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Dear Emma Hughes

Interim visit: May 2025

A team of inspectors visited Waunceirch Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from the previous core inspection. The inspection team took the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk with pupils and staff, consider documentation, and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Enhance the opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh language skills outside of designated Welsh lessons

- Leaders and staff have created a learning environment and curriculum that supports nearly all pupils to develop enthusiasm for learning and speaking Welsh.
- Beneficial professional learning is beginning to help staff develop their confidence when speaking Welsh. Most staff model a range of basic Welsh language phrases. At this stage, staff do not always take full advantage of opportunities to incorporate the language they use in Welsh language lessons into their teaching across the curriculum.
- Staff plan from an agreed Welsh language syllabus that ensures progression in the development of speaking skills across the school. Daily practise sessions are beginning to have a positive impact on pupils' fluency when asking and answering questions in Welsh.

- The school's Criw Cymraeg work effectively with staff to develop an exciting range of opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside of the classroom.
- Leaders monitor pupils' attitudes to learning Welsh through regular listening to learner activities from which they adapt their teaching accordingly. Currently, leaders do not directly monitor the teaching of Welsh to evaluate the progress pupils make.

Improve pupils' attendance

- The school use a range of effective strategies to promote and improve attendance.
- Staff build positive and nurturing working relationships with pupils and their families. They provide a learning environment in which pupils feel a strong sense of belonging that contributes positively to pupils' enjoyment of being at school regularly. Most pupils understand the importance of regular attendance and its impact on their future aspirations.
- Leaders and staff understand the importance of providing an engaging curriculum and adapting teaching approaches to meet pupils' individual needs and interests. These approaches are effective in maintaining and improving good attendance.
- Leaders maintain valuable relationships with local authority officers who support the school to work with families where pupils' attendance falls below an acceptable level.
- School leaders review the impact of school attendance processes regularly, taking into account the views of pupils and their families.
- Overall, the school secures good levels of attendance for most pupils including those with additional needs and those from low-income households.

The school's arrangements for site management give cause for concern and have been brought to the attention of the local authority

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/6712221

Yours sincerely

Liz Miles
Assistant Director