



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools**

Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

Thursday, 21 March 2019 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
M A Langstone

Councillor(s)

M Durke
D W Helliwell

Councillor(s)

S J Gallagher
L James

Co-opted Member(s)

A Roberts

Other Attendees

Alison Bastian, Headteacher Burlais Primary School
Chris Holley, Chair of Governors Burlais Primary School

Officer(s)

Fiona Jones, Challenge Advisor
Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): B Hopkins, S M Jones, H M Morris, M Sykes and L J Tyler-Lloyd
Co-opted Member(s): D Anderson-Thomas

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

2 Notes and Conveners Letters

Received

3 4.00pm Preparation with Challenge Advisor

The Panel met with the Schools Challenge Advisor to discuss the schools improvement journey in preparation for their session with Burlais Primary School.

4 4.30pm Schools Session - Burlais Primary School

The Panel met with the Headteacher Alison Bastian and the Chair of Governors Chris Holley of Burlais Primary School to discuss their improvement journey.

They chose to speak to this school because it has been highlighted as Amber on the support and categorisation matrix. The Panel were pleased to hear that it has subsequently move to Yellow. Councillors wanted to discuss what the school is doing to improve its current performance and its prospects for improvement.

The Panel heard from the Headteacher about the context of the school including it being a new school that is an amalgamation of two primary schools. That it is a large primary school with currently 553 pupils on role and that this is also reflected in a large teaching and support staff. There are 31.6% of pupils are eFSM and 10.7% EAL.

From the discussion with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and the Challenge Adviser the Panel concluded that the improvements the school have put in place are bearing fruit and there is a much improved picture from the time of the original Estyn Inspection. This has also been evidenced by the school being removed from any Estyn follow up activity in December 2018.

The Panel felt that this is mainly due to:

- The school having a supportive, engaged and challenging governing body that has the necessary skills to help to drive improvement.
- The Headteacher and Senior Management Team at the school are driving that improvement fully.
- The schools willingness to work with, and receive support from, the local authority and the Education Improvement Service.
- The milestones for improvement that were put in place after the inspection have/are been adhered to.
- The school learning from and sharing their good practice with other schools.
- The school having strong support from parents and the local community with the school working taking its role in the community seriously.

The Panel thanked and wished to congratulate the Headteacher, the Challenge Advisor and the governing body at the school for their hard work and commitment to this improvement journey which they feel is clearly showing to be successful.

5 Work Programme 2018/2019

The next meeting on the 2 May will be joint with the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Panel to look at the educational outcomes of looked after children.

The meeting ended at 5.45 pm