

RE-INSPECTION

CILYCWM CHURCH IN WALES VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

24-25 May, 2007

Cilycwm Church In Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School was inspected in June 2006, and judged to have serious weaknesses, as set out in the Welsh Assembly Government's Circular 28/03: Schools requiring special measures or found to have serious weaknesses following inspection under Section 10 of the School Inspection Act 1996 (December 2002).

As part of the Welsh Assembly Government's requirements for schools with serious weaknesses, Estyn undertook a follow-up inspection in May 2007.

Outcome of the inspection

Since the last inspection, improvements have been made in the leadership and management of the school. However, these improvements are at an early stage of development. They have yet to impact fully on raising pupils' standards of achievement, the quality of provision particularly for children under-five and the quality of teaching. As a result, the school will remain on the list of schools with serious weaknesses.

This report is a summary of the re-inspection findings.

Progress since the last inspection

The school is making progress in:

- developing younger pupils' knowledge of songs and rhymes in Welsh;
- improving the quality of older pupils' oral and written work in Welsh;
- improving pupils' ability to name un-tuned percussion instruments and follow simple rhythmic patterns in music;
- giving more emphasis to providing opportunities for pupils to use Welsh in lessons across the curriculum;
- improving planning for the delivery of National Curriculum subjects and key skills;
- working with other schools to share expertise and enrich pupils' learning experiences;
- extending the range of extra-curricular and out-of-school activities;

- implementing appropriate strategies to promote good behaviour;
- setting a clear strategic direction to the life and work of the school;
- establishing a positive Welsh ethos which reflects the stated aims of the school; and
- introducing a planned programme to monitor and evaluate the work within classrooms.

Recommendations for improvement

In order to maintain and improve on this progress, the school should:

- continue to address the shortcomings identified in Welsh, music, pupils' bilingual competency and the standards achieved by children under-five;
- raise expectations and provide more challenging work for all pupils;
- make certain that activities for children under-five are appropriate for their stage of development;
- continue to improve short term planning;
- improve the assessment of pupils' work and use this information as a basis for setting individual targets for improvement;
- further develop joint working with the local family of schools;
- identify clearer short-term priorities for improvement;
- define more precisely the roles of staff in school improvement and use performance management more effectively as a tool to help raise standards;
- continue to monitor the teaching, learning and quality of educational provision; and
- ensure the school meets all statutory requirements.

HMI will re-inspection the school in around one year's time to monitor progress.