

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

**Date of inspection: June 2025**

# Summary

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Willowtown Primary is a happy, caring school. The school's vision focuses well on pupils achieving success. Teachers effectively translate this into practice. All leaders and staff act as positive role models. They foster respectful working relationships with pupils and each other. This encourages pupils to develop highly positive attitudes towards their learning, especially when working collaboratively. All staff have high expectations for pupils' behaviour. As a result, nearly all pupils behave well, are polite and supportive of each other and most feel safe in school.

Governors are an integral part of the school community and offer effective support. They and leaders have developed effective self-evaluation processes which lead to improvements in the school's curriculum, provision and pupil progress. Teachers create effective learning environments, especially for the youngest pupils. They plan a range of real-life learning experiences that engages pupils and provides them with a variety of opportunities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills across the curriculum. Many pupils, including those eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households, make suitable progress in their learning. Teaching assistants meet the individual needs of pupils well. This includes pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and those in the specialist resource base, who make beneficial progress towards their specific targets. The school is working to improve the effectiveness of teachers' feedback to pupils. Currently, there is not a consistent approach across the school. Overall, too often teachers over-direct learning and do not challenge pupils sufficiently to achieve at the level of which they are capable.

The headteacher works well with staff to develop the school as a focal point in the community. Teachers utilise the locality well to enhance lessons and activities and involve local businesses in pupils' learning. This supports pupils' understanding of the purpose for their education. Many parents appreciate the nurturing ethos and the engaging methods the school adopts. Leaders, staff and governors work hard to encourage good attendance and their efforts are beginning to impact positively. All staff promote a strong culture of safeguarding.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Ensure that all learners are challenged appropriately

R2 Consistently provide feedback to enable pupils to improve their learning

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

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