

Paula Vaughan  
Pendoylan C.I.W. Primary School  
Pendoylan  
Nr. Cowbridge  
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31/03/2025

Dear Paula Vaughan

**Interim visit:** March 2025

A team of inspectors recently visited Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School to consider the school's progress towards the recommendations from its previous core inspection report. During the visit inspectors had the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, scrutinise books and documents and meet with leaders, staff and pupils. Below is a summary of the progress made against each recommendation.

**Focus of visit**

**Refine and improve the quality of feedback to pupils so that they can understand what they need to do to improve their learning**

- Leaders have implemented strong and clear plans to refine the school's approach to the quality of feedback. This work dovetails with the school's work on curriculum development and ensures feedback is an integral part of planning processes. All staff contribute to this work.
- Leaders ensure staff have opportunities to engage in a range of beneficial professional learning activities. They encourage staff to discuss their learning together and to undertake their own research. Staff work purposefully with colleagues in their partnership of schools to further develop their knowledge of effective feedback.
- Across the school there is a shared understanding and unified approach to providing purposeful feedback to pupils. Staff consistently provide their pupils

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with meaningful and effective feedback that is appropriate to their stage of development. In lessons, adults demonstrate strong questioning skills that help them to assess pupil's understanding in the moment and efficiently move the learning on.

- When appropriate, staff begin to use simple written methods of feedback to pupils. They encourage pupils to respond to this feedback so that over time pupils do not repeat the same mistakes. As pupils get older the written feedback becomes more sophisticated. By the time they leave school this feedback is deep and encourages greater self-reflection.
- Nearly all pupils are highly engaged in their learning. They value the feedback they have from their teachers and describe how to use it to improve their work and reduce the mistakes they make. This supports pupils to make strong progress over time. Teachers feel this approach prepares pupils well for their next stage in learning.

### **Plan more opportunities for older pupils to benefit from outdoor learning**

- Leaders have prioritised improving opportunities for older pupils to benefit from rich and purposeful outdoor learning experiences. As a result of improvements to the provision, pupils now have more frequent opportunities to develop a wide range of skills in outdoor settings.
- Significant investment in outdoor learning facilities, including buildings and resources, have enhanced the quality and accessibility of outdoor experiences for older pupils. Purpose-built spaces, along with additional resources, now provide greater opportunities for hands-on exploration and skill development.
- Professional learning and research enable staff to feel more confident in delivering outdoor learning. Teachers now use a wider range of outdoor teaching methods, making lessons more engaging, practical and effective in developing pupils' problem-solving skills.
- Teachers use outdoor environments particularly well to develop problem-solving and scientific skills. Hands-on investigations, experiments, and inquiry-based learning experiences, encourage pupils to think critically and apply their knowledge in practical ways.
- The school has made strong progress in developing outdoor learning to provide valuable opportunities for older pupils to engage with nature. Leaders recognise the need to enhance the creative use of natural materials as part of outdoor learning experiences.
- Pupils have valuable opportunities to influence their outdoor learning and to suggest activities that develop their skills. Staff value their contributions and this helps pupils to develop pupils' independence and responsibility for their learning.

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/6733363>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director