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Dear Parents and Carers

Publication of Estyn Report

Following our Estyn Inspection, which took place in the week beginning the 30th November 2015, I can confirm that the report has now been published on the Estyn website: www.estyn.gov.wales. You can also find a copy on the school website and there are paper copies available at the office on request.

The school's current performance has been judged to be **ADEQUATE**, which means that our strengths outweigh our areas for improvement and our capacity to make further improvements has been judged as **GOOD**.

Below are just a few of the many strengths highlighted throughout the report:

- Pupils' standards have significantly improved in most areas over the last two years;
- Staff develop positive working relationships with pupils, interact with them well in most classes and are sensitive to their emotional needs.
- Many lessons move along at good pace, which results in suitable levels of pupil engagement;
- Classroom assistants support pupils' learning effectively
- The school has made significant improvements in its assessment processes to ensure that the outcomes and levels awarded to pupils at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 are accurate.
- The school is a caring, supportive community that promotes pupils' health and wellbeing successfully
- The school has effective procedures for identifying, at an early stage, the additional learning needs of pupils who need extra support.
- The school provides a caring and welcoming environment for its pupils and staff.
- The school develops caring attitudes and ensures that pupils and staff are free from bullying and harassment.
- The internal accommodation is attractive, vibrant and stimulating. Displays are consistently of high quality; they are colourful, celebrate pupils' achievements well and help to support pupils' learning successfully.
- The headteacher provides strong and purposeful leadership to a committed team of staff. She has a clear vision for developing the school, has appropriately high expectations and communicates these effectively to staff, pupils, parents and governors.
- Senior teachers and subject leaders share their responsibilities well and the quality of leadership at all levels is good.
- The school is receptive to new ideas and regularly seeks new ways to improve its provision. This has a beneficial impact on pupil progress and wellbeing
- Over the last two years, the governors have received effective training and gained a thorough understanding of their role and expectation as critical friends.
- Since the appointment of the current headteacher, governors have a clear understanding of the school's performance compared with that of similar schools and use this to support and to challenge leaders effectively.
- The governors have used their authority effectively to secure sound leadership for the school. The headteacher, governing body and senior leadership team have identified the need to secure

improvement in many important areas of the school's work, particularly in teaching, learning and assessment. They are driving up standards and the quality of provision effectively from a relatively low base. As a result, this is an improving school.

The school has been given the following recommendations to focus on all of which already feature in the current school development plan.

R1: Improve pupils' extended writing and numeracy skills across the curriculum, particularly in key stage 2

R2: Raise standards in ICT

R3: Improve attendance

R4: Improve the provision for developing pupils' understanding of the Welsh dimension

R5: Ensure that teaching is consistently good in all classes

The report is very clear on the **significant improvements** that have been made across the board since Miss Sellars took up post in January 2014 and confirms that Penygarn is an improving school that is now well placed to go from strength to strength. The dedication, hard work and commitment of all the school staff and community have been instrumental in bringing about the positive changes seen so far.

Thank – you for your continued support and commitment to Penygarn Community Primary School.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Ford
Chair of Governors