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Betws C.P. School
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SA18 2HE

22/01/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim Visit: January 2026

A team of inspectors visited Betws Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to a recommendation from the previous core inspection, along with one of the school's current development priorities. The team took advantage of the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk to pupils and staff, scrutinise documentation and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Raise pupils' standards of reading in Welsh

- The acting headteacher has a clear vision for developing pupils' Welsh reading skills. This vision focuses on ensuring that pupils develop robust basic reading skills and foster a positive attitude to reading.
- Recently, leaders have evaluated provision for Welsh reading purposefully. They have an appropriate understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement. They have begun to address a few of these areas. This includes providing a few relevant professional learning activities. It is too early to evaluate the impact of these steps on pupils' outcomes.
- At times, teachers provide resources that support pupils' reading skills suitably. On the whole, they question pupils appropriately to recall previous learning and encourage pupils to provide reasons to support their opinions. However, teachers do not provide topics and activities that meet the needs of a majority of pupils consistently enough.

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- A majority of pupils read fairly fluently and use appropriate strategies to read less familiar words. A few use their voices purposefully to convey meaning when reading aloud and demonstrate a suitable understanding of what they read. They discuss the features of books and texts fairly confidently and express simple opinions about what they read.
- Provision to develop reading is inconsistent across the school. Planning is not purposeful or cohesive enough over time. On the whole, a majority of pupils do not make the progress they could over time in their Welsh reading skills.
- The acting headteacher is aware that this aspect needs to be developed further.

Ensure that teachers' expectations are high enough to enable all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability

- The acting headteacher has a sound understanding of the school's progress towards meeting the requirements of this recommendation. She acknowledges a few improvements to provision since the core inspection and recognises clearly the elements that need to be improved further.
- Very recently, the acting headteacher has ensured that relevant and beneficial professional learning for staff supports the sharing of effective practice across the school. This has led to staff initiating discussions to ensure consistency in expectations for pupils.
- Teachers and support staff are beginning to work purposefully to adapt and improve provision. They plan carefully to provide learning activities that link purposefully with pupils' interests and build appropriately on their previous learning. This supports in engaging and maintaining pupils' interest and their willingness to undertake their tasks.
- In the best practice, teachers provide activities that facilitate and encourage pupils to choose the level of challenge of their tasks. Many pupils discuss successfully how they choose the activity that is most suitable for them. However, across the school, teachers' expectations remain too low to support all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability.

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/6692043>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director