

Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru

Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

# A report on

Tremorfa Nursery School
Mona Place
Tremorfa
Cardiff
CF24 2TG

Date of inspection: December 2013

by

Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

During each inspection, inspectors aim to answer three key questions:

**Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?** 

**Key Question 2: How good is provision?** 

**Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?** 

Inspectors also provide an overall judgement on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement.

In these evaluations, inspectors use a four-point scale:

Judgement	What the judgement means
Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

The report was produced in accordance with Section 28 of the Education Act 2005.

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# Context

Tremorfa Nursery is a maintained nursery school serving the community of Tremorfa in Cardiff. It provides nursery education for three and four-year-olds. Children are admitted on a part-time basis at the beginning of the term following their third the afternoon session.

The school identifies that over 70% of children enter the nursery with delayed speech, language and communication skills. Around 16% of the children are on the school's additional learning needs register. Very few children have a statement of special educational needs. Currently, 18% of children speak English as an additional language. No children come from a Welsh-speaking home.

The school was last inspected in November 2007. The headteacher was appointed in April 2012 after serving as acting headteacher from September 2008. The headteacher will take up a new headship in a different school from January 2014.

The 2013-2104 individual school budget per pupil for Tremorfa Nursery School is £5,350, which compares to a national average of £5,715 for all maintained nursery schools in Wales.

# **Summary**

The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good

## **Current performance**

The school's performance is good because:

- most children make good progress in line with their age and ability;
- nearly all children develop their Welsh oral skills effectively;
- nearly all children have a very positive attitude to learning, they behave very well and develop excellent personal and social skills;
- all staff plan meticulously to meet the needs of pupils, particularly those performing less well than others;
- staff provide stimulating, challenging and exciting learning experiences across all areas of learning;
- assessment information is used very effectively to respond to individual children's specific needs; and
- teaching is consistently good.

## **Prospects for improvement**

The school's prospects for improvement are good because:

- its self-evaluation processes are thorough and rigorous and, over time, the school has used the outcomes of monitoring activities exceptionally well to inform their priorities and bring about lasting improvements;
- the headteacher provides dynamic leadership;
- there is a clear sense of purpose to the school's work and an ethos that promotes and sustains improvements; and
- the school has excellent partnerships with parents and the community and this
  enables children to develop high levels of personal and social skills.

# Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that all staff challenge more able children consistently
- R2 Develop the role of the governing body in the self-evaluation process
- R3 Ensure that leadership roles are distributed more evenly

# What happens next?

The school will draw up an action plan which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will invite the school to prepare a written case study, describing the excellent practice identified during the inspection.

# **Main findings**

## Standards: Good

Most children enter the school with levels of skills below those expected for their age. Most make good progress and achieve well by the end of their time in school. Many demonstrate a wide range of knowledge and understanding across all areas of learning and cope well with new experiences.

Most children make good progress in using their communication skills. Many speak clearly and thoughtfully about their work in a range of situations. Nearly all children listen carefully during whole-group sessions and talk enthusiastically about what they are doing.

Many have good mark-making skills and make marks or letters with a suitable degree of control. Most can identify initial letters of words successfully with a minority recognising an increasing number of familiar words. A few children retell familiar stories appropriately with a reasonable amount of detail. Nearly all join in enthusiastically with singing songs and reciting rhymes in both English and Welsh.

Children develop their numeracy skills well. Most can count to at least 10 and many match the relevant word to the correct symbol. More able children are beginning to understand the concepts of addition and subtraction.

Most develop effective information and communication technology skills (ICT) and apply these successfully across all areas of learning. They are comfortable using electronic tablets and programmable toys in their imaginative play.

Many children are confident in finding ways to solve problems and they explore a variety of materials in their outdoor cooking and workshops areas. In group sessions, for example, they investigate ice and try to explain why their toy is stuck in a block of ice.

Children's Welsh language skills develop well in line with their age and ability. Most follow simple commands and instructions accurately. A few use phrases such as 'mae'n amser tacluso' appropriately. Nearly all children respond well during snack times, they can count to 15 and know many colours in Welsh. A few are beginning to use simple phrases and words spontaneously in their play.

Children with additional learning needs achieve well in relation to their abilities and starting point. Boys and girls achieve equally well. More able children do not always perform as well as they might.

### Wellbeing: Excellent

Nearly all children enjoy school and demonstrate high levels of interest and motivation towards learning. They are eager to participate in tasks and display pride

in their work. Almost all reflect on their learning well and make appropriate decisions about their activities. They take on responsibilities with enthusiasm, for example as 'helpwr heddiw' during snack times.

