

Helen Oldfield
Ysgol Bro Alun
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This letter is also available in Welsh

14/07/2025

Dear Helen Oldfield

Interim Visit: June 2025

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

Focus of visit

Improve pupils' standards of literacy and numeracy, particularly at the top of the school

- Teachers plan interesting opportunities jointly for pupils to apply their literacy and numeracy skills purposefully. Learning activities provide an appropriate challenge in supporting most pupils to make consistent progress in their skills across the areas of learning and experience over time.
- Leaders and teachers have developed consistent methods to equip pupils to develop and refine their writing skills in different genres constructively over time.
- By the top of the school, pupils apply their extended writing skills purposefully in their learning activities across the areas of learning and experience.
- As pupils' skills mature, teachers provide meaningful opportunities for them to practise and nurture their mathematics and numeracy skills in real-life and familiar contexts.

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

- In general, provision within the indoor learning areas is purposeful and provides beneficial opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy and numeracy skills regularly. Leaders recognise the need to strengthen provision and use the outdoor learning areas more consistently to promote pupils' skills continuously.
- The oldest pupils apply their skills purposefully when taking part in regular entrepreneurship projects, by paying attention to profit and loss.
- Leaders create a positive culture and ethos to promote and support staff's professional learning. These opportunities encourage effective co-operation in developing a consistent accounting policy with local schools and planning rich learning activities for pupils.
- The numeracy lead takes advantage of appropriate opportunities to observe learning sessions in the local secondary school to ensure consistency in teaching methods for specific aspect of mathematics to facilitate effective transition arrangements.

Improve standards of Welsh across the school, beginning with pupils' willingness to communicate in Welsh

- The school has a strong Welsh ethos which encourages pupils to use the Welsh language regularly in all aspects of school life.
- Leaders promote the benefits of learning Welsh and being bilingual successfully. Staff are passionate about the Welsh language and take advantage of every opportunity to nurture and refine pupils' oral Welsh skills. This equips pupils to make sound use of the Welsh language during their learning sessions.
- Across the school, staff are given effective professional learning opportunities to improve pupils' communication skills. They work successfully with the local Welsh immersion centre to share good practice and resources. This, in turn, has a positive effect on teaching skills and on consistent progress in most pupils' oral Welsh skills.
- From an early age, staff introduce purposeful language acquisition methods to pupils by using gestures and repeating language patterns regularly, which enables them to learn the Welsh language quickly. This supports pupils to be full participants in learning sessions in a short period of time.
- As pupils' skills mature, they have a firm grasp of language patterns and they apply the Welsh language effectively when discussing topics and presenting information.
- The 'language ambassadors' group operate enthusiastically and undertake their leadership responsibilities with pride and maturity. They encourage pupils successfully to use the Welsh language consistently.
- Staff organise purposeful activities to raise parents' awareness of ways to support their children to use the Welsh language. The youngest pupils take a toy home to practise their Welsh with their families. This promotes Welsh speaking skills purposefully between parents and their children.

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/6652279>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director