

Investors in Families celebrates 10 years in Wales

On Thursday 21 March 2019, Investors in Families, the Quality Mark for schools and early years setting in Wales, celebrated its tenth year in Wales with a conference at the Glamorgan County Cricket Stadium in Cardiff. At the pre-conference dinner held on Wednesday evening, Chris Waterman welcomed guests from all over Wales, together with a delegation from the Education People the one-stop shop for education services in Kent. Mark Frost, Community and Development Manager for Cricket Wales, responded by reinforcing the close working relationship between Investors in Families and Glamorgan CCC.

After warming up with a Lindy Hop dance class for the delegates and school choir, the conference proper was opened by Professor Medwin Hughes, Vice-Chancellor of University of Wales. He spoke with passion about the importance of partnership working between schools and families. This partnership was essential to build resilient communities, able to meet the many challenges facing children and young people.

Two students from Llangewydd Junior School Choir read a message of support from Kirsty Williams, the Welsh Minister for Education, who was unable to attend: "Firstly, can I thank Chris Waterman and his team at IiF for your kind invitation to your annual conference - both on behalf of myself and my officials. I have heard great things about the previous events IiF has held in Cardiff and I am very grateful to you all for your continuing commitment to bringing together school and home by helping families engage with their

children's learning in schools and the wider school community. And, of course, it is wonderful to see from the agenda that so many schools are joining you today to celebrate the excellent results you have all achieved. Events like these really do demonstrate the importance of family engagement in children's learning and I know you have a really entertaining and productive day planned.

"It is my hope therefore, that IiF will continue to replicate its success in other schools



Emma warms up the delegates and the choir with a Lindy Hop dance class

across Wales, because, as you will gathered from my words here today, supporting children's wellbeing is of course everybody's business. It's not just down to parents or schools or social services or health professionals."

The main business of the conference was for staff from schools and early years settings – and delegates from two prisons in Wales – to share their first-hand experiences of effective partnerships. The

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24.)



Delegates from Kent getting into the swing

Investors in Families, paid tribute to the work of school staff in schools and early years settings across Wales and welcomed the focus of the Welsh Assembly on building strong families. “Children and young people growing up today face many more challenges than their parents and have to be helped to make the correct choices. Families are the most important resource a school has – and the school is uniquely placed to support the family.”

- Further information can be found at www.iifwales.com

Investors in Families library is already the largest collection of school/family activities, with over 400 examples of effective practice, which Investors in Families members can download.

Matthew McCabe, Deputy Head Teacher at Nant y Parc Primary, launched the Family & Community Engagement Handbook, which maps how schools and other settings can develop their work with families.

Sue Davies, Wales Director of Investors in Families announced the development of a FamCo course, which was being developed to provide training for family coordinators in schools.

Chris Waterman, Executive Director of

Education Journal Review

THE IDEAL RESOURCE FOR CPD

**For a free sample copy
email
info@educationpublishing.com**

Volume 25 • Number 2
2018