

Dr Carol James
Ysgol Gynradd Hafodwenog
Trelech
Carmarthen
SA33 6RU

25/04/2025

Dear Dr James

Interim Visit: April 2025

Thank you for the warm welcome the team received during the recent interim visit. They considered the progress the school has made in responding to two recommendations from the most recent core inspection. There was an opportunity to discuss with leaders, teachers and support staff to consider the way in which you have worked together to respond to the recommendations in question. There were opportunities to talk to pupils about their learning experiences and to scrutinise their work.

Below is a summary of the progress against the recommendations. We trust that the comments will be beneficial as you continue to develop provision at the school.

Focus of visit

Improve the school's monitoring procedures and improvement plans to ensure that they focus firmly on raising standards

- The headteacher has established clear monitoring procedures and improvement plans which focus on raising standards of teaching and learning. These procedures are sensible and sustainable and are mindful of the staff's workload. All stakeholders are now an integral part of the processes.
- The headteacher has high expectations of herself, pupils and staff. Leaders have developed an effective team that is fully committed to the school's values and vision. The staff's duties have been distributed sensibly and they are given valuable professional development opportunities to support them to be a proactive part of the self-improvement processes.

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

- Governors visit the school regularly as part of the improvement process. They conduct learning walks, scrutinise books and hold regular meetings with the headteacher and leaders of the areas of learning and experience to discuss pupils' progress. This has strengthened the governors' role in setting a strategic direction for the school
- Leaders have a clear understanding of the school's progress against the improvement priorities and of the areas they need to develop further. They use a beneficial range of evidence to evaluate progress against the priorities.
- Staff are given regular opportunities to attend training and visit local schools to share experiences and good practice. Through regular and purposeful co-operation with a local school, which is also under the headteacher's leadership, leaders and staff support each other to develop provision to support the school's improvement priorities.

Ensure that teaching provides an appropriate challenge for all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability and develop as independent and ambitious learners

- The headteacher has provided valuable professional learning experiences for teachers to ensure that they develop a sound awareness of elements of effective teaching. They share practices with the other school for which the headteacher is responsible, coming together regularly to share good practice. They share practices in terms of planning and providing stimulating activities that challenge pupils to develop their different skills across the curriculum.
- Staff have given careful attention to the need to ensure an appropriate challenge in pupils' learning activities, keeping a close eye on progress in their different skills. As a result, many pupils develop foster independence and become increasingly ambitious.
- Teachers now ensure activities that allow pupils to make choices within their tasks. In the foundation learning class, from an early age, most pupils talk about their work confidently and demonstrate secure skills. They talk maturely about the different challenges that are presented to them.
- In the older pupils' class, there is a wide range of beneficial opportunities for pupils to make choices about how to meet the requirements of different tasks. They respond maturely to these activities, working together successfully to meet the requirements of the task. They show a high level of perseverance, evaluating their own progress and learning from their mistakes. Across the school, this work has a positive effect on progress in pupils' skills.

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/6692182>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director