

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Pen Barras

Date of inspection: 02/02/2026

Summary

The school's dedicated leaders and staff provide a Welsh and inclusive learning environment for pupils by embracing the vision, 'Gweithiwn â gwên yn sŵn y Gymraeg', extremely successfully. This fosters pupils' positive attitudes to their learning, which contributes well to their enjoyment of their learning experiences. Most pupils, including those with additional learning needs and those from low-income households, make sound progress in a relevant range of skills across the areas of learning.

Teachers and assistants have supportive working relationships with pupils, and they identify their well-being needs and learning interests skilfully. They are valuable language models for pupils and this, in turn, has a positive effect on most pupils' Welsh speaking skills. One of the provision's notable qualities is the rich experiences that pupils are given as they develop their talents by taking part in events and performing in a wide range of local and national competitions. Through this, pupils develop a wide range of important learning, personal and social skills.

Teachers provide an interesting range of activities appropriately which engage and maintain pupils' interest in their learning effectively. However, teachers do not always plan progression in pupils' skills purposefully enough to support them to make constructive progress in the whole range of skills over time.

Leaders, including members of the governing body, identify the school's strengths and areas for development appropriately. However, monitoring and evaluation activities do not always focus purposefully enough on the effect of the provision on pupils' skills and progress, or contribute purposefully enough to the improvement planning process.

The school is an integral part of the local community, with pupils enriching their learning experiences through beneficial visits successfully. Parents are proud that their children attend this school and appreciate the valuable links as they engage beneficially with their children's learning.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made two recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1 Refine self-evaluation processes in order to measure the effect of provision on pupils' learning
- R2 Support pupils to make constructive progress in the whole range of skills across the areas of learning over time

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: 08/04/2026