

Judith Edwards
Abercanaid Community School
The Park
Abercanaid
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1SZ

01/07/2025

Dear Judith Edwards

Interim visit: June 2025

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

Focus of visit

Sharpen self-evaluation and monitoring activities to enable leaders to identify key areas for improvement, particularly in teaching.

- Leaders have a suitable plan to monitor, evaluate, and review the school's work. However, leaders recognise the need to focus monitoring activities and feedback to teachers more sharply on identifying strengths and areas for development in their teaching skills.
- Staff have beneficial opportunities to evaluate teaching and learning within their designated areas of responsibility. As a result, they are developing a sound understanding of strengths and the support they need to provide for staff.
- Leaders work collaboratively with staff to set performance targets linked to school improvement priorities and pupil progress. They plan beneficial opportunities for staff to work collaboratively with teachers in other schools to work on areas for improvement. For example, a recent focus on questioning has improved the quality and effectiveness of questioning pupils to assess learning.

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

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

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.

Improve provision to develop pupils' numeracy skills

- Overall, teachers plan appropriately for the progression of pupils' number skills. In a majority of classes expectations of what pupils can achieve are suitably high.
- A particular strength has been the establishment of a calculations policy, created alongside partner schools. This has led to the strengthening of pupils understanding of a range of methods when using the four operations.
- In many classes, pupils benefit from suitable opportunities to develop and apply their mathematics skills in engaging activities. In these instances, pupils respond positively, enjoy the challenge, and use their skills purposefully.
- Leaders provide useful professional learning for staff. They model effective pedagogy, identify areas for development accurately and work alongside staff to secure more consistent approaches to teaching mathematics and numeracy that improve pupil outcomes.
- In a few instances, teaching is less well matched to pupils' needs and teachers' understanding of how best to teach mathematical concepts is at an earlier stage of development. In these lessons, pupils do not always strengthen their understanding of mathematical concepts well enough.
- Leaders recognise the need to strengthen teachers' planning for pupils to apply their numeracy skills more systematically across the curriculum.

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/6752000>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director