



City And County Of Swansea

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

To:	Please ask for: Gofynnwch am:	Michelle Roberts
Councillor Jennifer Raynor Cabinet member for education	Scrutiny Office Line: Llinell Uniongyrochol: e-Mail e-Bost: Date Dyddiad:	01792 637256 michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk 30 January 2015

Dear Cllr Raynor

Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel on 22 January 2015

At our panel meeting on the 22 January we looked at the performance and outcomes at Clwyd 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 the difficulties relating to the context in which the school works with currently 54.7% Free School Meals, 50.2% children who are on Special Educational Needs register, 14% English as an Additional Language, 86% of children living in 20% most deprived area in Wales and 4 Special Teaching Facilities. The Headteacher also explained that he could spend around a day and a half a week at meetings relating to Social Services involvement of children at the school.

The school is working to address these challenges. We were particularly keen to hear about the work with and engaging of families and local communities, helping to break down barriers and including parents in their child's education. We also understand that some children do start nursery at a lower baseline and were encouraged to hear that that the school now has responsibility for Flying Start so they can plan and start to address the issues with these children at an earlier stage.

The Panel were pleased to hear that the school is looking at improving learner outcomes by having more regular and rigorous monitoring of teaching, learning and

standards with all teachers having greater focus on class data and targeting children's individual needs.

We welcome the improvements made in attendance and exclusion numbers and we recognise these improvements along with the reduction in staff sickness as a positive indication of good progress at the school.

The Chair of Governors indicated that the governing body at the school had improved greatly over the last 18 months, particularly in relation to the different skills and knowledge of the new people represented.

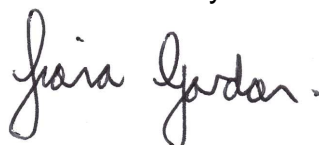
We would also like to pass on the views given by the school on the wider support received from the Local Authority including:

- The School have found the ERW Autumn Core Visit productive
- That cluster support Peer Support is worthwhile
- That school to school support is positive
- They have had questionable support from ERW in terms of courses available

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 were informed that support from the school improvement service has been good but that there will be a change of Challenge Advisor and were keen to emphasise the importance of consistent ongoing support for this school.

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

Yours sincerely



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