aspirations in Cardiff 2020, there can be assurance that the collective commitment to educational improvement in the city had had significant impact. However, measured by the aspirations for all learners to succeed set out in that vision, we have much more to do.

School Holiday Enrichment Programme

It was a very busy and successful summer for the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) Partnership Team, with this year's Food and Fun being delivered in the following 14 Cardiff schools:

- Adamsdown Primary School
- Baden Powell Primary School
- Bryn Celyn Primary School
- Herbert Thompson Primary School
- Hywel Dda Primary School
- Meadowlane Primary School
- Millbank Primary School
- Ninian Park Primary School
- Pentreban Primary School
- Riverbank Primary School
- Severn Primary School
- Springwood Primary School
- St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School
- Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau

Approximately 700 children attended for 12 days of the school holiday period. In some of the schools, the programme was extended this year to include Foundation Phase pupils, in addition to the Key Stage 2 pupils who have attended in previous years. New enrichment activities introduced this year included swimming, cycling

and cricket, with one school visiting Cardiff Metropolitan University as part of the First Campus programme.

The programme has been shortlisted for the Corporate and Social Responsibility Award at the Foodservice Catey Awards. The winner will be announced on 12th October 2018.

Investors in People Platinum Award

Ty Gwyn School has achieved the Investors in People Platinum Award following a very detailed and intensive assessment. This is a wonderful achievement that confirms Ty Gwyn School continues to perform at the highest level.

Springwood Primary School

Springwood Primary School in Llanedeyrn has been awarded with an Inclusion Quality Mark and given centre of excellence status in recognition for the work the school has done to create an inclusive school community. The school has been described as a lively, happy school, which has inclusivity at its very heart by the Director of Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd, Joe McCann.

The school is also one of only 10 schools in Britain to be given a Primary Geography Quality Mark at the gold level by the Geography Association this year. This success means that Springwood Primary joins three other schools from across Britain to achieve the Primary Geography Quality Mark on four separate occasions. The judges for this award stated that the school uses creative approaches to stimulate learning and places a high value on using real-life issues to promote understanding, and they are not afraid to take risks, innovate and challenge to achieve progress in geography.

Cardiff Education Convention 2018

Cardiff's Education Development Board will be hosting a partnership convention on 23rd October 2018 at Sophia Gardens Cricket Ground, which is designed to capture perspectives on shaping a new curriculum for Wales. We are facing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-frame our approach to education and the curriculum and, whilst teachers and educators have a key role in this work, others too have a major stake in this enterprise. The views of employers, communities, children, young people and parents need to inform and shape its development too – Education is Everybody's Business.

Cardiff is well-placed to bring all these opinions together in one conversation. The Capital City of Wales is one of the fastest growing cities in the UK. It is also an expanding creative and cultural city with a high proportion of sector-leading industries, growing entrepreneurship, thriving arts, sports and leisure sectors, a diverse and active third sector, an improving school system, and strong further and higher education institutions.

Adult Community Learning

Adult Community Learning makes a positive difference to people who have little or no qualifications by offering accredited and non-accredited courses. It supports

people to acquire new skills, achieve qualifications, progress into further learning and employment, and tackles poverty in doing so. This service is funded by the Welsh Government's Community Learning Grant. In 2017/18 825 courses were delivered with 5,624 enrolments and 2,962 individual learners attending. These were run from 63 venues across the city.

The Welsh Government is consulting on significant proposed changes to the Community Learning Grant, which would change dramatically the funding received and the way the service is delivered. This would see the current funding of just over £1 million reduced by over 50%.

The work that Adult Community Learning does is vital to support some of the most vulnerable citizens in Cardiff. A reduction in funding would result in fewer 'hook' courses, which then lead on to more in-depth training and qualifications. There would be a significant reduction in the wide range of courses offered to engage the hardest to reach or more reluctant learners; these include sessions with DICE (Disability Inclusion in Community Education) and courses carried out in hostels. It would also reduce the Into Work Advice Service's capacity to deliver short courses for qualifications that help people to become more employable or to access further training opportunities.

The Council has submitted a response to the Welsh Government's consultation, which disagrees strongly with the proposals and outlines the negative impacts that the proposals would have on some of the most vulnerable people in the city.

Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award

Congratulations to Millbank Primary School and Stacey Primary School who have both achieved the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award, the highest stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. They are the second and third schools in the city to attain this significant achievement. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is awarded by Unicef UK to schools that have fully embedded children's rights throughout the school in their policies, practice and ethos. Their work to attain the Gold Award 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.

As part of the Child Friendly City programme, we have raised the profile of Rights Respecting Schools and have funded a series of training opportunities for schools across the city. We are also piloting a cluster approach in Cardiff West and Fitzalan High School with all schools in the area committing to be Rights Respecting Schools. There are currently 43 schools within Cardiff who are active within the Rights Respecting Schools programme in Cardiff. I want to wish the best of luck to all the schools working towards the award.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
21st September 2018