



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To:
Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637256
Line: Llinell
Uniongyrochol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 03 November 2016
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education following the meeting of the Panel on the 19 October 2016. It is about school improvement at Bryniago Welsh Medium Primary School.

Dear Cllr Raynor

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

The Panel met on the 19 October and following a preparation session with the Challenge Advisor, spoke to the Headteacher and Governor of Bryniago Welsh Medium Primary School. We chose to speak to this school because it had been recently inspected and had received a judgement of Adequate for current performance and Adequate for prospects for improvement. We wanted to discuss how their improvement journey was progressing.

The Challenge Advisor outlined the context and current position at the school explaining that the school has improved over the last five years. Since the recent Estyn inspection the school has taken on the recommendations and have agreed a way forward including developing a new senior management structure. The school has had some issues over recent years with performance of a small number of staff and that is being addressed. The school is also showing some good and excellent practice but the consistent quality of teaching has been an issue. They are putting solutions in place to address this. We heard they have put a large number of new practices and processes in place including many new systems that did not exist previously but that it is important that they focus on their core priorities as identified in the PIAP. Also their understanding of and use of data to push improvement forward is something that needs to continue to be developed further. The school produces vast amounts of data but at present this does not seem to be reflected when driving improvements.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors gave the Panel a detailed presentation addressing our key questions. We were particularly pleased to hear about the:

- development of a new senior management team structure at the school
- focus on improving teaching and learning especially the concept of triads of 3 teachers sharing lesson observations and practice, and
- governing body working together with school to address challenges faced and participating in the lesson observation and moderation at the school.

However we did question whether the school, in its push to improve, is potentially trying to do too many things at once, resulting in this being done adequately rather than very well. The Panel felt it would be better concentrating specifically on a smaller number of key priorities in the first instance.

The school identified some of the challenges it will face over coming years, including the delivery of necessary improvements in the face of budget cuts that will equate to 2.5% of the school budget and the increased pressure on budgets relating to severe and complex needs support and behavioral issues.

The school was asked if there was anything that the local authority could do to continue to support the school into the future. The Headteacher said that they have experienced some difficulty in relation to the Welsh Translation Service in relation to turnaround times. They would welcome any improvement that can bring down translation time.

In conclusion, the Panel believes that the school had done a lot of work in the past five years to improve outcomes and although there is still much to be done, agreed that they are on the right track.

This letter does not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Paul Meara
Convener Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel
Cllr.paul.meara@swansea.gov.uk