

# Report summary for parents and carers on Alway Primary

Date of inspection: 23/02/2026

Summary

---

The school is a caring and nurturing community with a strong safeguarding culture and positive professional relationships between staff and pupils. Following a period of leadership turbulence, the new headteacher and leadership team work well together to bring a fresh focus and drive. However, currently, the quality of teaching and learning is inconsistent. In around half of lessons the pace of learning is too slow.

In general, teachers plan indoor provision for the younger pupils well, through engaging experiences that support early development effectively. Staff build warm relationships, though a few miss opportunities to extend pupils' language and thinking. Activities in the outside areas do not always promote pupils' independence well enough. However, across the school, teaching and learning does not engage or enthuse all pupils. This is because the curriculum does not meet pupils' needs well enough. In around a half of lessons for older pupils, there are clear learning intentions and high expectations. Where practice is weaker, learning lacks clarity and pupils become passive. Pupils engage well where lessons include an element of practical learning, for example in science, dance and PE, and in the woodland area.

Leaders have recently improved the provision for reading, and this has begun to accelerate pupils' progress. However, too few pupils enjoy reading for pleasure. Pupils develop their digital skills suitably across the school. There are limited opportunities for pupils to speak and listen to the Welsh language. Individual development plans are appropriate, both in mainstream classes and in the learning resource bases, but teachers do not always address pupils' identified targets in daily teaching. Teachers do not always use assessment information well enough to ensure that learning challenges pupils of all abilities.

Although leaders are beginning to address key priorities and strengthen accountability, their work to evaluate the improvements is at an early stage. Governors are supportive but overly positive in their evaluations. Despite leaders' work to improve attendance and punctuality, this remains a significant concern, particularly for pupils eligible for free school meals.

Overall, while the school has clear strengths in care, inclusion and safeguarding, leaders rightly recognise the need to improve the quality and consistency of classroom practice, to improve pupils' engagement and progress.

# Recommendations and next steps

---

## **We have made four recommendations to help the school continue to improve:**

- R1 Ensure that teaching across the school consistently meets the needs of all pupils
- R2 Improve attendance
- R3 Develop the curriculum to meet pupils' needs
- R4 Ensure that leaders at all levels evaluate the impact of school improvement activity on how well they have improved pupils' outcomes

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

## Full Report

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#)

---

© Crown Copyright 2026: This report may be re used free of charge: (a) in any format or medium; and (b) may be translated by or on behalf of an education and/or training provider in respect of which this report relates into any language, in each case provided that it is re used and/or translated accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must, in each case (including in the case of a translation) be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 29/04/2026