

Report summary for parents and carers on Blackwood Primary School

Date of inspection: June 2025

Summary

Blackwood Primary School provides pupils with an exciting and engaging range of learning opportunities that support them to make strong progress in their learning and well-being and develop as ambitious, independent learners.

Leaders and staff create a positive, welcoming and inclusive learning environment that values pupils' contributions, instils high expectations and develops their aspirations. Pupils of all ages are well-cared for, supported and encouraged, helping them to develop highly positive attitudes towards their learning and exemplary standards of behaviour.

The school offers a purposeful and meaningful curriculum that enables pupils to develop a comprehensive range of academic, social and life skills. Frequent opportunities to learn through activities such as woodwork, sewing and cookery prepare pupils well for future life. From the outset, carefully planned teaching and support helps younger pupils to quickly develop their communication skills. As they move through the school, most become confident readers, speakers and writers. Most pupils develop valuable Welsh language and digital skills and apply them capably in a range of contexts. The teaching of mathematics though is too variable, and this restricts the progress a minority of pupils make.

The school makes excellent use of its facilities, both indoors and outdoors. Leaders and governors work together purposefully to ensure that they use the school's finances successfully to provide pupils with well-resourced learning spaces. Governors support the school well and have a good first-hand understanding of its strengths and areas for improvement. Work to improve rates of attendance is beginning to have a positive impact, however too many pupils do not attend school frequently enough.

There is a strong culture of reflection at the school. All staff are committed to developing their own practice to enable them to best meet the needs of the school's pupils. There is a rigorous approach to professional learning and valuable relationships with external support partners. Staff use both effectively to enhance their skills and refine the school's provision.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Improve attendance

R2 Ensure that teachers model suitable methods of calculation effectively and address pupils' misconceptions consistently

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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