

Rachel John
Newton Primary School
New Road
Porthcawl
CF36 5BL

28/04/2025

Dear Rachel John

Interim visit: April 2025

A team of inspectors visited Newton Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing two of the recommendations from its core inspection in February 2023. Below is a summary of progress against these focus areas.

Overall, leaders and staff have a strong understanding of the school's current strengths and areas for improvement and have effective plans in place to continue to move the school forward.

Focus of visit

Improve the teaching of writing and increase the range of opportunities, particularly for older pupils, to apply their skills fully.

- Senior leaders have successfully planned and implemented strategies to improve the teaching of writing across the school. Professional learning for all staff is having a positive impact on developing pupils' readiness to write from a young age. As they move through the school, most pupils enjoy writing and make strong progress.
- Teachers plan purposeful opportunities for pupils to write. Writing activities link naturally to topics and give pupils a clear sense of the value of being able to write well. Writing activities often have a purposeful end goal, for example, writing persuasive speeches for their 'save the sea' protest march.

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- The consistent use of modelled writing ensures pupils have a secure understanding of what is expected in their writing. Pupils use these models alongside a range of tools, including working walls and word banks, to write independently to a high standard.
- Teachers support pupils skilfully with their next steps in writing. They use 'pitstops' effectively, to quickly address misconceptions, teach new vocabulary and extend pupils' ideas for writing. Pupils have a good understanding of how to improve their writing and do so independently, to make rapid progress in lessons and over time.
- Leaders regularly monitor the quality of teaching and learning. In doing so, they have accurately identified the need to broaden the opportunities for pupils to write independently across the curriculum and to enhance older pupils' vocabulary to further develop their writing.

Provide clear feedback to pupils that helps them to improve their work successfully

- Leaders have clear strategies in place to develop feedback across the school. Staff have benefited from professional development, including visits to other schools and continuous discussion and review. These opportunities have had a highly effective impact on pupils' engagement, learning and progress. In particular, the work to improve staff and pupil dialogue is making a significant difference to the quality of teaching and learning.
- Across the school, staff establish warm working relationships with pupils that help them feel involved in their learning. From a young age pupils are highly engaged and develop a 'have a go' attitude. They understand that mistakes help them learn and relish opportunities to learn something new.
- Teachers use verbal feedback purposefully and creatively to ensure pupils understand what they have done well, how they need to improve and why. They make their expectations clear, address errors and misconceptions quickly and ask questions that help pupils to build on their learning. Teachers allow time for pupils to share their ideas, reflect on their work and assess their own progress. Pupils know how to access the support they need when their work is challenging and readily draw on strategies to develop as resilient, independent learners.
- Staff have carefully considered what progression looks like and plan effectively for pupils' next steps. As pupils move through the school, they develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of how the feedback they receive during lessons supports them to improve their work. Over time this ensures that pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN) make exceptional progress in developing their knowledge and skills.

The school's/PRU'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/6722185>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director