

Lisa Bowden
Monnow Primary School
Darent Close
Newport
NP20 7SQ

11/06/2025

Dear Lisa Bowden

Interim visit: May 2025

A team of inspectors visited Monnow Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to 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 attendance

- The school has a robust approach to monitoring and managing pupils' attendance. Leaders and staff know their families well and understand pupils' barriers to better attendance.
- Staff work with families diligently to support them to bring their children to school regularly. This encouragement begins as soon as pupils join the school in the nursery class.
- The school works with a range of agencies, including the local authority, to encourage good attendance. This often enables families to obtain support when needed.
- The school promotes the reasons for, and benefits of, attending school regularly. Pupils are encouraged to attend through strategies, such as the use of rewards. Many older pupils understand well the importance of good attendance.

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.

- Despite the school's extensive efforts, rates of attendance have only risen slightly, and a significant proportion of pupils are persistently absent from school. Too often, parents are reluctant to engage with the school and outside agencies to ensure their children attend more regularly.

Improve standards in Welsh

- Throughout the school, teachers have developed learning areas carefully to celebrate the Welsh language and provide pupils with a language-rich environment.
- Leaders have provided teachers with a suitable range of professional learning to help them to be more confident when speaking with pupils in Welsh. As a result, most teachers speak Welsh in the classroom regularly, and this helps pupils to hear the language in everyday use.
- At present, teachers do not always encourage pupils to respond in Welsh or to use the Welsh that they are learning often enough.
- Teachers ensure that pupils have regular opportunities to develop their understanding of Welsh through interesting activities and games. Most pupils engage with these positively.
- Many of the younger pupils use a few simple Welsh words and phrases competently, such as when greeting others and counting objects. Many older pupils use a more varied, but simple range of sentence patterns, for instance telling others what they like and do not like.
- Overall, learning activities focus too much on developing pupils' reading and writing skills, so pupils do not always speak confidently or fluently.

Further develop professional learning to improve consistency of teaching, and the work of teaching assistants

- School leaders have sharpened their focus on using observations of learning to inform staff professional development. They use this thoughtfully to identify areas in which teachers and support staff would benefit from professional learning.
- Leaders provide appropriate professional learning to teachers and support staff to help them develop their role in supporting and enabling pupils' learning. This is helping to ensure that many teachers are confident in developing pupils' knowledge and skills.
- Professional learning to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the younger classes has ensured that many younger pupils are developing as engaged and independent learners.

- Professional learning for staff on developing pupils' phonological awareness has ensured a consistency of approach across the school. This supports pupils in developing their reading skills competently.

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/6802318>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director