

Ysgol Brynrefail  
Llanrug  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 4AD

**This letter is also available in Welsh**

17/06/2026

Dear leaders and staff,

**Interim Visit:** June 2026

Thank you for your support during the interim visit to the school on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work the school has carried out since the core inspection.

During the visit, we had an opportunity to:

- hold discussions with leaders and staff about their self-evaluation and improvement work, and their work to develop pupils' higher-order reading skills
- talk to pupils and listen to their feedback about the school
- visit a small sample of lessons in subjects across the curriculum
- scrutinise a sample of pupils' work
- scrutinise a sample of relevant school documentation
- conduct lessons observations jointly with leaders and discuss the main findings of these activities

### **Focus of visit**

#### **How effective are self-evaluation and improvement planning processes?**

During our visit, it was good to hear about the way in which leaders have focused on strengthening and refining self-evaluation processes across the school. The school has a comprehensive calendar of quality assurance activities, which includes lesson observations, scrutiny of work, seeking pupils' views and regular link meetings. It was good to hear that middle leaders are involved in these activities to strengthen their ability

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to identify strengths and areas for improvement within their areas of responsibility. During our discussions, we heard how staff benefit from relevant professional learning, including internal training and interaction with external partners. It was interesting to hear how staff work together in 'quartets' as a basis for professional conversations that support reflection and continuous improvement. We heard that the school has offered for staff to share effective practice, with a recent focus on reading. It was encouraging to hear about the strong level of commitment of all staff to the school's improvement process in order to develop further.

It would be useful for the school to consider:

- To what extent do evaluations evaluate the effect of teaching on pupils' progress to identify the exact aspects that are in need of attention?

### **How has the school developed pupils' higher-order reading skills?**

During our visit, it was useful to hear how leaders have placed an emphasis on disciplinary literacy. Through this, teachers are encouraged to plan purposefully so that learners are given various opportunities to develop their standards of literacy in relevant subjects. We heard how this year the school has given particular attention to developing pupils' higher-order reading skills. Developments in this area have been guided and based on staff's findings from quality assurance activities. For example, a specific focus was placed on pupils' standards or reading during scrutiny of work. From the small sample of work we saw and the lessons visited, work to develop pupils' higher-order reading skills is beginning to develop effectively in a few subjects beyond Welsh and English.

It was interesting to hear how teachers have benefitted from internal training that provides strategies they can use to support pupils to develop their higher-order reading skills. We also heard how leaders identify at an early stage those pupils who need support with reading and provide interventions for them. We agree with the school that further attention needs to be given to the basic reading skills of a cohort of pupils. It was good to hear that the school promotes a culture of reading, including a lunchtime reading club and a reading challenge to promote the enjoyment of reading.

It would be useful for the school to consider:

- To what extent do staff across the curriculum plan suitable activities which focus on developing pupils' higher-order reading skills progressively?

Thank you once again for all of your support in planning and organising our visit. We wish the school well.

The school's most recent core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<http://www.estyn.llyw.cymru/darparwr/6614004>

Yours sincerely



**Lowri Jones**

Acting Assistant Director