



Report summary for parents and carers on Eastern High School

Date of inspection: December 2022

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

Overview

Staff at Eastern High School place a high priority on pupils' well-being and provide them with high levels of care, support and guidance. They know their pupils well, and many teachers plan their lessons carefully to capture pupils' imagination and ensure they make good progress in their subject knowledge and understanding. Provision for those with additional learning needs (ALN) is particularly well-coordinated and effective. In general, staff are calm and foster positive working relationships with pupils. As a result, many pupils respond positively to the opportunities offered to them and behave well in lessons and around the school.

In a majority of cases, pupils make strong progress in their subject knowledge and understanding. However, the provision for developing pupils' literacy, numeracy, Welsh and digital skills across the curriculum is underdeveloped. While pupils develop their understanding of the importance of exercise and a healthy diet well, they do not have enough opportunities to learn about matters associated with sexual health or drug misuse.

A majority of pupils enjoy coming to school and there are high levels of participation in extra-curricular activities such as sports, musical shows and debates. The school has suitable procedures to ensure pupils' attendance and staff work constructively with parents to improve this aspect if necessary. However, a few pupils do not attend regularly enough or avoid certain lessons when they are in school, which restricts their progress.

The headteacher communicates his vision for each pupil to flourish and reach their potential clearly. In general, he is supported well by the rest of the senior leadership team. They have a suitable understanding of what needs to be done to improve certain aspects of the school's work. However, when judging the quality of teaching, leaders do not consider its impact on pupils' learning closely enough.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen systems to improve pupils' attendance, and reduce persistent absenteeism and internal truancy
- R2 Improve the provision for developing pupils' skills across the curriculum including their command of Welsh
- R3 Strengthen the provision for personal and social education
- R4 Ensure that leaders understand how to evaluate the school's provision in light of its impact on pupils' learning

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.



School context

Name of provider	Eastern High School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1162
Pupils of statutory school age	1162
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 [SECTOR] is [xx]%)	51.3%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in [SECTOR] is [xx]%)	19.4%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	2.6%
Date of headteacher appointment	09/01/2021
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	12/08/2014
Start date of inspection	12/05/2022

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