

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

Rhayader C.I.W. School
Bryntirion
Rhayader
Powys
LD6 5DE

13/12/2024

Dear Mrs Linda Crockett

Interim visit: November 2024

We recently had the opportunity to visit Rhayader CIW school. We considered how leaders and staff are addressing two of the three recommendations from their most recent core inspection held during Autumn 2022.

During the visit we:

- Held learning walks to all classes
- Met with pupils, staff and leaders
- Looked at pupils work
- Read a range of relevant documentation the school shared with us

Below is a summary of the school's progress against the recommendations.

Focus of visit

Improve pupils' literacy skills, in particular their reading and extended writing skills

- Leaders and staff have responded positively to the recommendations of the core inspection and continue to work diligently to develop the provision and support pupils' progress.
- Leaders and staff continue to work well to support pupils' literacy skills across all classes within the English and Welsh medium provision. Teachers make appropriate use of a range of resources which provide opportunities for pupils to develop their phonic awareness from an early age. Most pupils grow in confidence when developing an understanding of letters and sounds in the early years. They enjoy engaging in independent activities which allow them to develop their early reading and writing skills across the different areas of provision. Many older foundation learning pupils respond well to opportunities

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to develop their independent writing, with many more able pupils writing at considerable length, to a good standard.

- Teachers have placed an emphasis on developing pupils' higher order reading skills. This is having a positive impact on pupils' enjoyment of books and literature. Aspects such as visits to the local library, encouraging reading at home and the buddy scheme promote the delight pupils can achieve through reading. This approach has a beneficial impact on developing a positive reading culture at the school.
- Leaders have developed a whole school approach to developing pupils' extended writing, providing a beneficial range of contexts for the pupils to develop their ideas. Many pupils write in a suitable range of genres in their language lessons. However, they do not write at length to the same extent in their work across the curriculum, partly due to an over-reliance on work sheets.

Strengthen provision to develop pupils' skills in Welsh from their different starting points

- Leaders have organised valuable activities to celebrate Welsh culture, such as workshops about Owain Glyndwr and the legend of Llyn Y Fan Fach.
- The school has placed an increased emphasis on ensuring that pupils hear Welsh spoken outside the classroom. For example, pupils benefit from hearing Welsh spoken in school assemblies and when playing playground games led by members of the Criw Cymraeg.
- Staff in the Welsh-medium stream make effective use of a structured approach to develop pupils' phonological awareness. As a result, the pupils in these classes develop a sound understanding of letters and their associated sounds.
- Staff in the Welsh-medium stream immerse younger pupils effectively in the Welsh language. Overall, they continue to support older pupils to develop Welsh speaking and listening skills suitably, although a minority of pupils do not extend their answers fully when answering questions.
- Many pupils in the Welsh-medium stream enjoy reading. They write in a suitable range of genres in language lessons, although they do not write at length to the same extent in their work across the curriculum.
- In the English-medium stream, staff are beginning to place an increased emphasis on developing Welsh oracy. They make suitable use of daily sessions to develop pupils' confidence in speaking and listening, but it is too early to evaluate the impact of this work fully.
- Whilst the school has put appropriate steps in place to address the recommendation, leaders recognise that there is room to develop pupils' Welsh skills further.

The team would like to thank the Headteacher, staff and pupils for their positive approach to the interim visit, and for the warm welcome to the school.

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/6663036>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
Assistant Director