



City And County Of Swansea

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

To: Councillor Jennifer Raynor Cabinet member for education	Please ask for: Gofynnwch am:	Scrutiny
	Scrutiny Office Line: Llinell Uniongyrochol: e-Mail e-Bost: Date Dyddiad:	01792 637256 scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk 26 October 2015

This is a letter from the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education following the meeting of the Panel on 8 October 2015. It highlights the Panel's discussion and any outcomes arising.

Dear Cllr Raynor

Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel on 8 October 2015

At our panel meeting on the 8 October 2015 we looked at the performance and outcomes at Casllwchwr Primary School. We spoke to the Challenge Advisor about performance at the school and then we met with the school's Headteacher and Chair of Governors. This letter details our thoughts.

We found there to be consistency in the information provided by the Challenge Advisor and in where the school feel they are at. The Panel were informed by the Challenge Advisor that the school is progressing in the right direction. The Headteacher recognises the school needs to improve and is proactive at putting things in place to address concerns. It was felt that the Headteacher has a good grasp of what the school needs to do in order to improve and there are no blocks at the school in terms of leadership.

We recognise that difficulties had occurred when the school was left without a functioning management team, which coincided with an Estyn Inspection and difficulties in support from the school improvement service. We were informed that since that time a new Headteacher and leadership team had been appointed at the school and also a new team of challenge advisors have been put in place in Swansea and support from this service had improved greatly.

The panel agreed that it was crucial that a stronger foundation in relation to leadership capacity was needed and is being developed. We were also pleased to hear how Governors are supportive and are now playing an active role in driving the school development plan while supporting and challenging performance.

We recognise the importance of developing a systematic approach to self-evaluation and were encouraged by the recognition of this by the school and governing body.

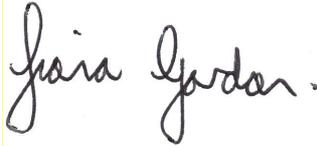
The panel were interested in the good practice being developed in the school using real life contexts to apply skills in learning called developing rich tasks and that was being used in writing and applying numeracy skills.

The Headteacher is hopeful that the school will now come out of 'significant improvement' when Estyn return in November. Panel asked for feedback from this November inspection and the school agreed to this. The Headteacher said that the challenge advisor for the school has been outstanding in supporting them to improve.

Finally, the Panel look forward to seeing further improvements now the school has an effective leadership team and all the building blocks for improvement are in place.

The Panel does not require a formal written response to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin yellow rectangular border.

Fiona Gordon
Convener of Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel
fiona.gordon@swansea.gov.uk