

Case study: Use of the additional professional learning grant in 2018/19 and 2019/20

Context and background

The school

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg is a Welsh-medium school in the Vale of Glamorgan and is part of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSC). The school has 1121 learners on roll 7.3 per cent of whom are eligible for free school meals (FSM).

Designated leaders and members of teaching staff

The leadership team has eight members of staff.

Additional professional learning grant allocation

The school received £25,719 for the period between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

How the additional grant was used

Staff training – preparation for the new curriculum/leadership development

The additional Professional Learning (PL) grant was used to fund a number of different projects in Bro Morgannwg, for example, the delivery of an INSET day by an external provider on the concept of growth mindset.

Following the training, time was allocated to the Deputy and Assistant Headteachers to create Welsh language material that exemplified the concept. Staff were then encouraged to work in groups of three (triads), to develop and evaluate the theory in the classroom. Each triad's work was shared and evaluated at the end of the school year.

Collaboration

Grant spending also enabled staff to collapse the normal timetable to work on cross-departmental projects such as *Fi Fy Hun, Fy Mro a Fy Myd*.

Staff and learners attended events to listen to relevant speakers with the project culminating in learners hosting a Patagonian afternoon tea for everyone involved.

The additional PL funding also provided the opportunity for six teachers to visit schools in Iceland and Sweden to observe and learn about their curriculum continuity in their all-age schools. The experience and observations were used to develop Bro Morgannwg's curriculum and spending plans.

Impact of the grant on colleagues across the school

Working on whole-school projects and with cluster schools increased staff confidence in their preparation for the new curriculum.

Impact of the grant on learners

Learners enjoyed the collapsing of the normal timetable to enable participation in project days such as *Fi Fy Hun*, *Fy Mro a Fy Myd*, gaining valuable knowledge and awareness of their local area. Broadening the learner experience is an essential element of the new curriculum and is one area that Bro Morgannwg will develop further in future.

Lessons learned about professional learning for application to the school

Bro Morgannwg's visit to schools in Sweden and Iceland highlighted the importance of fully utilising the school library to promote, encourage and improve literacy across all ages in the school.

Next steps

Staff at Bro Morgannwg intend to work in Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) Groups to develop and trial new approaches to learning and teaching.