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Ysgol Ifor Bach  
Windsor Way  
Abertridwr  
Caerphilly  
CF83 4AB

23/02/2026

Dear leaders and staff

### **Interim Visit:** January 2026

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Ifor Bach recently to consider progress in relation to a recommendation from the previous core inspection, along with one aspect agreed with the headteacher. The inspection team took advantage of the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk to 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 pupils' Welsh reading skills**

- Leaders and staff have a shared vision about how to develop pupils' reading skills. They evaluate pupils' progress in their reading skills regularly and monitor the effect of their methods for teaching reading skills through regular professional discussions.
- Staff are given beneficial professional learning opportunities, including successful co-operation with other schools to share good practice and to develop and refine their methods of teaching reading. This, in turn, has a positive effect on the teaching of reading.
- Staff have worked together to establish an agreed method of developing reading skills across the school, with clear expectations set. They use these methods consistently to support pupils to make continuous progress in their skills.
- Teachers provide a suitable variety of reading texts for pupils, which leads to an improvement in their understanding of their responses when discussing the

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features of books. Leaders recognise the need to develop pupils' understanding of Welsh authors and writers further.

- Teachers have a sound understanding of individual pupils' reading skills. They use this information skilfully to adapt provision and to support pupils who need additional support in a timely manner.
- In Year 2, pupils read confidently. They use appropriate strategies to read accurately and demonstrate a good understanding of what they read. At the top of the school, pupils read with increasing fluency, by using their skills across the curriculum successfully, including researching a variety of topics and summarising what they have read effectively.

### **Develop pupils' independent writing skills**

- All staff have reflected deeply on the best way to develop pupils' independent writing skills. They have held staff meetings, consulted with improvement partners and worked effectively with the schools in the cluster.
- Leaders have organised valuable professional learning opportunities for staff to strengthen their understanding and confidence in developing independent learners. This means that staff have a sound awareness of the meaning of independent writing and the writing journey of individual pupils.
- Leaders have introduced new ideas and schemes objectively, and monitored provision and the effect on pupils' work effectively. They have retained what has been successful and adapted it as necessary. They have identified correctly what was not as successful or what was irrelevant to the context of the school.
- Teachers plan stimulating experiences that develop pupils' skills constructively to support them to master different writing genres.
- Teachers are beginning to offer rich opportunities for older pupils to make decisions about how they would like to present their work in an appropriate range of contexts.

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/6762262>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director