



Report summary for parents and carers on Abercanaid Community School

Date of inspection: February 2023

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

Overview

Abercanaid is a caring, inclusive school at the heart of its community. The school collaborates well with all staff, parents, governors and members of the community, and this has helped to shape the school vision and motto “All different, all equal, all shining.” Nearly all pupils feel well supported by staff, and many older pupils undertake their leadership roles with enthusiasm and dedication.

Overall, most pupils make good progress from their starting points in literacy and numeracy. Most pupils’ early number skills develop appropriately. However, provision to ensure a secure understanding of mental maths and the four rules of number is inconsistent across the school.

All staff place high value on the well-being of pupils. They provide high levels of care, support and guidance. This ensures that nearly all pupils are well supported and that they have positive attitudes towards their learning. The bespoke curriculum is a strength of the school. It provides an exciting range of activities that motivate pupils effectively. However, the approach to assessment for learning is underdeveloped and, as a result, many pupils do not respond appropriately to written feedback.

The headteacher, leaders and governors collaborate well. There is a clear emphasis on national priorities and, because of a focus on attendance, levels have risen following the pandemic. The school works well with a range of external partners to improve support for pupils, to share practice and to develop provision.

There is a strong culture of safeguarding. The school’s systems to support vulnerable pupils are effective. This contributes well to the inclusive ethos of the school.

Recommendations

- R1 Sharpen self-evaluation and monitoring activities to enable leaders to identify key areas for improvement, particularly in teaching
- R2 Develop a more strategic approach to professional learning that focuses on securing high quality teaching and assessment that helps pupils to improve
- R3 Improve provision to develop pupils' numeracy skills

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.



School context

Name of provider	Abercanaid Community School
Local authority	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	182
Pupils of statutory school age	138
Number in nursery classes	18
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Primary is 23.0%)	15.4%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Primary is 16.1%)	10.1%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8.51%
Date of headteacher appointment	02/01/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	07/07/2014
Start date of inspection	13/02/2023

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