

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

Pil Primary School
Pyle Inn Way
Pyle
CF33 6AB

12/12/2024

Dear Neil Pryce

Interim visit: November 2024

A team of inspectors recently visited Pil Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing two of the recommendations from its core inspection in July 2022.

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

Below is a summary of progress against those recommendations. Leaders should use these findings to reflect on their successes and to support further improvements in these areas.

Focus of visit

Sharpen monitoring procedures to focus precisely on the impact of teaching

- Following the core inspection, leaders carefully reviewed their improvement planning processes to more accurately align with the results of the school's self-evaluation activities. Leaders use a wider, evidence-based rationale for monitoring and these activities now have a sharper focus on the specific targets for improvement.
- Leaders focus well on improving the quality of teaching, for example to evaluate how well teachers provide challenge for pupils and develop their independent and collaborative skills.
- Leaders ensure the school's monitoring schedule is manageable and makes clear links to other significant improvement documentation. Consequently, the tracking of improvement priorities and pupils' progress over time is transparent and measurable.

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- Leaders use a broad range of monitoring processes to evaluate the school's work. They have a sound understanding of the school's main strengths and areas for development in relation to teaching and learning. For example, the long-term focus on improving levels of pupils' independence has impacted positively on most pupils' growing ability to make choices about what and how they learn.
- Leaders are committed to continuing to develop a collaborative culture of self-evaluation to improve outcomes for pupils. They recognise the need to develop their evaluation work further by involving more staff and governors in wider monitoring activities.

Refine teaching to enable pupils to exercise more independence in what and how they learn

- Leaders have researched effective teaching strategies in detail. They have provided a variety of valuable professional development opportunities that ensure teachers understand how to develop pupils' independent learning skills effectively.
- Staff and pupils are developing a common language for progression linked to the school's work on improving the quality of teaching.
- Teachers ensure they provide effective opportunities for pupils to choose how to apply the skills they have learned. They use success criteria consistently well to outline the learning intentions of lessons. Many older pupils also use the opportunity to co-construct their own steps to success. Consequently, they are invested in their learning and understand what is expected. Across the school, most pupils are developing the ability to regularly self-check the progress of their learning independently.
- Following staff training, classroom environments have been enhanced with high-quality resources to support and promote pupils' independence. Teaching approaches have also improved, giving pupils greater autonomy over what they learn, how they learn, and who they learn with.
- The school is developing a clear culture where pupils rely less on adult support when working. As a result, most pupils feel that they are able to make decisions about their learning and have strategies to overcome problems and challenges independently. Generally, pupils are able to identify their own strengths and areas for development

The school's/PRU'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/6722227>

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your help in planning the visit and for your collaboration in the evaluation processes.

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
Assistant Director