With very few exceptions, children behave extremely well and are considerate and courteous towards each other and adults. Nearly all children relate very well to one another and demonstrate increasing levels of independence. For example, in the forest school, children make decisions about how they want to work and what resources they want to use when making food for the bird feeders.

As a result of the school's highly effective links with parents and the community, nearly all children acquire an excellent range of personal and social skills which prepare them well for the next stage in their learning and for life outside school. Most children develop high levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Most children have a secure understanding of how to keep healthy. They brush their teeth regularly after snack times and engage enthusiastically in physical activity. All children have a close relationship with members of staff and they trust them to look after them at all times. Children in the school feel safe and free from harm. Attendance for 2012-2013 at around 82% is slightly lower than at the time of the previous inspection. Nearly all children arrive punctually.

Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Excellent
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# **Learning experiences: Excellent**

All staff plan meticulously to meet the needs of individual pupils, particularly those performing at a level below their chronological age. The daily after school planning sessions identify very effectively the next steps for children's learning and take good account of what the children want to learn about next. The curriculum responds well to the requirements of the Foundation Phase and staff provide exciting and interesting activities in all areas of learning. In the focused tasks and in the continuous and enhanced provision, the activities encourage children to take risks and become independent learners. Planning is detailed and systematic. As a result, progression and continuity in children's learning are good. The quality of staff's planning for outdoor learning is an important part of the school's overall provision and has a significant impact on children's personal, physical and creative skills.

Provision for developing children's communication, numeracy, ICT and thinking skills is well planned and purposeful. For example, children can access mark-making equipment in all activity areas and, in philosophy for children groups, staff ask thought-provoking questions that encourage children's thinking skills. Visits to the locality and to various centres in Cardiff make a valuable contribution to children's learning and help to develop their observational, language and numeracy skills.

Staff provide many imaginative opportunities to develop children's Welsh language skills across the areas of learning. There is good provision for the Welsh dimension, which effectively develops children's understanding of Welsh culture and heritage.

The school makes good provision for sustainable development and global citizenship. Sustainability is an integral part of the curriculum and children begin to understand the importance of looking after their environment. Activities such as celebrating festivals, charity fundraising events and meetings with visitors from many different parts of the world successfully encourage children's understanding of the world in which they live.

## **Teaching: Excellent**

All staff have a very good understanding of the philosophy of the Foundation Phase and use this to develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding well. Staff develop positive working relationships with children and have high expectations with regard to their behaviour and standards of achievement. However, on a very few occasions staff miss opportunities to extend the learning of more able pupils. All staff ask a range of open-ended questions to encourage learning and place a very good emphasis on children discovering and learning for themselves. Staff also use a wide variety of resources to enhance children's learning. Many members of staff use incidental Welsh effectively at different times of the day to extend children's language skills.

Excellent processes are in place to observe, assess and track children's progress. Staff use this information effectively to identify children's learning needs, particularly those of children who are performing less well than others. The developmental tracking tool, developed in partnership with other local nurseries, effectively records what children can do when they start in the nursery and is used well to measure progress. Staff's use of this tool to inform their daily planning is outstanding. All staff provide good oral feedback to children and children are beginning to identify what they do well and what they need to do to improve. Without exception, staff encourage children to reflect on their own learning.

Staff keep parents informed successfully about their child's progress through termly consultation meetings. Parents also have beneficial opportunities to visit the nursery to look at videos of their children working and to look at displays. The school produces detailed end-of-year reports.

#### Care, support and guidance: Excellent

The school provides very good individual care for children with additional learning needs and works closely with external agencies to ensure that children benefit from all relevant support that is available. The pre-nursery support group is highly effective in supporting children with additional learning needs and their families. This early intervention work ensures that the children settle quickly when they arrive in nursery and that the nursery meets their needs outstandingly well from the outset. Detailed individual education plans identify appropriate targets for children and teachers review and share these with parents on a regular basis. Effective programmes, such as the listening group, provide very good support for children with specific needs.

Children's wellbeing is at the heart of the school and staff provide exceptional opportunities for pupils to develop their independence, confidence and self-esteem.

The school successfully fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the learning experiences it offers. It hosts various multi-cultural events, such as food days when parents bring a variety of foods to the nursery and share these with the children.

The school's arrangements for safeguarding meet requirements and give no cause for concern. All necessary health and safety procedures are in place. The school makes appropriate arrangements for promoting healthy eating and drinking. All children eat healthily during snack times, clean their teeth and partake eagerly in daily physical exercise.

