

Bwlchgywn C.P. School
Brymbo Road
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14/11/2024

Dear Dylan Williams

Interim visit: October 2024

A team of inspectors recently visited Bwlchgywn Community Primary School to consider the school's recent progress against two of the recommendations from its most recent inspection.

During the visit the team had the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, look at pupils' work and talk to pupils, staff and leaders.

Below is a summary of progress.

Focus of visit

Ensure that the school's monitoring processes lead to purposeful professional learning opportunities for teachers and support staff

- Leaders have successfully developed a culture of professional learning that involves all staff. This culture has a direct and beneficial impact on teaching and learning at the school.
- There are effective processes to support whole school evaluation and improvement work. This work focuses well on identifying opportunities to share strengths and opportunities to further improve aspects of the school's work.
- Leaders use the findings of evaluation work well to identify opportunities for professional learning and opportunities for individual staff to improve their practice.
- Leaders work strategically to create space and time for all staff to engage in valuable professional development, for example by ensuring that there are professional learning meetings each week for all staff.

- Staff engage purposefully with educational research to inform their professional learning. Leaders set clear and consistent expectations for this work within a supportive climate.
- There is a strong culture of collaboration and sharing at the school. For example, staff work together on joint research projects, they implement their findings in their classes and review the benefits of this work by considering the difference it makes to pupils' progress. They also develop useful resources in the form of professional learning posters to share with colleagues across the school.
- Professional learning supports the school to make strong progress in addressing its improvement priorities. This is most evident in recent work to develop approaches to feedback for pupils and the broader use of assessment to inform learning. This work underpins the school's effective pedagogical approaches which, in turn support the successful implementation of a bespoke interpretation of Curriculum for Wales.

Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning consistently

- Leaders have developed a whole-school approach to feedback that pupils understand well. They provide useful guidance for staff that summarises clearly the school's rationale and processes.
- Leaders arrange appropriate professional learning activities for staff. For example, staff research and trial a range of methods of providing pupils with feedback. They share these effective practices consistently across the school.
- Nearly all pupils explain how feedback from staff and their peers supports them to evaluate what they have done well. They respond effectively to written and verbal feedback and are becoming effective and reflective learners. Increasingly, they take ownership of making improvements to their work.
- As they move through the school pupils offer helpful feedback to their peers on how to improve their work. By the time pupils reach Year 6, their feedback is increasingly focused, constructive and actionable. Older pupils value this feedback and use it to improve their work well.
- Staff use a broad range of feedback strategies successfully. They question pupils effectively and consistently look for new ways to develop their practice further.
- Staff regularly model good examples of pupils' work. This supports pupils to understand what they need to do to be successful and reaffirms the high expectations that staff have for pupils' progress.

Overall, the work carried out by leaders and staff at the school has been purposeful and effective. Leaders have worked diligently to address the recommendations and used these successfully to move the school forward. In particular, the way that leaders and staff have developed a collaborative professional learning culture is a notable strength.

The school's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:
<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6652178>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
Assistant Director