

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

Ysgol Botwnnog
Botwnnog
Llŷn
Gwynedd
LL53 8PY

6/11/24

Dear Catrin Pritchard

Interim Visit: October 2024

Dear Catrin,

Thank you for your support with the interim visit. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work the school has undertaken since the core inspection. It was wonderful to see the openness shown by your staff during the discussions.

During our visit, we had an opportunity to:

- Hold discussions with senior leaders about your self-evaluation and improvement planning processes, your work to improve teaching and provision for developing pupils' literacy.
- Talk to pupils and hear their feedback about the school.
- Visit lessons in a variety of subjects to see pupils and staff undertaking their work.
- Scrutinise a sample of pupils' work.
- Talk to middle leaders about their work and hear about the challenges they face and how they meet these challenges.
- Undertake scrutiny and lesson observation activities with senior leaders and discuss the main findings of these activities.

Focus of visit

Do teachers have high enough expectations of what pupils can achieve?

During the small samples of lessons seen, it was good to see the productive and valuable working relationship between teachers and pupils. The teachers observed had high expectations of pupils' behaviour and engagement. Teachers were also seen explaining concepts clearly and using resources suitably to support teaching

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW
Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446
ymholiadau@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.

and learning. There was evidence in the lessons and books seen of appropriate planning to develop pupils' subject knowledge and understanding.

We feel it would be worth considering:

- Do teachers always ensure that pupils have enough opportunities to work on extended tasks and develop their ability to think independently?

What is the quality of provision to improve pupils' higher-order reading skills and written expression?

From the sample of work and the few lessons seen, it appears that there are valuable opportunities to develop pupils' basic reading and writing skills across a good range of subjects. On the whole, there are purposeful worksheets and tasks that show teachers' thinking about what they want their pupils to learn. It also appears that there are appropriate practices of providing purposeful feedback across a number of subjects and valuable opportunities for pupils to re-draft parts of their written work in a majority of subjects.

We feel it would be worth considering:

- Are there enough regular opportunities for pupils to practise higher-order reading skills across the subjects?
- Are there enough opportunities for pupils to write at length and independently about what they have learned over time?

How effective are the school's improvement processes in evaluating the quality of teaching and learning and provision for skills?

It is good to hear about the school's plans for arrangements to monitor and evaluate the school's work. These have been discussed among senior leaders and have been implemented with middle leaders. It appears that middle leaders are held to account appropriately through departmental link meetings to discuss evaluations, identify priorities and initiate improvement planning. Leaders use data appropriately to analyse and identify areas for development.

We feel it would be worth considering:

- Do leaders always prioritise the main issues that are in need of improvement?
- Do the school's improvement processes place enough emphasis on evaluating provision by its effect on pupils' progress?

Thank you once again for your support in making the arrangements and we would like to wish you well with your improvement work.

The school's most recent core inspection report and further information about the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:
<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6614003>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
Assistant Director