



**To/
Councillor Jen Raynor
Cabinet Member for Children,
Education and Lifelong Learning**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

01792 637256

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

*Date
Dyddiad:*

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BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning following the meeting of the Panel on 21 March 2019. It is about Burlais Primary School Performance.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 21 March 2019

At our meeting on the 21 March 2019 we met with the Headteacher, Challenge Advisor and Chair of Governors of Burlais Primary School to discuss their improvement journey.

We chose to speak to this school because it has been highlighted as Amber on the support and categorisation matrix. We were pleased to hear that it has subsequently moved to Yellow. We wanted to discuss what the school is doing to improve its current performance and its prospects for improvement. We have detailed our thoughts on how the school is progressing in this letter.

We 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 we 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.

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SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAW
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAW, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

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We felt that the improvements are 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.

We would like 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 is clearly showing to be successful.

We welcome your thoughts on any of the issues raised in our letter but on this occasion do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR LYNDON JONES

Convener, Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk