

This letter is also available in Welsh

Caegarw Primary School
Troed Y Rhiw Road
Caegarw
Mountain Ash
RCT
CF45 4BH

22/10/2025

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: October 2025

A team of inspectors visited Caegarw 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

Develop the outdoor learning provision for pupils from Nursery to Year 2

- School leaders have invested worthwhile time into professional learning to improve outdoor learning provision and practice. These opportunities have raised staff confidence and increased their knowledge and understanding of the features of effective outdoor learning.
- Leaders and teachers have completed a thorough audit of outdoor learning equipment and practice to evaluate quality and suitability. This has resulted in a clearer, more purposeful approach that develops pupils' curiosity, independence and exploration skills.
- Overall, planning for the outdoors is beneficial and complements indoor provision. A wide range of authentic experiences enable pupils to develop important skills.
- Staff use simple observations of outdoor learning well to identify pupils' progress and needs. They share and discuss these regularly with the year group team of staff. This supports timely adaptations to teaching and outdoor provision and helps staff plan effectively to support pupils' ongoing progress.

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.

- The school works successfully with a range of community partners to enhance the outdoor learning environment. It is currently involved in an innovative project to raise funds to replace condemned playground equipment. This has further strengthened community links.
- Leaders have ensured that improving outdoor learning remains a school priority. As part of self-evaluation, they place strong emphasis on pupil voice. Pupils' views and interests help inform the design and use of outdoor areas.

Provide opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills and make decisions in relation to their learning.

- The headteacher and senior leaders use research purposefully to reflect on the impact that school provision has on pupils' learning. This has informed the school's strategy for developing pupils' independent learning skills.
- Leaders provided staff with a valuable range of professional learning opportunities to deepen their understanding of independent learning. Staff used this well to reflect on their teaching and provision and to improve planned opportunities for independent learning.
- In the youngest classes teachers and support staff work diligently to support the development of pupils' early self-care skills. This helps pupils to settle quickly, become ready to learn and make effective progress.
- Teachers now plan increased opportunities for pupils to have a voice and choice in their learning. This includes pupils providing ideas to develop curriculum provision and choosing how they apply their skills and present their work. This has increased older pupils' engagement and independence in their learning.
- Many teachers provide worthwhile feedback to pupils and ensure that they have sufficient time to reflect on their learning and improve the quality of their work. Most older pupils have become skilled at doing this, benefiting from teachers' use of highly effective questions.
- All staff build positive relationships with pupils and create an environment where pupils feel confident to take risks. This supports most pupils well to be resilient in their learning. In the best examples, support staff act as facilitators of learning, using questioning effectively to deepen pupils' thinking.
- The headteacher works effectively with senior leaders, the governing body and pupils to improve independent learning. They monitor and evaluate the impact of this work and use their findings to identify strengths and priorities for further improvement.

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/6742077>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'L Miles'.

Liz Miles

Assistant Director