

Darren Thomas
Pantysgallog Primary School
Pant
Dowlais
CF48 2AD

21/10/2024

Dear Darren Thomas

Interim visit: October 2024

A team of inspectors recently visited Pantysgallog Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing the recommendations from its core inspection in March 2022. Below is a summary of progress against those recommendations. Leaders should use these findings to support further improvements in these areas.

Leaders and staff at the school have put appropriate plans in place to address these recommendations and are beginning to evaluate the impact of their improvement strategies to move the school forward.

Focus of visit

Ensure that pupils deepen and extend their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum

- Leaders and teachers have implemented a curriculum that ensures pupils have worthwhile opportunities to extend and deepen their literacy and numeracy skills in their work across the curriculum.
- Teachers in Years 3 to Year 6 have a good knowledge of Curriculum for Wales and carefully plan units of work that enable pupils to make valuable links in their learning. They plan a range of engaging, relevant and purposeful learning experiences for pupils to apply, practise and refine their literacy and numeracy skills at an appropriately challenging level. Teachers provide effective feedback to pupils, and as a result most older pupils to make good progress in developing their literacy and numeracy skills.
- Older pupils engage enthusiastically with learning experiences. They explain in detail the purpose of activities and respond well to opportunities to reflect on and improve their work. They understand why literacy and numeracy skills are important to them in their lives now and in future.

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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

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

- Leaders provide regular and valuable opportunities for teachers to plan, share and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning. Together, leaders and teachers are beginning to evaluate the impact of this work on pupils' outcomes.

Strengthen practitioners' understanding of child development to ensure that teaching is always matched appropriately to pupils' developmental needs

- The school's work to address this priority has had a notable impact on improving practice in the classes for the youngest pupils in the school. Work to refine teaching and learning experiences in the older foundation classes is at a comparatively early stage of development.
- A few staff members have attended courses, and visited local schools and settings in other countries to help improve their understanding of how young children learn. They have shared these experiences with other staff in the school. This has encouraged them to consider alternative approaches to provision for younger pupils.
- Staff have developed the inside and outside learning environments to provide calm, pleasant areas, with easily accessible resources, where pupils can play and learn effectively. Most staff have a sound appreciation of the importance of the environment, and the role of the adult in recognising and responding to pupils' developmental needs.
- Most pupils in Nursery are developing good independent learning skills and making effective progress. They often make choices and decisions about what they do, where they play and which resources they use. Most learn to take turns and play happily alongside one another at a young age. As they progress, many collaborate in their play and learning experiences.

The school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils do not give any cause for concern.

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/6752015>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
Assistant Director