

Ysgol Y Waun
Y Waen
Gwernaffield
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 5DP

23/02/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: January 2026

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Y Waun 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

Improve teaching and the learning experiences provided for pupils from Nursery to Year 2

- Overall, staff provide effective teaching for pupils from Nursery to Year 2. They ensure that the learning environment and the experiences provided enable most pupils to develop strong levels of independence and positive attitudes to their learning.
- Adults are highly effective language role models. They generally know when to intervene to move learning forward and when to allow pupils to continue independently.
- Pupils benefit from a good balance of direct, supportive teaching from adults and opportunities to make choices about their learning, to try out their own ideas and to learn through play.
- The range of learning experiences provided for pupils is extensive and relevant. They enable pupils to develop curiosity and set and respond to their own challenges that link to aspects of previous learning.

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- The indoor and outdoor learning environments and carefully selected resources support pupils well to develop and consolidate their skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Provision to develop pupils' literacy and numeracy skills is effective overall. For example, pupils make good progress in developing their understanding of story structures and map out detailed recounts of familiar tales.
- At times, recorded activities in pupils' books do not add notable value to learning.

Improve the leadership and monitoring of teaching to ensure that teachers consistently make the best use of teaching time and provide the right level of support and challenge for pupils

- Staff across the two schools in the federation carry out a suitable range of monitoring activities including listening to learners and lesson observations. In many of these activities, there is a tendency to focus on the actions of adults or coverage of the curriculum rather than pupil progress or the skills they develop.
- Leaders and staff have developed the use of practical equipment to support pupils' learning, such as in mathematics activities. However, since the core inspection, professional learning has not had a sufficient focus on improving teaching and learning.
- In most classes, teachers use classroom displays well to support pupils' learning and to display good examples of work. They provide pupils with useful examples of writing for different purposes.
- In a few learning activities for pupils from Year 3 upwards, the pace of learning is slow and does not always match the ability of pupils well enough. Teaching does not routinely consider the different learning needs of pupils at different stages of development. For example, pupils engage in the same writing tasks with the same expectations.
- On a few occasions, teachers provide older pupils with written feedback on what they have done well and how they can further improve their work. Overall, the improvements to pupils' work tend to focus on punctuation or spelling. In classes for pupils in Year 3 upwards, standards of a minority of pupils' handwriting and presentation are weak. Staff do not use feedback to emphasise the importance of standards in pupils' presentation.
- During each topic or theme, most pupils take part in beneficial 'over to you' sessions. These enable pupils to consolidate or further develop their skills across the areas of learning experiences.

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/6642081>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director