### Learning environment: Good

The nursery is an inclusive community, where children have equal access to the areas of learning and the activities provided. As a result, children feel valued and respected regardless of their gender, ethnicity or background. There is a strong emphasis on developing positive and tolerant attitudes and ensuring that children and staff are free from harassment.

There is a sufficient range of good quality resources for the areas of learning. Visits to the locality help children to develop a sense of curiosity and an impressive range of visitors from the community and abroad helps to broaden children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Classrooms and work areas contain attractive displays and examples of recent children's work, which support the children's learning well.

The school has successfully developed its outside area to create a stimulating and rich learning environment that enhances children's learning and extends their skills successfully. This provision is a strength of the school. The accommodation and site are well maintained and secure.

## Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management? Good

#### Leadership: Good

The headteacher is a dynamic leader with a clear vision, which is based on ensuring high standards and children's happiness and wellbeing. She succeeds in conveying this vision successfully to staff, children, parents and governors. All members of staff share a common vision and a strong commitment to tackling disadvantage and narrowing the gap in children's achievement.

The school is an orderly and caring community and it has clear structures and policies that contribute successfully towards realising its objectives. All members of staff have detailed job descriptions that identify their roles and responsibilities clearly. The strong sense of working together as a team is one of the school's strengths. However, the headteacher is the only member of staff with leadership responsibilities. This means that leadership cannot always be distributed well enough.

The school responds successfully to local and national priorities. The school's implementation of the Foundation Phase is very effective in improving children's standards and wellbeing. The school responds swiftly to other national priorities. For example, it is already incorporating relevant aspects of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework into its plans.

Governors support the school well. They visit the school when they can and many have specific curricular areas of interest. However, they are not fully involved in the self-evaluation process and in monitoring the school's progress.

#### Improving quality: Excellent

The school has a robust self-evaluation process that involves all staff and is based on a planned schedule of monitoring activities. The school effectively gathers appropriate first-hand evidence from a range of sources. Staff proactively seek the opinions of children, parents and the community. This enables them to make an informed assessment of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Over time, the school has used the outcomes of monitoring activities exceptionally well to inform their priorities and bring about lasting improvements in children's standards and in staff's understanding of the key principles of the Foundation Phase and early childhood development.

The school improvement plan and self-evaluation report are comprehensive, detailed documents, which contain relevant targets to take the school forward. Teachers produce effective action plans for the areas of learning, based on classroom observations, children's achievements and staff's evaluations of planning. These make a beneficial contribution to the school improvement plan. The school's plans for improvement focus clearly on the national priorities of closing the gap in attainment for children living in social deprivation, literacy and numeracy. One of the most notable features of the school's approach to improvement planning is how well all staff monitor progress towards targets and how leaders amend actions and priorities in light of ongoing evaluations and feedback.

The school has made good progress in addressing most of the recommendations from the previous inspection, but attendance remains an improvement priority.

### Partnership working: Excellent

The school is an important part of the local community. It has an exceptionally well managed strategy that ensures close co-operation between the school and a wide range of active community partners, including local nursery schools, adult education services, outreach teams, health visitors, social services, youth organisations and community police officers. This enables the school to tackle the effects of social disadvantage very effectively.

The school values its excellent partnership with parents, who greatly appreciate the way in which the school listens and responds to their concerns. All parents express extremely positive views about the school.

An outstanding feature of the provision is the employment of a community outreach worker, who provides a range of invaluable services and establishes very strong links with parents and the community at large. The school also hosts a community cafe and baby talk sessions, where parents can meet and discuss their children's needs as they prepare for nursery education.

There are very close links with a number of local businesses enabling the school to secure valuable additional resources for children, such as the outdoor clothing, which means that children can access outside learning areas during all weathers.

The school has very strong partnerships with other similar schools through well-established professional learning communities and it shares examples of its practice with others on a regular basis. Over recent years, many practitioners and foreign visitors have come to observe the school's excellent outreach and community work and their excellent provision.

### Resource management: Good

The school is generously staffed with well-qualified, experienced teachers and teaching assistants, all of whom play an important role in children's learning. Good use is made of their expertise to deliver the Foundation Phase successfully.

The school manages its arrangements for teacher's planning, preparation and assessment time well and these arrangements affect children's standards positively.

All staff, including the caretaker and clerk, are involved in performance management procedures. They have relevant targets linked to the school improvement plan and their professional development needs.

