

St Gwladys Bargoed School  
Church Place  
Bargoed  
CF81 8RN

12/11/2025

Dear leaders and staff

**Interim visit:** November 2025

A team of inspectors visited St. Gwladys Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to two priorities from their school improvement plan. 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**

**Embed a deeper understanding of the mathematical proficiencies, with a focus on developing pupils' skills.**

- The school promotes a strong mathematical culture. Pupils enjoy and engage confidently with mathematical concepts from an early age.
- Teachers create supportive, well-resourced learning environments that encourage pupils' creativity, exploration and independent thinking. A consistent whole-school approach helps pupils recognise the relevance of mathematics in everyday life.
- Leaders provide effective professional learning opportunities that strengthen staff's understanding of the proficiencies. Staff deliver well-planned learning experiences that build pupils' confidence, fluency and ability to apply their mathematics skills in a range of contexts.
- Teachers use questioning and assessment well to gauge pupils' understanding, explore their reasoning, and identify next steps in learning. They monitor progress effectively to provide timely support or challenge, ensuring pupils make steady

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and sustained progress in developing their mathematical knowledge and understanding.

- Pupils have purposeful opportunities to apply and extend their numeracy skills in their work across the curriculum. Through a successful, practical approach, pupils deepen their understanding using concrete and abstract learning. They use mathematical language accurately to explain, analyse and reflect on their work in areas of learning such as science and technology with growing confidence. They develop resilience and build on their learning to become capable, independent problem solvers.

### **To further promote and strengthen pupils' literacy skills, particularly in writing**

- Leaders provide clear strategic direction and implement a coherent, well-sequenced approach to developing literacy across the school. They establish consistent expectations for planning, teaching and progression. They use regular reviews of teaching and pupils' work to identify strengths and identify areas for further improvement. This reflective approach ensures that teaching builds effectively on prior learning, enabling pupils to make secure progress in literacy.
- Professional learning is purposeful and strategically aligned to staff needs and school priorities. Staff engage well in training, coaching, enquiry and team teaching, which enhances their confidence, deepens their knowledge and improves the quality of literacy teaching consistently.
- Teachers design engaging learning experiences centred around rich texts that develop pupils' literacy skills effectively. They use drama, role play and oracy activities effectively to capture pupils' interest in writing and enhance their skills. These approaches help pupils develop their understanding of key writing features and enable them to write with increasing confidence and creativity for a range of audiences and purposes.
- Teachers provide feedback that encourages pupils to reflect on their work and make improvements, helping them refine their writing and become more independent.
- Support staff play a valuable role in helping pupils who need extra support to engage fully with writing tasks. They provide purposeful support that enables pupils to participate successfully and make appropriate progress.
- Across the school, pupils make informed choices about presentation, style and genre, and develop their own success criteria to guide improvement. Teachers encourage pupils to share ideas, contribute to planning, and engage with a range of topical issues.

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/6762391>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director