

This letter is also available in Welsh

Louise Williams
Blaengwrach Primary School
Heol Wenallt
Cwmgwrach
Neath
SA11 5PS

15/07/2025

Dear Louise Williams

Interim visit: June 2025

A team of inspectors visited Blaengwrach 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

Ensure that monitoring and evaluation focuses more sharply on developing teaching and assessment to bring about further improvement in pupil progress

- Leaders have an honest and accurate understanding of the progress the school has made since the core inspection, and of the next steps in the school's development.
- There is an increasingly reflective culture in the school. Leaders have established an inclusive approach to self-evaluation that involves all staff. Staff understand the important role they play in evaluating the school's effectiveness. They appreciate the feedback, support and guidance they receive and are responsive to it.
- Leaders have a clear vision for the approach to, and quality of, teaching in the school. They use a good range of self-evaluation activities effectively, helping them to understand and evaluate teaching and its impact on pupils' learning. They use the information they gather appropriately to inform the next steps in the school's development, including ongoing improvements to classroom practice.

Estyn, Llys Angor, Heol Keen, Caerdydd,
CF24 5JW Ffôn: 02920 446446
ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru
www.estyn.llyw.cymru

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, Anchor Court, Keen Road,
Cardiff, CF24 5JW Telephone: 02920
446446 enquiries@estyn.gov.wales
www.estyn.gov.wales

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

- Following the core inspection, through self-evaluation leaders identified that classroom environments were underdeveloped. Since then, with teachers they have established environments that provide useful support for pupils' learning, helping them to begin to develop greater independence and resilience.
- Leaders use self-evaluation appropriately to identify professional learning needs, at whole-staff and individual levels. Staff are beginning to collaborate well, both with each other and with colleagues from partner schools. With the support of leaders, staff are developing useful approaches to questioning and feedback. These are beginning to impact positively on pupils' progress within lessons and over time.

Improve the quality of assessment and feedback to pupils to inform next steps in learning

- Leaders and staff have recognised the need to ensure that feedback to pupils is more meaningful and supports progress in learning. The school has been suitably proactive and collaborative in its approach to achieving this.
- All staff have engaged with relevant professional learning, and together, have revised the school's policy and approach to providing effective feedback. This work is beginning to be evident in classroom practice, helping pupils to start to have a better understanding of how to move their learning forward.
- Generally, teachers provide valuable and timely feedback to pupils. They have developed a helpful 'conference' approach to providing beneficial feedback during lessons. Through these conferences, staff or other pupils support pupils to make improvements to their work and deepen their understanding. This initiative is helping pupils to develop an appropriate understanding of the purpose and benefit of feedback and how to successfully act upon it.
- Staff are beginning to use effective questioning techniques that, overall, help pupils to confirm and clarify their understanding. Where this practice is most effective, it encourages pupils to reflect on their learning and enables them to understand and address their next steps. This is helping pupils across the school to begin to develop as independent learners.

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/6712106>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director