

Report summary for parents and carers on Dowlais Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2025

Summary

Dowlais Primary School is a happy and caring school, where the well-being and learning of every pupil is important. The school's curriculum is rich and pupils take part in a wide range of interesting learning experiences. Leaders and teachers have structured the curriculum so that pupils develop their knowledge and skills progressively. Most pupils engage well with their learning and develop as effective learners, with a good understanding of their strengths and their next steps.

Most pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), those taught in the Learning Resource Bases (LRB) and those from low-income families, make good progress over time. Most pupils acquire effective literacy, Welsh language and digital skills, by the time they leave the school. Most pupils gain a good understanding of mathematical concepts over time, but they have too few opportunities to apply their numeracy skills in meaningful and authentic contexts.

Teaching approaches are successful in securing pupil engagement and ensuring good progress. Teachers use very effective questioning and feedback techniques that have a positive impact on pupil development. Support for pupils with ALN is strong in all classes. The bespoke approaches used in the LRB classes, ensure most pupils make good progress towards their learning goals. Teachers have high expectations for pupils' behaviour. The consistent approaches used by staff mean that nearly all pupils behave well and treat one another, staff and visitors with respect.

Leaders know the school well and have a good track record in making improvements in key areas of the school's performance. Overall attendance rates remain lower than expected and need improvement.

Governors support and challenge the school well to ensure accountability. The school has strong partnerships with local schools, community partners and parents that enrich and support the school's provision.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Improve attendance

R2 Provide further opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills in meaningful, authentic contexts

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

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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