

Eleri Jones
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This letter is also available in Welsh

29/07/2025

Dear Eleri Jones

Interim Visit: July 2025

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from its previous core inspection. The inspection team took advantage of the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk to 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

Expand the opportunities for pupils to write at length across the curriculum

- Leaders have set a clear priority for developing pupils' writing skills, in addition to providing rich opportunities for them to apply their skills across the curriculum. Staff are aware of the focus and work diligently to realise it.
- Leaders have taken diligent and strategic action to embed effective pedagogy for developing pupils' writing skills. Shared expectations from staff across the school support pupils to develop their skills constructively over time. Leaders monitor progress carefully and work with staff to refine teaching further as they aim for more consistency.
- In order to support staff to improve their practice in aiding pupils to make progress in their writing skills, leaders provide them with beneficial professional learning opportunities. Staff work closely with other schools to develop their knowledge and understanding further of how they could better support pupils. By doing so, they have produced plans to provide opportunities for pupils to apply their writing skills across all areas of learning constructively over time.

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Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

- The staff of the youngest pupils prioritise the development of pupils' pre-writing skills successfully. They use resources effectively and plan stimulating learning activities that enable most pupils to develop their fine and gross motor skills and their oracy skills successfully.
- As pupils move through the school, most have positive attitudes towards writing. By the end of Year 2, they write appropriately and use a range of punctuation and extensive vocabulary to enrich their written work.
- Most pupils understand their individual writing aims and teachers use specific learning opportunities effectively to support pupils to meet these aims. They respond effectively to feedback and use the individual writing aims successfully to improve their written work. By the top of the school, most pupils apply their writing skills successfully in a range of contexts across the curriculum.

Strengthen opportunities for pupils to develop as independent learners

- Leaders have involved all staff in strengthening opportunities for pupils to develop as independent learners. They have reflected on what they do successfully and the aspects that could be improved further.
- Leaders conduct beneficial research to consider best practice to support pupils to develop their independent learning skills further. Their research on 'learning how to learn' has led to supporting the oldest pupils to prepare learning sessions for their peers.
- Leaders have high expectations of staff, which include consistency across the school in terms of how to ensure that pupils are given beneficial opportunities to learn independently. Leaders monitor teaching and learning regularly and give teachers relevant feedback on how to strengthen their practice further.
- Teachers share good practice internally and visit each other's classes regularly. For example, at the top of the school, teachers record lesson presentations, where relevant, which enables pupils to revisit the presentation in their own time, if necessary.
- Teachers across the school plan rich opportunities to extend pupils' independent learning skills. Most pupils use the equipment available in the learning areas independently and successfully. From a young age, pupils understand the school's feedback system and what to do to improve their work to move their learning forward.
- Pupils across the school take increasing responsibility for their learning. They make sensible choices when improving their work and make mature choices about how to complete and present their work.

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/6762282>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director