



Together We Soar to Success

Great news... Ogmore Vale Primary has been removed from Special Measures.

We are so pleased to inform you that Ogmore Vale Primary School have been removed from the formal follow-up category of Special Measures. During the first week of November, Estyn completed a monitoring visit to review our progress against the post inspection plan. Each of the six recommendations were reviewed in great detail, and it was felt that significant progress has been made in each of the recommendations.

Some of the key findings in the report are:

- Since being appointed, the headteacher and deputy head have worked with energy and determination to establish and implement strategic plans for improvement. Together, they provide clear lines of accountability and have high expectations.
- Since the start of the summer term 2021, the pace and consistency of improvement has returned. All school leaders are able to work together effectively once again to make improvements in provision, teaching and learning and leadership.
- Members of the Interim Executive Board, appointed in May 2021, offer the school skilful support, and provide relevant and appropriate levels of challenge that help them maintain progress.
- The school now has a comprehensive programme to monitor and evaluate the quality of the school's provision and the standards that pupils achieve.
- To help achieve consistency and to improve teaching, leaders have introduced the 'Ogmore Vale' way. This provides clear expectations and essential guidance to all staff and considers important aspects of school life, including teaching.
- All teachers engage in a wide range of professional learning opportunities, including in-house mentoring. They continued with their professional learning through the periods of lockdown during the pandemic, for example by focussing on improving online learning.
- Most teachers focus on pupil progress and standards as the measure of success for their improvement, such as the development of pupils' reading skills. As a result, the quality of teaching at the school has improved.
- Leaders have introduced a range of useful strategies to improve standards in reading across the school. They have established a systematic approach to developing reading, with clear expectations, for all staff.
- Throughout the school, there is a clear emphasis on fostering pupils' love of reading for enjoyment, and nearly all pupils are developing positive attitudes towards reading.
- Despite the interruptions in learning caused by the pandemic, many pupils read well, and a minority have strong reading skills.
- The school has a broad range of screening programmes and processes to help teachers identify when pupils need extra help and support. Leaders have provided staff with valuable professional learning to help them to assess and evaluate pupils' achievements more accurately.
- The school provides pupils with a beneficial range of interventions to support their learning, and staff are deployed effectively to address the needs of these pupils.
- Since the core inspection, the school has introduced several learner voice groups, including a school council, a healthy schools group and a digital leaders' group. Members of these groups understand their role in improving the work of the school for the benefit of pupils.

They appreciate opportunities to work alongside members of staff and influence changes within the school.

- Overall, the contribution that pupils make to the life and work of the school has grown considerably since the core inspection in 2017. They are, quite rightly proud of the work that they do, and are now ready to take more direct responsibility for leading and directing the work of these groups.

We are immensely proud of all of the determination, hard work and commitment to improvement that the staff of Ogmores Vale Primary have shown since April 2019. We would also like to thank the parents, carers and pupils for all of their support over the last two and a half years. Despite the challenges that the global pandemic has brought, we have still continued with our successful school improvement journey and the report from Estyn recognises and acknowledges this.

This is not the end of our school improvement book, but the start of our next chapter and we very much look forward to sharing this with you.

Cllr Martyn Jones (Chair of Interim Executive Board)
Mrs Joe Colsey (Headteacher)