

Report summary for parents and carers on Johnstown School

Date of inspection: June 2025

Summary

Johnstown Primary School is a happy and nurturing environment where pupils feel safe, valued and ready to learn. Staff build strong working relationships with pupils and set high expectations for behaviour. Most pupils behave very well and have positive attitudes towards their learning. Most pupils make good progress from their individual starting points.

Teachers plan interesting and authentic learning activities that support pupils' knowledge of their community, Welsh culture and the wider world. Younger pupils benefit from frequent opportunities to play, explore and influence their learning. They develop their independence and curiosity well. Older pupils have fewer opportunities to make decisions about how and what they learn.

Leaders focus well on teamwork and well-being, and they evaluate the work of the school effectively. Staff benefit from professional learning that develops their skills and helps to address whole-school priorities.

In most lessons, teachers ask thoughtful questions, check understanding, and provide pupils with useful feedback. When learning is most effective, teachers move learning along at a brisk pace and meet the needs of all pupils. However, in a few lessons, learning slows, and not all pupils are sufficiently challenged.

Across the school, many pupils develop strong speaking and listening skills, and they use their writing well across the curriculum. Teachers use Welsh phrases regularly in class and help pupils learn new words and sentence patterns. Pupils enjoy reading and develop their digital and maths skills well through authentic and engaging tasks.

While many pupils attend school regularly, the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals is considerably lower than that of their peers. Parents feel involved in the work of the school and feel well supported, particularly those with children with additional learning needs (ALN).

Recommendations and next steps

We have made three 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 Provide greater opportunities for older pupils to contribute purposefully to whole-school improvements and direct their own learning
- R3 Improve the attendance of pupils that are eligible for free school meals

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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Publication date: 26/08/2025