

This letter is also available in Welsh.



Arolygiaeth Ei Fawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru  
His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School  
Salop Road  
Welshpool  
Powys  
SY21 7FA

06/11/2024

Dear Lorna Tuffin

**Interim visit:** October 2024

A team of inspectors who recently visited Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing two of the recommendations from its core inspection in March 2022. Below is a summary of progress against those recommendations.

Leaders and staff at the school are collaborating well to work towards addressing the recommendations. They are establishing a suitable range of evaluation and improvement processes and have made good progress in improving aspects of literacy provision at the school. Leaders have suitable plans in place to secure further improvement against the recommendations.

### **Focus of visit**

#### **Improve provision for the development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills**

- Since taking over leadership responsibility for the school, the headteacher and senior leaders have refocussed the school's attention on addressing this recommendation.
- The school's focus on improving pupils' oracy skills is effective. Across the school, most pupils listen well in lessons and present information about their learning clearly using an appropriate range of vocabulary.
- Leaders have implemented a whole school approach to teaching phonics. This work has a positive impact on pupils' progress in developing early reading and spelling skills. Leaders are now preparing to build on this practice to further improve provision for older pupils.

---

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW

Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446

yholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales

www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

- Provision to develop pupils writing skills is variable in its effectiveness. Where teachers have a clear focus on developing pupils' understanding of how to write for specific purposes, pupils make strong progress. They spell and punctuate accurately and organise their work well. However, where teaching is less effective, pupils make repeated basic errors in their work.
- Teaching supports pupils to develop a broad range of mathematical skills progressively as they move through the school. Overall, most pupils develop a sound understanding of mathematical concepts. However, they are not always confident to apply this knowledge independently, for example in problem solving activities and do not have sufficient opportunities to use their skills in authentic, real-life contexts.

### **Strengthen self-evaluation processes to focus more specifically on the impact of teaching on learning**

- In a relatively short amount of time, the headteacher and senior leaders have established appropriate processes to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the school's work. They have worked diligently to put processes in place that involve all staff and governors and promote whole school collaboration.
- Senior leaders use a good range of appropriate strategies to evaluate the school's work and are developing an accurate understanding of the school's main strengths and areas for development in relation to teaching and learning.
- Senior leaders have used information from evaluation work appropriately to identify opportunities for improvement, for example to improve the teaching of phonics. This work is beneficial to pupils' progress.
- Having established a collaborative culture and appropriate processes, senior leaders recognise the need to develop their evaluation work further to focus more sharply on the impact that teaching and learning experiences have on pupils' progress.
- In a minority of instances, especially where staff are new to evaluating the effectiveness of the school's work, the purpose and focus of the monitoring is not always clear. Staff do not always evaluate the difference that the school's work makes to pupils' progress as well as they could.

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/6663051>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**  
Assistant Director