



# Report summary for parents and carers on Gellifaelog Primary School

**Date of inspection: November 2022**

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

# Overview

Gellifaelog Primary School provides a welcoming, caring environment for its pupils. Staff work hard to support families and meet the needs of pupils. The provision for personal and social development is beneficial in helping pupils to understand how to stay safe and healthy. It provides opportunities to reflect on important values such as kindness and empathy. Staff promote respect for others and they model calm, reassuring and friendly approaches consistently well.

Members of the new senior leadership team have begun to make improvements to provision for pupils. They have a clear vision for the future of the school. In a short time, they have improved aspects of the learning environment and site security, arrangements for the teaching of reading and provision for pupils' well-being. A timetable to evaluate learning and provision in detail is now in place, although this has not had time to take effect. The school is yet to consult with all stakeholders to inform further improvements. New governors are supportive of the school leadership, but they do not fulfil their role as a 'critical friend'. Leadership across the school is not yet embedded enough to ensure that the teaching improves pupils' learning.

Provision for pupils with additional needs is well-planned. The co-ordinator involves parents, staff and outside agencies to ensure that planning for individual needs is effective. Many pupils with additional needs make good progress in developing their social skills and improving their well-being.

Pupils in leadership roles take their responsibilities seriously. They have helped to improve the school through devising new school rules and improving parking outside the school gates. They promote aspects of safety in school well. However, these groups have been established very recently and staff direct the work of the groups too much.

The curriculum is wide-ranging and it engages the majority of pupils who make appropriate progress in their literacy and numeracy skills. Changes to the curriculum are beginning to promote pupils' independence. However, opportunities for pupils to use a range of skills across the curriculum are too limited. Staff do not consider the impact that the curriculum and teaching have on pupils' learning and achievement well enough and they do not ensure that pupils develop their skills systematically to raise standards.



# Recommendations

- R1 Develop an engaging curriculum, that builds pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding systematically and enables them to write, speak Welsh, and use their numeracy skills effectively in meaningful contexts
- R2 Raise teachers' expectations of what pupils should learn, know, and understand
- R3 Embed leadership at all levels to realise the school's priorities for improvement successfully

## What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.



## School context

Name of provider	Gellifaelog Primary School
Local authority	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	263
Pupils of statutory school age	183
Number in nursery classes	42
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%)	45.3%
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%)	4.9%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	4.4%
Date of headteacher appointment	January 2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	03/01/2014
Start date of inspection	28/11/2022

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