

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 Tanycastell  
Harlech  
Gwynedd  
LL46 2SW

20/12/2024

Dear Annwen Parri Williams

**Interim Visit:** December 2024

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Tanycastell recently to consider how the school has made progress in addressing two of the recommendations from its core inspection in May 2022. Below is a summary of progress against those recommendations.

During the visit, the team had the opportunity to:

- visit classes
- talk to pupils
- meet with teachers and leaders
- look at pupils' work
- scrutinise documentation

Since the core inspection, leaders have had an appropriate influence on strengthening provision to respond to the recommendations below. They recognise that there are aspects that they could continue to improve.

**Focus of visit**

**Strengthen provision to develop pupils' reading and extended writing skills in Welsh across the school**

- Appropriate attention is given to promoting pupils' oracy skills from when they begin in the nursery class. Across the school, pupils' understanding develops appropriately and they respond well to the continuous encouragement to use the Welsh language during all of their activities. This lays a firm foundation for developing pupils' reading and writing skills.
- Staff have given suitable attention to their arrangements for developing pupils' reading skills.
- Regular reading sessions are held and this varied work is beginning to have a positive effect on pupils' reading and spelling skills.

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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.

- The school has beneficial arrangements for promoting the youngest pupils' early reading skills.
- In the older pupils' classes, teachers provide a suitable range of reading activities, including elements that challenge pupils to develop higher-order reading skills, such as gathering information from different texts.
- In the foundation learning classes, many pupils develop early writing skills appropriately. For example, they create sentences to express the story of the nativity.
- At the top of the school, staff provide a beneficial range of activities for pupils to develop their extended writing in a variety of interesting contexts. However, at times, the over-use of ready-made frameworks tends to limit opportunities for pupils to express themselves fully.

### **Ensure regular opportunities for pupils to evaluate and improve their own work independently**

- Teachers provide useful oral feedback during sessions. Methods that encourage pupils to think and reflect on their work are used consistently across the school.
- Pupils are given beneficial opportunities to choose the level of challenge for their activities. As a result, they develop a suitable understanding of their current achievement and what they need to do to improve.
- In the best practices, at the top of the school, pupils reflect maturely on their successes, by annotating their work to show how they have responded to specific success criteria.
- Leaders have introduced a shared marking code. As a result, most pupils have an increasing understanding of how to correct simple errors. This feedback tends to focus on spelling and punctuation. On the whole, there are few opportunities for pupils to respond to written feedback by improving the content of their written work.
- Teachers are beginning to make effective use of visualisers to display pupils' work and discuss their progress, although this system has not yet been embedded throughout the school.

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/6612219>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**  
Assistant Director