



**Report summary for parents and
carers on
Crumlin High Level Primary School**

Date of inspection: October 2022

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

Overview

The previous headteacher retired at the end of the last academic year. In October 2022 the governing body appointed a headteacher from another local school to lead the school. During periods of absence and prior to this appointment, the deputy headteacher worked well with permanent and temporary staff to develop a positive culture of teamwork at the school. This began to address important areas for improvement in the school's teaching and assessment practices and pupils' learning. However, it is too early to judge the effectiveness of these new arrangements.

The new leadership team is beginning to evaluate the school's provision and its impact on pupils' learning more stringently. They now have a clearer picture of the school's strengths and its weaker areas. They are beginning to make better connections between the new self-evaluation processes and the school's improvement plans. However, at this stage in the school's development, leaders have not shown that they can secure improvements to the quality of teaching and learning.

Pupils interact very well with adults and each other. There is an inclusive atmosphere at the school and pupils and staff welcome each other warmly in the mornings and enjoy each other's company at breaktimes. Pupils are courteous and polite, and nearly all of them behave impeccably. They enjoy attending school and are eager to contribute to their own learning. This is due to the positive working relationships that they have with their teachers and the support staff.

The school environment promotes beneficial learning opportunities, both indoors and in the outdoor areas. Within these learning areas, staff ensure that a positive ethos of care and support exists for pupils. Staff encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own well-being and behaviour and this contributes effectively to the pupils' enthusiastic approach to school life. This culture of inclusivity helps pupils to build confidence and develop their self-esteem, whilst also respecting the views and feelings of others.

Pupils' speaking in English, their listening, reading and physical skills make good progress as they move through the school, and they use these skills effectively across various areas of the curriculum. However, pupils do not develop their writing, numeracy, digital and Welsh oracy skills well enough.

The deputy headteacher shared responsibilities effectively among staff and provided beneficial opportunities for professional learning. This is developing and contributing to a progressive whole-school ethos, where staff and pupils feel valued for their contributions to the life of the school.



Recommendations

- R1 Establish and maintain effective leadership and governance to support school improvements
- R2 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment practices across the school
- R3 Improve pupils' extended writing skills
- R4 Improve pupils' numeracy skills
- R5 Ensure that the provision for Welsh improves pupils' oracy skills

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis.



School context

Name of provider	Crumlin High Level Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Not applicable
Number of pupils on roll	130
Pupils of statutory school age	94
Number in nursery classes	25
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 21.3%)	7.8%
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 22.2%)	14.9%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	1.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	24/11/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	28/04/2014
Start date of inspection	24/10/2022
The local authority appointed an executive headteacher in October 2022 to lead the school.	

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