

Pontllanfraith Primary School
Penmaen Road
Pontllanfraith
Blackwood
NP12 2DN

26/01/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: January 2026

A team of inspectors visited Pontllanfraith Primary 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 and implement effective evaluation and improvement processes

- Leaders increasingly identify strengths and priorities for improvement accurately, drawing on a wide range of self-evaluation evidence, including the views of pupils, staff and governors. Senior leaders use this information effectively to set a clear and systematic strategic direction, ensuring that improvement activity is proportionate and sharply focused on improving teaching and learning.
- Senior leaders set clear expectations and lines of accountability. Middle leaders now evaluate provision within their areas of responsibility with increasing confidence and contribute effectively to whole-school improvement.
- Leaders draw purposefully on the expertise of a range of partners to strengthen professional learning. Planned activities align well with improvement priorities and are beginning to have a positive impact on provision and outcomes across the school.
- Governors play an increasingly active role in evaluation and monitoring the school's work. They provide appropriate challenge and are developing a clearer understanding of the impact of improvement actions on standards and provision.

Estyn, Llys Angor, Heol Keen, Caerdydd,
CF24 5JW Ffôn: 02920 446446
ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru
www.estyn.llyw.cymru

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Estyn, Anchor Court, Keen Road,
Cardiff, CF24 5JW Telephone: 02920
446446 enquiries@estyn.gov.wales
www.estyn.gov.wales

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Ensure that teaching supports pupils to develop the full range of skills progressively as they move through the school and that pupils have opportunities to use these skills in their work across the curriculum

- Leaders and staff work collaboratively with external partners to strengthen the school's curriculum. This has helped staff to provide increasingly well-planned opportunities for pupils to develop and build on their knowledge, skills and understanding progressively.
- Staff provide engaging and thought-provoking learning experiences that often encourage pupils to explore ideas, think deeply and begin to ask their own questions.
- Leaders and teachers engage effectively with cluster schools to develop a shared understanding of assessment and progression across a range of areas of learning.
- Leaders provide valuable opportunities for staff to engage in professional learning and professional collaboration, particularly in strengthening the application of key skills across the curriculum. Consequently, teachers plan a broad range of opportunities for pupils to apply their writing, numeracy and digital skills at an appropriate level.
- Staff are beginning to strengthen provision to support pupils' independence. In the younger classes, learning environments provide a suitable range of opportunities for pupils to develop early skills. In the older classes, pupils are beginning to make decisions about their learning through open-ended activities, but the level of purpose is variable in a few activities.
- The school is making positive progress in developing a curriculum that is increasingly bespoke to Pontllanfraith, reflecting pupils' needs and context while strengthening opportunities to develop and apply a broad range of skills.
- Leaders recognise the need to further sharpen planning and teaching, so that all lessons have a clear purpose and support the systematic development of pupils' skills.

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/6762086>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Miles'.

Liz Miles

Assistant Director