



29 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to share the outcome of our recent Estyn core inspection, which took place in February. As a result of the inspection, the decision has been taken that the school will be placed in special measures. The full report will be published today on the Estyn website and a link can be found on our school website, along with a summary of the findings specifically written for parents/carers.

We recognise that this news may be worrying, and these concerns are shared by us, the staff and the wider governing body. It is important that we are open with you. The inspectors have identified areas where the school needs to improve, and we accept their findings. While aspects of our work are not yet strong enough and progress has not been rapid enough, this outcome provides clarity about what needs to change and the pace at which improvement must happen.

It is important to note that the report acknowledges a range of strengths that we will continue to build on. Some features of teaching were commended. Estyn noted that Llantwit Major School provides a caring and supportive environment where many pupils say they feel safe. Inspectors also acknowledged that the ALN team demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting pupils and that there has been an improvement in pupil attendance. Furthermore, it was noted that pupils in the sixth form have access to a broad range of subjects and are positive about how they are supported to engage with their first choices.

The report also acknowledges that, following a significant period of instability in leadership over the past five years at Llantwit Major School, appropriate steps have recently been taken to strengthen the leadership team to better align roles and responsibilities with the school's strategic priorities. The Local Authority will now provide an intensive package of external support, challenge and monitoring to support school leaders, staff and governors with driving forward positive change to secure the improvements that pupils at Llantwit Major deserve.

Special measures are applied when inspectors judge that a school requires significant improvement to ensure pupils consistently receive a high standard of education, and that additional capacity and support are needed to accelerate progress.





We have prioritised addressing the safeguarding concern and wish to reassure you that the school has already been working with the Local Authority on this to ensure clear, formalised processes for pupils who access external provisions, with written agreement from parents and carers. This will strengthen oversight, accountability, and pupil safety.

The report acknowledged that the school does not currently have a deficit recovery plan, having gone into deficit this financial year. This is not uncommon in the Local Authority, with many schools across the Local Authority and nationally operating deficit budgets due to a range of increasing financial pressures. The Council is working closely with the school, as it is with other schools across the Vale currently operating a deficit budget, to establish a clear and sustainable financial recovery plan. This will include strategic long-term financial and workforce planning, and more effective evaluation of how funding—such as the pupil development grant—is used to support pupils.

Next, we will work on improving standards of teaching and learning and behaviour around the school. Parents and carers will be aware from recent communications that work around this has already begun, for example our revised approaches to toilet use and lateness to lessons to ensure a more settled learning environment and calmer corridors.

What happens next?

- **Action Plan:** We are currently working with the Local Authority and Estyn to produce a robust action plan, which will be submitted in June. This plan will focus on addressing the recommendations provided by the inspectors.
- Once the plan is completed and agreed with Estyn, we will share a guide to inform you of the key areas we are focusing on and the steps we are taking to improve our school. Your support is vital in this process, and we aim to keep you fully informed every step of the way.
- **Monitoring:** Estyn inspectors will now visit the school regularly—usually on a termly basis—to closely monitor our progress against this plan.
- **Support:** We are receiving increased support from the Vale of Glamorgan and other external partners to strengthen teaching and learning, further support the staff, governors and leadership team and assist us with addressing every recommendation fully.
- **Higher expectations across the school:** The work we have already begun will continue, supported by more rigorous monitoring to ensure everything we do is focused on raising standards in the classroom and improving behaviour around the school. Expectations of staff and pupils will be clarified and strengthened, building on the commitment and professionalism of our staff and supported by a more rigorous monitoring process to ensure all work is focused on improving standards in the classroom and around the school.





Our Priority

Our absolute priority remains the safety, wellbeing, and education of your children. While the inspection findings indicate the school is underperforming, this intervention means we will have the support we require to drive forward the necessary improvements.

Next steps and communication

We understand that parents/carers will have lots of questions. To ensure transparency and consistency of messaging, we will send out regular communications to all parents/carers via Arbor rather than responding to individual emails at this time. We will also hold a meeting for parents and carers in the near future to explain the improvement plan and answer your questions. The date, time and venue will be shared with you as soon as arrangements are finalised.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Robins
Headteacher

Ms J Johnson
Chair of Governors

