

# **Report summary for parents and carers on Cwmlai Primary School**

**Date of inspection: June 2025**

# Summary

---

Cwmlai Primary is a caring and inclusive school where pupils feel safe, valued, and respected. Staff and pupils share strong relationships, and pupils behave well and enjoy attending school. The school has effective safeguarding procedures in place, and nearly all pupils know who to speak to if they are worried.

The recently appointed headteacher has introduced beneficial changes to staffing, procedures and teaching. Leaders involve a suitable range of stakeholders in reviewing the school's work, helping to identify strengths and areas for improvement. For example, the introduction of a whole-school approach to phonics is beginning to improve reading outcomes for younger pupils.

Most pupils make good progress in learning from their individual starting points. This includes those with additional learning needs or from low-income backgrounds. Pupils across the school are articulate speakers and by the time they leave the school most pupils read fluently and accurately, apply their writing skills effectively and develop a sound set of mathematical and digital skills.

The school offers a broad and engaging curriculum to its pupils. However, teachers of the younger pupils do not always take good enough account of pupils' developmental needs when planning their curriculum. As a result, teachers often over direct learning and provision does not always build and extend on pupils' skills in a coherent and progressive way.

Support for pupils with additional learning needs is strong. Staff identify needs promptly and provide effective, tailored support. Pupil voice is a notable strength of the school, with pupils actively involved in influencing school life through the various leadership groups.

Teachers provide regular opportunities for pupils to learn and practise Welsh language patterns, and many pupils show a positive attitude towards learning the language. However, pupils have limited opportunities to use Welsh outside of these sessions, which affects their confidence and fluency in speaking.

# Recommendations and next steps

---

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

- R1 Improve the school's understanding of child development to provide an appropriate curriculum and provision for the younger pupils in line with the principles of Curriculum for Wales
- R2 Improve pupils' Welsh language skills

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](#)

---

© Crown Copyright 2025: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 26/08/2025