

Catherine Hughes  
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28/04/2025

Dear Catherine Hughes

**Interim visit:** April 2025

A team of inspectors visited Parclewis Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing two of the recommendations from its core inspection in May 2022. Below is a summary of progress against these focus areas. Leaders should use these findings to support further improvements in these areas.

Leaders have a developing understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement, and are continuing to develop strategies to move the school forward. They recognise the need to keep focusing on the recommendations from the core inspection, and particularly the need to continue to improve teaching.

**Focus of visit**

**Ensure that teachers provide the right level of challenge for all pupils**

- In general, teachers understand the importance of providing pupils with learning experiences that challenge them and match their developmental needs. The success with which they do this still varies too much.
- In the younger classes, teachers provide pupils with an interesting learning environment, indoors and outdoors, that engages pupils well and motivates them to learn. Nevertheless, the pace of learning is often too slow, and pupils spend too little time engaging in challenging, purposeful learning activities.

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- In a minority of older classes, teachers' expectations of pupils are appropriately strong. They provide pupils with activities that challenge their thinking and help them to make useful progress. In other cases, activities lack purpose and do not develop pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding effectively enough.
- During lessons, around half of teachers recognise well when pupils make errors or do not understand their learning. They question pupils carefully and give them useful feedback that challenges their thinking and helps them to improve their learning. However, these processes are not consistently effective across the school.
- Leaders have recently improved processes to identify and to evaluate pupils' progress, such as regular pupil progress meetings. This is beginning to help teachers think more carefully about how they can challenge pupils more effectively. These processes are still in their infancy.

**Sharpen self-evaluation processes to ensure that action plans focus on specific areas for improvement.**

- The headteacher is realistic, open and reflective. She has taken a sensible approach to addressing this recommendation. Following her recent appointment, she has gained an appropriate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement.
- The headteacher has begun to use a range of monitoring and evaluation strategies, including a Welsh Government model, to help identify specific areas of the school's work that require improvement. This is beginning to ensure that improvement strategies focus more specifically on key aspects of teaching in greatest need of improvement. Leaders are aware of the need to further refine action plans and improvement strategies so that they focus more clearly on the areas in need of most improvement.
- Leaders have begun to work more widely with staff to implement changes and bring about improvement. Following joint monitoring and evaluation activities, senior leaders have collaborated successfully to establish new systems to evaluate pupils' learning. This is beginning to help ensure that teachers track pupils' progress more effectively. As a result, leaders now have a clearer understanding of pupils' starting points and the progress that they make over time.
- A few middle leaders have benefitted from appropriate professional learning that is beginning to allow them to play a more strategic role in self-evaluation processes. They have begun to scrutinise pupils' learning more effectively to better inform improvement strategies.
- Work to involve the Governing Body more fully in evaluating the work of the school remains at an early stage of development.

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/6742137>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director