

Report summary for parents and carers on Abercarn Primary School

Date of inspection: 02/03/2026

Summary

Abercarn Primary School is a welcoming and inclusive school where positive relationships support pupils' well-being and engagement in learning. Staff maintain high expectations for behaviour and learning. Pupils feel safe, behave well and show positive attitudes to their work. The school works closely with parents and the wider community, and helps pupils develop pride in their local area and a strong sense of belonging.

The headteacher provides clear strategic leadership that focuses strongly on improving pupils' learning and well-being. Leaders use well-established self-evaluation processes to identify strengths and areas for development and plan actions for improvement. Governors support and challenge leaders effectively and have a sound understanding of the school's work.

The school provides a broad curriculum that enables pupils to develop their skills progressively as they move through the school. Teachers plan varied learning experiences that develop pupils' understanding of their local area and the wider world. Pupils contribute to decisions about their learning and gain confidence in sharing their ideas. However, in lessons adults sometimes over-direct pupils and intervene too quickly. This limits opportunities for pupils to reflect on tasks, draw on prior learning and decide how best to approach their work.

Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is effective. Staff identify pupils' needs early and work closely with external agencies to provide appropriate support. Most pupils with ALN make good progress towards their individual targets.

Most pupils develop secure literacy, numeracy and digital skills as they move through the school, and they apply their numeracy skills confidently when solving problems. There are limited opportunities for pupils to practise spoken Welsh. Consequently, pupils do not use Welsh confidently or regularly enough.

Across the school, teachers support pupils to become confident communicators. A distinctive feature of the school's work is its pupil-led radio station, where pupils plan, script and present broadcasts for a real audience. These experiences strengthen pupils' digital competence and help them communicate their ideas with increasing clarity and confidence.

Recommendations and next steps

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

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R1 Ensure that teachers do not over-direct learning or intervene too quickly during learning activities

R2 Improve pupils' Welsh oracy skills

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](#)

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