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Ysgol Gymraeg y Cwm
Jersey Road
Bonymaen
SA1 7DL

23/07/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim Visit: July 2026

A team of visitors visited Ysgol y Cwm recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from the previous core inspection. The inspection team took advantage of the opportunity to hold discussions with the headteacher and governors, talk to pupils and staff, observe teaching and learning, consider documentation and look at displays and samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Refine self-evaluation procedures so that they are easy to implement and incisive enough to enable leaders to identify exactly the specific areas that need improvement

- Recently, leaders have strengthened self-evaluation processes by introducing a more systematic programme of monitoring activities that better focus on pupils' standards and progress.
- Leaders now use a wider range of first-hand evidence that supports them to identify the school's strengths and areas for improvement.
- Leaders have divided monitoring responsibilities more effectively across the senior leadership team and the teaching staff and have strengthened systems for tracking pupils' progress, which is beginning to support them to evaluate progress more purposefully. However, the role of all stakeholders in these processes has not been developed in full. The role of governors in self-improvement processes also remains limited.

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

- In general, leaders have made suitable progress in address the recommendation. However, it is too early to evaluate the full effect of processes on standards of teaching and learning.

Ensure that teachers provide pupils with specific learning experiences to learn about and appreciate the rich history and geography of their local area

- Leaders have established a clear vision for developing pupils' understanding of the history and geography of their local area. They have ensured that rich learning experiences build purposefully on pupils' previous learning and engages their interest successfully.
- Teachers plan purposeful learning opportunities that give good consideration to the local context and support pupils to research the local area's natural, historical and cultural features in detail. Feedback from pupils and parents informs planning effectively, ensuring that the curriculum reflects the local community successfully.
- This work has fostered strong pride and ownership of their 'cynefin' among staff and pupils. Pupils develop a sound understanding of the heritage and history of their area, in addition to deepening their understanding of physical and human features. They act as enthusiastic ambassadors for their area and share their knowledge confidently with the community through podcasts, social media and exhibitions.

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.gov.wales/provider/6702245>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director