The school is a successful professional learning community, which enables staff to develop and share their knowledge and expertise to support teaching. There are effective networks of professional practice with schools and other partners, which have a positive effect on children's standards and wellbeing.

The school has rigorous budgeting arrangements and expenditure links closely to the school's priorities and plans. The headteacher and governors monitor funding carefully.

Learning resources are plentiful, of good quality and managed carefully to ensure that they are suitable for the needs of all children.

The school provides exceptionally well for its children and as a result most children make good progress and achieve well. Overall, the school provides good value for money.

# Appendix 1

# Commentary on performance data

There is no local or comparative data for nursery schools.

# Appendix 2

# Stakeholder satisfaction report

# Responses to learner questionnaires

Primary Questionnaire (Overall)

The number of responses received were fewer than 10. No data will be shown.

# Responses to parent questionnaires

denotes the benchmark - this is a total of all responses since September 2010.

denotes the benchmark - this is a total of all responses since September 2010.								
	Number of responses Nifer o vmatebion		Strongly Agree Cytuno'n gryf	Agree Cytuno	Disagree Anghytuno	Strongly disagree Anghytuno'n gryf	Don't know Ddim yn gwybod	
Overall I am satisfied with the school.	56		43 77%	12 21%	0 0%	1 2%	0	Rwy'n fodlon â'r ysgol yn gyffredinol.
			63%	33%	3%	1%		
My child likes this school.	56		46 82%	9 16%	0 0%	1 2%	0	Mae fy mhlentyn yn hoffi'r ysgol hon.
			72%	26%	1%	0%		
My child was helped to settle in well when he or she started	56		44 79%	11 20%	0 0%	1 2%	0	Cafodd fy mhlentyn gymorth i ymgartrefu'n dda pan
at the school.			72%	26%	1%	0%		ddechreuodd yn yr ysgol.
My child is making good	55		40 73%	13 24%	1 2%	1 2%	0	Mae fy mhlentyn yn gwneud
progress at school.			61%	34%	3%	0%		cynnydd da yn yr ysgol.
Pupils behave well in school.	54		27 50%	22 41%	1 2%	1 2%	3	Mae disgyblion yn ymddwyn yn dda yn yr ysgol.
			45%	46%	4%	1%		and you you go
Teaching is good.	55		38 69%	15 27%	1 2%	1 2%	0	Mae'r addysgu yn dda.
			60%	35%	2%	0%		
Staff expect my child to work	54		33	18	1	0	2	Mae'r staff yn disgwyl i fy mhlentyn
hard and do his or her best.			61% 63%	33% 33%	2% 1%	0% 0%		weithio'n galed ac i wneud ei orau.
The homework that is given builds well on what my child	49		15 31%	19 39%	2 4%	1 2%	12	Mae'r gwaith cartref sy'n cael ei roi yn adeiladu'n dda ar yr hyn mae fy
learns in school.			47%	40%	6%	1%		mhlentyn yn ei ddysgu yn yr ysgol.
Staff treat all children fairly	55		43 78%	10 18%	0 0%	1 2%	1	Mae'r staff yn trin pob plentyn yn
and with respect.			58%	34%	3%	1%		deg a gyda pharch.

