

Report summary for parents and carers on Fairfield Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2025

Summary

Fairfield Primary School is a friendly and inclusive school where staff ensure that pupils feel happy and valued. Because of this, nearly all pupils show respect for others, behave well and demonstrate positive attitudes to their learning. Staff consider the views of pupils fairly and provide valuable opportunities to develop pupils' leadership skills so that they contribute purposefully to the life of the school.

Teachers generally provide clear objectives for pupils' learning in lessons. Many use questioning to monitor and prompt pupils' progress beneficially. Overall, however, teaching in around half of lessons does not develop or extend pupils' knowledge and skills well enough. In these lessons, the pace of learning is too slow, and teachers set tasks that do not challenge pupils sufficiently. Consequently, during their time in the school, many pupils do not make the progress they could.

Teachers provide a variety of learning experiences that engage many pupils well. Many pupils develop as capable readers who communicate their views and ideas through their speech and writing effectively. However, pupils do not have enough opportunity to use or hear spoken Welsh and this restricts their progress. Teachers develop many pupils' understanding of mathematical concepts appropriately.

Staff are committed to securing the progress and well-being of all pupils. With additional support, leaders are beginning to make focused improvements, such as the work to improve the provision for younger pupils. Staff have benefitted from valuable professional learning to implement these changes, and this is impacting positively on their capacity to sustain progress. However, over time, leaders have not evaluated the quality of the school's work robustly. They have not addressed important areas for improvement, such as the inconsistency in the quality of teaching and the effectiveness of the school's curriculum, swiftly enough. Governors show strong support for the school. However, they do not have a thorough enough first-hand knowledge of the school to be able to challenge leaders effectively.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Improve leadership at all levels and ensure that self-evaluation focuses closely on the most important aspects in need of improvement
- R2 Raise teachers' expectations of what pupils should learn, know and understand and improve teaching to ensure that all pupils make the progress they should
- R3 Develop a coherent curriculum that supports pupils' progress effectively
- R4 Improve pupils' Welsh language skills

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after 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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