

Joanne Cueto
Newport Nursery School
Church Road
Newport
NP19 7EJ

28/04/2025

Dear Joanne Cueto

Interim visit: April 2025

A team of inspectors visited Newport Nursery School to consider progress against the recommendations from its previous core inspection in March 2023. Below is a summary of progress against these focus areas.

Focus of visit

Ensure that teachers create learning experiences and environments that enable pupils to become independent, curious, and creative learners

- Staff provide an extensive range of carefully planned activities that spark nearly all pupils' curiosity and enthusiasm well. They make good use of observation to take note of what interests pupils and of the progress they make. They use this knowledge to adapt plans and to adjust the learning environment in order to build on pupils' learning effectively.
- Teachers provide all pupils with space and time to become deeply engaged in their learning during periods of uninterrupted play. They enable pupils to move freely indoors and outdoors and to choose suitable materials and resources independently. Most pupils explore their environment readily and tackle planned and self-directed activities enthusiastically.
- Staff use engaging prompts and resources to stimulate pupils' thinking well. As a result, pupils often play imaginatively. For example, by role-playing scenarios with their friends using a bus they have constructed from blocks. This supports pupils to develop their creativity, to learn from each other and to express themselves purposefully.

Estyn, Llys Angor, Heol Keen, Caerdydd,
CF24 5JW Ffôn: 02920 446446
ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru
www.estyn.llyw.cymru

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Estyn, Anchor Court, Keen Road,
Cardiff, CF24 5JW Telephone: 02920
446446 enquiries@estyn.gov.wales
www.estyn.gov.wales

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- Teachers and teaching assistants work alongside pupils to model skills and behaviours deftly. They are alert to teachable moments and respond to pupils' learning using thoughtful questioning to extend and challenge their thinking and to support their language development as part of their play.
- Staff in the Communication Class adapt the provision flexibly to meet the individual needs of pupils well. They support pupils sensitively to engage in stimulating sensory experiences without feeling overwhelmed. They reflect on pupils' progress in the moment and provide immediate praise and encouragement that highlight pupils' steps forward.

Develop the school's curriculum to reflect the learning needs of early years pupils

- Since the inspection, staff at all levels have undertaken relevant professional learning to support them in their roles. This includes useful specialist training for staff in the school's Communication Class. As a result, nearly all staff have a sound understanding of early child development and of the principles that inform the curriculum for non-maintained settings in Wales.
- Leaders and staff have used this knowledge to collaborate on improvements successfully. Consequently, the school's curriculum provides a vibrant range of exciting experiences that are closely matched to the needs and interests of nearly all pupils.
- Staff provide authentic opportunities for pupils to develop their skills holistically. For example, they support pupils to develop their communication skills and to build an early understanding of mathematical concepts through free and structured play. Provision for pupils to develop their physical skills is integrated highly effectively.
- The environment, indoors and outdoors, is a rich resource for pupils' learning. Staff organise it thoughtfully to stimulate pupils' curiosity, enable their independence and to enhance their knowledge and skills. For example, they help pupils to learn how plants use water and what worms need to live after observing pupils watering and digging in the garden area.
- Staff develop pupils' confidence to solve problems and to take appropriate risks through activities that encourage them to explore and create. This bolsters pupils' sense of agency and enhances their self-esteem.
- Staff in the Communication Class and the mainstream class collaborate well. They use their combined expertise to develop inclusive approaches to teaching and learning that benefit pupils across the school.

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/6801019>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director