



**Report summary for parents and
carers on
Cefn Fforest Primary School**

Date of inspection: October 2022

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

Overview

Cefn Fforest Primary School provides a very caring and supportive learning experience for its pupils. Staff know their pupils well. They prioritise well-being appropriately and make useful links with the community to meet the needs of their families. The school environment is very welcoming, nurturing and inclusive.

The headteacher and senior leaders have a clear vision for the school. They encourage all staff to develop their knowledge and skills. All staff work conscientiously to identify ways in which they can improve teaching and wider aspects of school life.

Teachers adapt their teaching to meet the needs of all pupils. Teaching assistants provide useful, bespoke support for learners, including those in the special resource classes. Most pupils behave well and they are polite and considerate towards others.

The curriculum is wide ranging and relevant to the community which the school serves. There are many opportunities for pupils to use their learning in authentic contexts. Staff make very good use of the school environment, which offers interesting outdoor areas and attractive learning spaces indoors. Provision for pupils' creative development is a strong feature of the school.

The curriculum engages pupils successfully. Staff work together effectively as well as with their cluster of schools, to plan an interesting curriculum for pupils. Opportunities for pupils to take ownership of their learning by influencing how and what they learn are at the early stages of development.

Most pupils make good progress from their starting points. They become increasingly confident in using a wide range of vocabulary. Most use their numeracy and digital skills well across the curriculum. Pupils enjoy extra-curricular classes in Spanish and Mandarin and they begin to learn some British sign language. However, too many lack confidence in speaking Welsh and the school has prioritised this for further development.



Recommendations

R1 Raise standards in Welsh

R2 Increase opportunities for pupils to influence how and what they learn

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Cefn Fforest Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	289
Pupils of statutory school age	216
Number in nursery classes	41
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over 23.0%)	34.3%
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%)	31%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2009
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	11/02/2014
Start date of inspection	17/10/2022

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