

This letter is also available in Welsh.



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

6/1/25

Dear Mr Trystan Edwards

**Interim Visit:** December 2024

Thank you for your support in organising our interim visit to the school. 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.

During our visit, we had an opportunity to:

- Talk to senior leaders about your improvement work and how you support teachers.
- Talk to pupils in lessons and hear their feedback about the school.
- Visit lessons and conducting learning walks across to school to see pupils and staff undertaking their work.
- Conduct joint observations with senior leaders and discuss what was seen.
- Undertake scrutiny activities on a sample of books with senior leaders.
- Talk to numeracy and digital competence leaders about the school's provision to develop pupils' skills.
- Talk to a group of teachers about their work developing skills and improving their practice.

### Focus of visit

**To what extent has the school sharpened self-evaluation and improvement planning so that there is better consideration of the effect of provision on pupils' standards and progress?**

It was useful for us to discuss your arrangements for self-evaluation and planning for improvement. It was interesting to hear about the 'Cyfleoedd +' ('Opportunities +') arrangements between you and four other schools to co-operate on quality assurance activities. There appear to be whole-school processes and systems in place which ensure that relevant activities are carried out in line with an agreed calendar. These include lesson observations, scrutiny of pupils' work and activities to seek pupils' opinions. Personal reports are shared with staff following monitoring

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activities which provide a suitable evaluation of some aspects of teaching and planning and on the quality of feedback given on pupils' work.

We believe it would be useful for the school to consider:

- To what extent do quality assurance processes place enough focus on how much progress pupils make in their knowledge, understanding and skills in lessons and over time?
- To what extent do leaders evaluate provision directly according to its effect on pupils' standards and achievement?
- To what extent do summative reports following monitoring activities identify the main areas for improvement in terms of teaching and assessment?

### **To what extent has strategic leadership to develop pupils' numeracy and digital skills been strengthened?**

We acknowledge that there have been significant changes in terms of senior and middle leaders who are responsible for these areas since the core inspection and that this has hindered progress. It was useful to hear about the recent professional development opportunities to support staff to plan to develop aspects of literacy. The focus on ensuring consistency in whole-school strategies to develop oracy and reading seems clear. It was interesting to hear about how partner primary schools have worked together to create shared 'unconditional' features in terms of numeracy and digital competence provision. It is encouraging to know that leaders have created numeracy and digital working groups recently to begin to discuss a whole-school strategy and that some mapping of opportunities has taken place within areas of learning and experience for pupils in Year 7 and above.

We believe it would be useful for the school to consider:

- To what extent does the long-term mathematics plan provide the necessary flexibility to meet the curricular needs to develop numeracy across the school?
- How purposeful is planning to apply pupils' numeracy skills in relevant contexts?
- How can strategic planning be strengthened to develop pupils' progressive digital skills?

We wish you well with your future developments. Thank you once again for all your help in planning and organising our visit.

The school's most recent 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/6745504>

Yours sincerely



**Catherine Evans**  
Assistant Director