

This letter is also available in Welsh

Ysgol Padarn Sant  
Llanbadarn Road  
Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 1EZ

24/10/2025

Dear leaders and staff

**Interim visit:** October 2025

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Gatholig Padarn Sant 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 meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop their extended writing across the curriculum**

- The headteacher, in collaboration with staff, has implemented a clear and coherent strategy to develop pupils' writing across the curriculum. This is effectively underpinned by structured schemes of work that set out clear expectations for when, how and for what purpose pupils produce extended pieces of writing.
- Staff engage in valuable professional learning opportunities that develop their understanding of effective writing pedagogy and support useful planning for progression in pupils' writing skills across all areas of learning.
- Staff have strengthened their understanding of the key elements that contribute to improving pupils' writing skills. When planning extended writing activities, they provide careful consideration to ensuring appropriate breadth and depth of tasks to promote secure progression in pupils' skills.

Estyn, Llys Angor, Heol Keen, Caerdydd,  
CF24 5JW Ffôn: 02920 446446  
[ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru](mailto:ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru)  
[www.estyn.llyw.cymru](http://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](mailto:enquiries@estyn.gov.wales)  
[www.estyn.gov.wales](http://www.estyn.gov.wales)

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

- Staff provide purposeful feedback that effectively supports pupils to improve the quality of their writing. They encourage pupils to edit and refine their work successfully, with older pupils beginning to respond positively to this guidance.
- Older pupils apply their understanding of different writing forms effectively. They use this knowledge well to produce extended pieces of writing that are engaging, informative and well-matched to their purpose and audience.

### **Provide opportunities for pupils to influence what and how they learn**

- In general, staff provide well-planned opportunities for older pupils to develop their independent learning skills purposefully.
- When older pupils are appropriately challenged and provided with meaningful opportunities to take responsibility for their learning, they demonstrate ambition, resilience and perseverance to complete learning activities effectively.
- Across the school, staff provide suitable opportunities for pupils to influence what and how they learn by contributing ideas and suggesting possible learning activities within thematic work. This supports pupils to demonstrate curiosity and have a sense of ownership of their learning.
- Leaders and staff use learning spaces effectively to provide pupils with purposeful opportunities to apply and refine their skills independently in a range of authentic contexts. As they progress through the school, many pupils demonstrate increasing independence in deciding how to approach tasks and selecting the appropriate resources required to support their learning.
- During valuable 'Genius Hour' sessions, older pupils engage thoughtfully in planning their work, discussing ideas, solving problems, and selecting appropriate ways to present their learning. This approach has a positive impact on older pupils' ability to think creatively and work with increasing independence.
- Leaders and staff monitor pupils' independence carefully and use this information beneficially to inform planning. Occasionally, an over-reliance on worksheets limits the level of challenge and the ways pupils across the school can demonstrate their learning.
- Leaders and staff are taking appropriate action to further strengthen pupils' independence, creativity and depth of thinking, while ensuring greater consistency in effective practice across the school.

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/6673318>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director