

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Dolbadarn

Date of inspection: 23/02/2026

Summary

The headteacher is a strong leader who inspires others successfully. She has a clear vision for creating a caring and welcoming learning environment where all pupils are encouraged to aim high. This vision is shared effectively with the school community and a strong sense of belonging permeates the life of the school. Pupils' wellbeing and happiness are at the heart of provision, and respectful relationships between staff and pupils help to ensure a safe and supportive atmosphere for learning.

Most pupils show positive attitudes to their work, which supports good attendance and behaviour. They make good progress in their literacy, numeracy and digital skills. From an early age, many develop confident speaking skills in Welsh, and by the end of their time at the school, most communicate skilfully in Welsh and English. Pupils' reading and writing skills develop robustly over time, enabling them to write for different purposes and discuss texts maturely. They also apply their problem-solving skills across a range of activities successfully.

Strong emphasis is placed on promoting the Welsh language and Welsh culture, fostering a strong sense of identity and pride among pupils. Effective arrangements are in place to support pupils with additional learning needs, and the caring provision helps most pupils to make sound progress from their starting points. On the whole, purposeful teaching supports pupils to develop their independent learning skills well and to recall previous learning skilfully. Stimulating experiences encourage pupils to reflect on their learning successfully and meet most pupils' needs purposefully. However, the most effective teaching practices are not always consistent enough across the school.

Leaders evaluate the provision purposefully and have an appropriate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Governors undertake their roles conscientiously, and strong partnerships with parents and the community enrich pupils' experiences and support their well-being and development effectively.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made one recommendation to help the school continue to improve:

R1 Ensure that the most effective teaching practices are consistent across the school

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