

Madras Voluntary Aided Primary School
Penley
Wrexham
LL13 0LU

20/04/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: March 2026

A team of inspectors visited Madras Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to your 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

Ensure that evaluation and improvement processes focus more closely on the impact of the school's provision on pupils' learning

- Leaders use a beneficial range of activities to monitor the work of the school. They collaborate well with staff to evaluate pupil progress through activities such as learning walks and looking at pupils' work.
- Leaders work closely with staff to identify priority areas for development and plan for school improvement. They ensure they focus clearly on outcomes for pupils.
- Leaders are committed to improving the impact of evaluations and have trialled new ways of working. They have introduced 'triads', where staff work with colleagues to evaluate each other's practice. These have had a positive impact on developing professional dialogue and a shared understanding of expectations.
- Leaders are beginning to identify strong practice that they share across the school.
- Teachers evaluate progress in relation to the school's improvement priorities regularly and identify how improved classroom practice impacts on pupils' learning. This has supported staff to gain a suitable understanding of pupil progress in reading and spelling.

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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.

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

- Staff are developing the role of pupil leaders within the school improvement cycle. This is beginning to have a positive impact. For instance, after consulting with their peers, pupil leaders requested reading corners in every classroom.

Share the best teaching practices to ensure regular opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills fully

- Leaders recognise that the school is at an early stage in strengthening the consistency of opportunities for independent learning.
- Teachers provide growing opportunities for pupils to influence what and how they learn. They regularly provide pupils with choices such as deciding which castle they want to learn about, or how they will present their work.
- Engaging topics such as Food Around the World enable pupils to take ownership of their learning successfully, such as by taking the lead in creating a themed restaurant for parents. Pupils design their own menu, cook food and provide entertainment. This supports independent learning well.
- Staff have begun to develop learning environments to support pupils' independent learning. Pupils refer to useful word mats and displays to help them with their work. These are effective in supporting pupils' writing skills, such as the spelling of key words or the use of new vocabulary.
- Across the school, feedback supports pupils to recognise what they have done well as well as knowing any areas to develop. This is beginning to support pupils to reflect on their learning and understand how to improve their work. Most older pupils identify a few ways to make improvements to their writing.
- Staff provide regular opportunities for pupils to work in pairs or groups to share and discuss their individual ideas. In a few cases, teachers use this approach skilfully to help pupils develop specific skills.
- In the youngest classes staff regularly provide opportunities for pupils to engage in practical activities and make choices about where they play. However, adults direct many activities and opportunities for pupils to lead their own learning through open ended play are underdeveloped.

The school's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

[Inspection report Madras Primary School 2024](#)

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director