

Bryntirion Infants School
Bryngolau
Bryntirion
CF31 4DD

13/11/2024

Dear Lisa Hearn

Interim visit: November 2024

A team of inspectors recently visited Bryntirion Infant School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing two of the recommendations from its core inspection in April 2023.

During the visit the team had the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, look at pupils' work and talk to pupils, staff and leaders. Below is a summary of progress.

Focus of visit

Ensure that activities develop pupils' independent skills successfully

- Senior leaders have established a productive culture of collaboration and reflection. They make beneficial use of professional development to improve specific aspects of teaching and learning that address this recommendation.
- Staff across the school have established positive relationships and clear routines that help pupils to feel secure in school. They model consistent expectations and provide a welcoming environment that supports pupils to engage well. As a result, most pupils tackle tasks readily and are confident to take risks in their learning.
- The provision for the youngest pupils provides a suitable balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning that enables most pupils to make good progress in developing their social and communication skills. Staff provide beneficial opportunities for pupils to make decisions about the resources they use and the areas of the learning environment they investigate. For example, the youngest pupils enjoy sharing picture books with their friends in the comfortable reading area and show resilience when cooperating with a partner to build a wall in the block play area.
- Following recent professional learning, staff are beginning to provide worthwhile, focused opportunities for older pupils to collaborate purposefully together. For example, they use imaginary scenarios to pose authentic

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW

Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446

ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales

www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

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.

dilemmas for pupils to resolve independently. This impacts positively on pupils' motivation and inspires them to apply their understanding and creativity successfully. These opportunities also enable pupils to take greater responsibility for what and how they learn.

- Teachers provide frequent opportunities for older pupils to work independently as part of their daily learning. They take due account of pupils' interests and often plan learning experiences that connect with wider themes they study. However, teachers do not always design independent activities that focus precisely enough on the specific skills that pupils need to develop or ensure that activities build purposefully on their previous learning and experience.
- Staff in the observation and assessment classes make effective use of visual and auditory cues and sign language to communicate successfully with pupils. They match tasks to their individual needs well. Because of this, pupils work with suitable independence and persevere appropriately. Staff monitor pupils' engagement sensitively and move learning on deftly. They support pupils to make independent choices, for instance by exchanging tokens they select for matching items from the class 'snack shop'.

Improve the learning environment for younger pupils to ensure that there are greater opportunities for them to develop their skills through play and exploration

- The school has provided suitable professional development to enhance staff's knowledge of how to use the environment to support pupils' learning effectively. Staff have responded positively to useful guidance and are developing a cohesive understanding of how to organise the environment to enable pupils to develop their skills purposefully.
- Staff in the Nursery class have made significant adaptations to the learning environment. The new layout makes better use of the increased space to support pupils' independence and to encourage them to develop a curiosity for the world around them. Most of the youngest pupils interact confidently with their environment and investigate resources readily. For example, they become immersed in their learning when using a lightbox to explore the properties of shapes.
- The indoor learning environment enables access to a range of resources that help younger pupils to develop their literacy skills successfully. Staff model reading and spoken language well. They provide engaging areas and resources for mark making and comfortable areas for pupils to share and enjoy books independently.
- Staff plan the learning environment to develop younger pupils' understanding of mathematical concepts well. For example, they provide appropriate visual and practical opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge of number, shape and measure both indoors and outdoors.
- Teachers use the outdoor environment to provide suitable opportunities for pupils' physical exploration. For instance, to develop their balance and coordination. As they move through the school, most pupils grow in confidence to ably assess and manage risk, for instance by navigating around an obstacle course they have created. Overall, however, older pupils' use of the outdoor environment is overly directed by adults and pupils do not have

enough opportunity to engage in open-ended tasks or to learn through practical experience.

Leaders and staff at the school have made worthwhile progress in addressing these recommendations. They recognise that there are aspects that could improve further and have suitable plans in place to continue to make progress.

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/6722090>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
Assistant Director