

Andrew Jones
Ysgol Derwenfa
Queen Street
Leeswood
Nr. Mold
Flintshire
CH7 4RQ

04/06/2025

Dear Andrew Jones

Interim visit: May 2025

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol Derwenfa recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from the previous core inspection. The inspection team took the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk with pupils and staff, consider documentation, and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Improve opportunities for pupils to develop their numeracy and digital skills progressively across the curriculum

- Leaders have established a focused and comprehensive, whole school approach to developing pupils' numeracy and digital skills. They work strategically to develop provision through a well-considered curriculum with engaging learning experiences.
- Leaders work with external agencies to provide a range of beneficial professional learning for staff. This has a positive impact on the quality of provision, and teachers have a clear understanding of pupil progress in their numeracy and digital skills.

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

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

- Teachers plan regular opportunities to develop pupils' numeracy and digital skills progressively across the curriculum. They provide authentic and purposeful experiences that engage and enthuse pupils well. Teachers adapt learning experiences to meet the needs of their class and of individual pupils. By the time they reach Year 6, nearly all pupils use a broad range of digital and numeracy skills effectively in a range of authentic contexts.
- Leaders and staff monitor the provision to develop pupils' digital and numeracy skills effectively.

Improve pupils' speaking skills in Welsh

- School leaders have introduced clear strategies for ensuring pupils' progress in Welsh language skills. This has included effective collaboration with external partners, beneficial professional learning for staff and the introduction of a structured and progressive scheme of work.
- Leaders have successfully raised the profile of the Welsh language by incorporating aspects of Welsh culture past and present, including from the modern era, into the school's curriculum effectively.
- The Criw Cymraeg contribute purposefully to the development of pupils' Welsh language skills by leading activities at breaktimes and Welsh language assemblies.
- Staff model the Welsh language well and with enthusiasm in designated Welsh lessons. They also take advantage of relevant opportunities to extend pupils' use of Welsh into their wider topic work.
- Teachers skilfully incorporate opportunities for younger pupils to use and develop their Welsh language skills into learning activities and play experiences.
- Across the school, most pupils are beginning to make good progress in speaking Welsh. They are developing a suitable range of vocabulary and sentence patterns that they recall quickly and use with growing confidence in a range of contexts.

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/6642092>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director