

Report summary for parents and carers on Brynhyfryd Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2025

Summary

Brynhyfryd Primary School provides pupils with a safe and secure environment. Pupils have high levels of support for their well-being within this inclusive and caring school. Vulnerable pupils, in particular, have access to beneficial pastoral support which helps them settle well each day to their learning. The majority of pupils enjoy coming to school. Many behave well and are kind to each other. There is a strong culture of safeguarding at school.

Overall, the quality of teaching at the school does not ensure that pupils make sufficient progress in their learning. Too often teachers do not give pupils the chance to develop as independent learners, and activities do not always challenge pupils to achieve the progress of which they are capable. Teachers do not always use the assessment of pupils' progress to plan the next steps in their learning well enough. At times, the pace of teaching is too slow and pupils become disengaged from their learning. There are regular opportunities for targeted pupils to receive beneficial support through the school's many interventions. As a result, most of these pupils make strong progress towards their individual targets.

The school's focus on promoting the Welsh language is successful in encouraging pupils to speak Welsh and be proud of their Welsh heritage. Most pupils use their reading skills well to support their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

Leaders have improved certain aspects of the school's provision successfully in recent years for example, reading and pastoral support. However, they have not recognised or addressed important shortcomings in the work of the school, such as improving teaching. There is a lack of distributed leadership, which often means that members of staff do not have sufficient opportunities to contribute to the school's work. Members of the governing body are supportive of school but do not challenge senior leaders well enough over the standards that pupils achieve.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made four recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1 Improve teaching, including the use of on-going assessment to plan appropriate next steps in pupils' learning so that all pupils make the progress of which they are capable
- R2 Strengthen self-evaluation procedures to ensure that leaders identify the most important aspects of the school's work that need improving and link the impact of provision on improving the progress that pupils make
- R3 Distribute leadership more effectively across the school to support school improvement and collaborative curriculum design
- R4 Provide more opportunities for pupils to develop as motivated, independent learners

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. This is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report.

Full Report

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#)

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