

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pontyberem
Heol y Felin
Pontyberem
Llanelli
Carmarthenshire
SA15 5EB

04/08/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim Visit: July 2026

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Pontyberem recently to consider progress in relation to one recommendation from the previous core inspection and one priority from the school improvement plan. The inspection team took advantage of the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk to pupils and staff, scrutinise documentation and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Develop pupils' skills in understanding and analysing data, mathematically and by using information technology effectively

- Leaders have a clear vision and there is a robust strategy in place to respond to the recommendation.
- Subject leaders have identified the need to strengthen the quality of teaching in mathematics. They provide purposeful professional learning experiences and, as a result, teachers adopt a more consistent approach to teaching which places a stronger emphasis on reasoning, problem-solving and analysing data. This, in turn, ensures that the quality of provision has improved over time, which supports the development of pupils' mathematical and digital skills successfully.
- Many pupils have improved their data-handling skills and apply them appropriately in purposeful tasks. They use digital technology more confidently to interpret information and draw conclusions.
- Leaders have developed a purposeful guide, including a progress map and digital data continuum, to support teachers to plan clear progression in the development

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of pupils' skills. This strengthens the consistency of provision and expands opportunities for pupils to apply their data analysis skills in a wide range of purposeful contexts across the curriculum.

Ensure that procedures to promote pupils' skills and enjoyment of reading are wide-ranging and consistently effective across the school

- Leaders have established a strong culture of reading across the school. Teachers provide valuable opportunities for pupils to read a wide range of stimulating and engaging books which spark their imagination and nurture a strong love of reading.
- Leaders undertake purposeful monitoring activities to identify the school's strengths, along with aspects to be developed further. Staff benefit from purposeful professional learning activities that develop teachers' ability to use effective teaching methods which strengthen pupils' reading skills.
- In the school's lower years, teachers plan purposeful opportunities for pupils to take part in engaging activities which link purposefully with books. For example, they recall the main events of stories skilfully and use this information to produce blurbs and creative descriptions of their favourite characters.
- In the older pupils' classes, teachers use a good range of teaching methods to develop pupils' higher-order reading skills. They model reading effectively and encourage pupils to read aloud by using appropriate tone, expression and intonation to engage the audience's interest. By reading well-known books in English and Welsh, teachers provide valuable opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of important themes and issues that are relevant to them.
- Staff work together extremely effectively to plan rich opportunities for pupils to take part in local and national reading competitions which develop their confidence, their communication skills and their enjoyment of reading successfully.

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/6692373>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director