

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Heulfan

Date of inspection: May 2025

Summary

Ysgol Heulfan is a caring and inclusive school where pupils feel safe, happy and valued. The school is at the heart of its community and is built on strong values such as unity, respect and teamwork. The headteacher provides determined and compassionate leadership. She is well supported by a committed team who work together with a clear focus on pupils' learning and well-being.

Staff plan interesting activities that help pupils learn across a wide range of subjects. They regularly review the curriculum to make sure that it meets the needs of pupils. Many teachers ask helpful questions and often provide useful feedback to support learning. They encourage pupils to think for themselves and make choices about how they learn. This helps them become more confident and independent. In a few lessons, the pace of learning is too slow and activities do not always challenge pupils enough.

Most pupils make good progress in their speaking, reading, number and digital skills. Younger pupils quickly grow in confidence when speaking and listening. Older pupils take part in thoughtful discussions and become more independent readers. Many use number skills well in different subjects. Most develop digital skills that support their learning across the curriculum. While many older pupils write clearly and with purpose, they do not always have enough opportunities or develop the skills to redraft their work.

The school promotes well-being successfully. Pupils understand how to stay healthy and work well with others. Staff work closely with families to improve attendance. However, too many pupils are still persistently absent.

The school's provision for pupils with additional learning needs, including those in the local authority specialist class, is a notable strength. Staff identify pupils' needs promptly and provide effective support. Teachers and support staff work closely with parents and external professionals to ensure that pupils receive the help they need. As a result, pupils with additional learning needs make good progress and take a full and active part in school life.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Improve the consistency of pace and challenge in teaching to better meet the needs of all pupils

R2 Continue to reduce levels of persistent absence

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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