

Osian Jones
Ysgol Plas Coch
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28/04/2025

Dear Osian Jones

Interim Visit: April 2025

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Plas Coch recently to consider how the school has made progress in addressing one of the recommendations from its core inspection in June 2022. They also looked at the school's progress in fulfilling the requirements of one of the priorities in the school improvement plan during the 2023-2024 academic year. Below is a summary of the progress against those focus areas.

During the visit, the team had an opportunity to:

- visit classes, including joint visits with the headteacher
- talk to pupils
- meet with teachers and leaders
- scrutinise pupils' work, including jointly with leaders
- scrutinise documentation

Leaders have an appropriate understanding of the school's progress towards meeting the requirements of the focus areas and acknowledge that there are a few aspects that they could improve further.

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

Focus of visit

Encourage pupils to speak Welsh regularly in formal and informal situations

- Most pupils start school with Welsh as their second language. Over time, they make consistent progress in their Welsh speaking skills from their starting points.
- A wonderful Welsh ethos permeates the school's life and work, which contributes purposefully to fostering the pupils' innate pride in their language and heritage.
- Staff model the language enthusiastically and this, in turn, supports pupils to develop their confidence to speak Welsh spontaneously in their learning and play. Most Year 2 pupils, for example, talk with their peers in a lively manner and use an appropriate range of imperative verbs with increasing confidence.
- There is a constant and purposeful supply of linguistic resources on the learning walls in all classrooms to support pupils to make good progress in their skills over time. They also have regular access to a wide range of varied reading texts, which supports them to practise and acquire useful vocabulary and language patterns.
- Members of the 'Llysgenhadon Iaith' language ambassadors undertake their leadership responsibilities maturely and support leaders and staff enthusiastically to improve pupils' Welsh language skills. They have recently introduced a green band language scheme to encourage pupils to make regular use of the Welsh language in all aspects of the school's life and work and celebrate it, where appropriate.
- Staff provide creative experiences for pupils to use their Welsh regularly when performing in a range of situations, for example by competing in local and international eisteddfodau and performing regularly in the community.
- Teachers provide purposeful opportunities to enrich curriculum activities for pupils by inviting a successful former pupil from the footballing world to the school to share her experience of using the Welsh language in her field. These valuable experiences raise pupils' awareness of the advantages of being competent bilingual citizens when consider a future career.

Ensure opportunities to write at length across the curriculum in Welsh and English

- Staff work effectively with schools in the catchment area to map the genres of writing purposefully. Teachers now follow a clear and agreed plan to ensure that pupils identify the features of different genres of writing before planning what they want to write.
- Most pupils make appropriate and consistent use of criteria to evaluate their success when presenting their work.

- Leaders have acknowledged the need to provide regular opportunities for pupils to re-draft their work to ensure that all pupils achieve to the best of their ability when developing their extended writing skills in Welsh and English.
- Leaders scrutinise pupils' work regularly and identify strengths in provision, pupils' standards and the next steps to be developed.

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/6652263>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director