Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru
For learners, for Wales

Gladestry C.I.W. School
Gladestry
Kington
Herefordshire
HR5 3NR

02/11/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: October 2026

A team of inspectors visited Gladestry C.I.W. School recently to consider progress in relation to its recommendation from the previous core inspection and a priority from last year's school improvement plan. The inspection team took the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk with pupils and staff, consider documentation and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Improve the provision for younger pupils

- Leaders have prioritised the development and safety of the outdoor learning environment for the younger pupils. Pupils now benefit from regular access to these areas.
- In the school's indoor and outdoor areas, staff provide a range of suitable resources that supports pupils to learn through play and promotes their independence well.
- Staff have benefited from professional learning to improve the provision for younger pupils, including visits to observe effective practice at other settings. This has developed their understanding of how to plan regular opportunities for pupils to engage in purposeful play.
- During independent learning activities, pupils from across the school collaborate well. This is a strength of the school and supports new pupils to settle in well when they begin.
- Leaders regularly evaluate the provision for younger pupils. This has supported staff to develop the role of the enabling adult and become increasingly reflective of their practice.

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To develop an agreed understanding of progression in the learning and teaching of science and technology

- Staff have collaborated on research and enquiry to enhance their professional knowledge. This has strengthened their shared understanding of the progress pupils should make in specific aspects of their learning.
- Teachers use this understanding to provide suitable opportunities for pupils to develop their scientific knowledge and skills in focused activities and through their wider learning.
- Across the school, staff place important emphasis on modelling and developing pupils' use of scientific language. This helps most pupils to talk about their learning and express their ideas more clearly.
- In the class for the youngest pupils, staff enable pupils to develop their scientific skills through practical exploration. They encourage pupils to observe closely and to make and record appropriate measurements correctly.
- As they move through the school, pupils research, gather and present scientific information independently. They analyse the results of investigations to identify patterns and draw relevant conclusions, using their existing knowledge effectively. On occasion, the use of printed resources limits expectations for older pupils to explain their thinking fully.
- Staff make worthwhile use of partnerships, visits and extra-curricular activities to enrich pupils' understanding and enjoyment of science. They good account of pupils' views and interests when planning and adapting learning experiences.

The school's latest 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/6662129

Yours sincerely



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