	Number of responses Nifer o ymatebion	Strongly Agree Cytuno'n gryf	Agree Cytuno	Disagree Anghytuno	Strongly disagree Anghytuno'n gryf	Don't know Ddim yn gwybod	
My child is encouraged to be healthy and to take regular	54	37 69%	14 26%	0 0%	1 2%	2	Caiff fy mhlentyn ei annog i fod yn iach ac i wneud ymarfer corff yn
exercise.		60%	36%	2%	0%		rheolaidd.
My child is safe at school.	55	43 78%	11 20%	0 0%	1 2%	0	Mae fy mhlentyn yn ddiogel yn yr
,		66%	31%	1%	0%		ysgol.
My child receives appropriate		32	13	0	1	_	Mae fy mhlentyn yn cael cymorth
additional support in relation to any particular individual	51	63%	25%	0%	2%	5	ychwanegol priodol mewn perthynas ag unrhyw anghenion
needs'.		50%	34%	4%	1%		unigol penodol.
	F.G.	38	14	1	1	2	
I am kept well informed about my child's progress.	56	68%	25%	2%	2%		Rwy'n cael gwybodaeth gyson am gynnydd fy mhlentyn.
y ca o progress.		49%	40%	8%	2%		gyyaa iya.
I feel comfortable about	55	39	13	1	1	1	Rwy'n teimlo'n esmwyth ynglŷn â
approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a		71%	24%	2%	2%		gofyn cwestiwn i'r ysgol, gwneud
problem.		62%	31%	4%	2%		awgrymiadau neu nodi problem.
I understand the school's	53	27	22	0	1	3	Rwy'n deall trefn yr ysgol ar gyfer
procedure for dealing with complaints.		51%	42%	0%	2%		delio â chwynion.
Complainter		44%	39%	7%	2%		
The school helps my child to	56	35	18	0	1	2	Mae'r ysgol yn helpu fy mhlentyn i
become more mature and take on responsibility.		62%	32%	0%	2%		ddod yn fwy aeddfed ac i ysgwyddo cyfrifoldeb.
		56%	39%	2%	0%		
My child is well prepared for moving on to the next school	52	28	19	2	1	2	Mae fy mhlentyn wedi'i baratoi'n dda ar gyfer symud ymlaen i'r
or college or work.		54%	37%	4% 4%	2%		ysgol nesaf neu goleg neu waith.
There is a second series (		42% 25	34% 19	4% 3	1% 3		Na a gramunia atta della d
There is a good range of activities including trips or	54	46%	35%	6%	6%	4	Mae amrywiaeth dda o weithgareddau, gan gynnwys
visits.		53%	38%	5%	1%		teithiau neu ymweliadau.
	F.C.	38	16	1	1		
The school is well run.	56	68%	29%	2%	2%	0	Mae'r ysgol yn cael ei rhedeg yn dda.
		61%	33%	3%	1%		- Garage

# Appendix 3

# The inspection team

David Gareth Evans	Reporting Inspector
Buddug Bates	Team Inspector
Michaela Leyshon	Lay Inspector
Deborah Lambert	Peer Inspector
Emma Laing	Nominee

# Copies of the report

Copies of this report are available from the school and from the Estyn website (www.estyn.gov.uk)

# Year groups, the Foundation Phase and key stages

Schools use a common system of numbering year groups from the start of compulsory schooling to 18 years of age. This system emphasises the importance of continuity and eases communication among schools, governing bodies, parents and local authorities.

The following table sets out the age ranges relevant to each year group. For example, Year 1 refers to the group of pupils who reach the age of six and Year 13 is the year group who reach the age of 18 during the academic year.

## Primary phase:

Year	N	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Ages	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11

## Secondary phase:

Year	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Ages	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18

The Foundation Phase and key stages cover the following year groups:

Foundation Phase	Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Key stage 2	Year 3 to Year 6
Key stage 3	Year 7 to Year 9
Key stage 4	Year 10 and Year 11

# **Glossary of terms – Primary**

#### Foundation Phase indicator (FPI)

Progress in learning through the Foundation Phase is indicated by outcomes (from outcome 1 to outcome 6).

The Foundation Phase indicator (FPI) relates to the expected performance in three areas of learning in the Foundation Phase:

- literacy, language and communication in English or Welsh first language
- mathematical development; and
- personal and social development, wellbeing and cultural diversity.

By the end of the Foundation Phase, at the age of seven, pupils are expected to reach outcome 5 and the more able to reach outcome 6.

Pupils must achieve the expected outcome (outcome 5) in the three areas above to gain the Foundation Phase indicator.

### The core subject indicator (CSI)

Progress in learning through key stage 2 is indicated by levels (level 1 to level 5).

The core subject indicator in key stage 2 relates to the expected performance in the core subjects of the National Curriculum:

- English or Welsh first language
- mathematics; and
- science

By the end of the key stage 2, at the age of 11, pupils are expected to reach level 4 and more able pupils to reach level 5.

Pupils must gain at least the expected level (level 4) in the three core subjects to gain the core subject indicator.

#### **All-Wales Core Data sets**

Inspection reports may refer to a school's performance relative to a family of schools or to schools with a broadly similar proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals.

In relation to free school meals, schools are placed into one of five bands according to the three-year trend in the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals in the school. The school's performance is then placed into quartiles (from the top 25% to the bottom 25%) in relation to how well it is doing compared with other schools in the same free school meal band.

The Welsh Government created the families of schools (typically a group of 11 schools) to enable schools to compare their performance with that of similar schools across Wales. The composition of the families draws on a number of factors. These include the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals and the proportion living in the 20% most deprived areas of Wales. They also draw on the proportion of pupils with special education needs at school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs, and pupils with English as an additional language.