

Report summary for parents and carers on Tonnau Primary Community School

Date of inspection: June 2026

Summary

Tonnau Primary School is a caring, inclusive and welcoming school where pupils feel safe, valued and supported. Strong relationships between pupils, staff, governors and families contribute to a positive school community and a strong sense of belonging. The school's focus on emotional well-being helps most pupils manage their feelings successfully and contributes to high standards of behaviour. Nearly all pupils behave well, show respect towards others and have positive attitudes to learning.

Most pupils make good progress from their starting points, including those with additional learning needs (ALN) and those eligible for free school meals. Provision for pupils with ALN is effective, with well-planned support helping most pupils make good progress towards their individual targets.

The development of pupils' speaking and listening skills is a positive feature of the school's work. Staff place a strong emphasis on communication from an early age and, as a result, most pupils become confident, articulate and mature speakers who contribute thoughtfully to discussions and express their ideas clearly. Most pupils also make good progress in reading, writing and mathematics and apply these skills appropriately across the curriculum. While older pupils write creatively and for a range of purposes, opportunities for pupils to write independently and at length are more limited.

The school provides an engaging curriculum that reflects the local community and Welsh culture successfully. A wide range of visits, visitors and enrichment activities enhances pupils' learning experiences and supports their personal development well.

Overall, teaching across the school is effective and supports pupils to make good progress. In the strongest practice, teachers use questioning well to help pupils move their learning forward and they build on pupil's prior learning successfully. However, on occasion, learning experiences do not provide clear enough purpose, appropriate challenge or opportunities for pupils to develop as independent learners.

Leaders, staff and governors share a clear vision for the school and work effectively together to support pupils' well-being and learning. Governors understand the school's context well and provide appropriate support and challenge. Strong partnerships with parents are a strength, and families value the support provided by the school.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Continue to strengthen teaching to ensure that learning experiences and teaching approaches meet the needs of all pupils
- R2 Raise teachers' expectations for how independently pupils develop and apply their skills
- R3 Improve attendance, particularly for pupils who are eligible for free school meals and those with additional learning needs.

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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