



Report summary for parents and carers on Llanilltud Faerdref Primary

Date of inspection: January 2023

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

Overview

Llanilltud Faerdref is a happy, caring school at the heart of the community it serves. Pupils enjoy coming to school. They feel safe and well cared for and have a sense of pride in their school.

Pupils' well-being is central to the school's culture. Staff are highly committed in ensuring that they meet pupils' well-being needs each day, in order to prepare them for learning. The curriculum provides a broad range of learning experiences and is well structured to ensure that most pupils make beneficial progress in their learning. Pupils benefit from a well-developed forest school area to learn bushcraft skills, such as recognising bird calls and making bird houses. In addition, staff have made good use of the new school build to create authentic learning opportunities and to develop mathematical skills such as area and perimeter. However, pupils do not always develop their independent learning skills well enough. This is because on occasions, teachers over-direct pupils' learning activities. In addition, in around a half of classes, teachers promote pupils' problem-solving skills well. However, this good practice is not consistent across the school.

Over time, most pupils make good progress from their starting points in most areas of learning. Nearly all pupils develop a real love of mathematics and are keen to share their work and demonstrate their mathematical skills. In the majority of classes, strong teaching supports pupils to develop their reasoning and thinking skills well. However, this is not consistent across the school. Most pupils make strong progress in writing and reading. The development of pupils' oracy skills is a strength of the school.

Pupils with additional learning needs have clear development plans with relevant targets. However, adults do not always implement these plans as well as they could to support pupil progress.

Leaders have worked well with stakeholders to create a shared vision, underpinned by the school's motto 'Care, share, believe, achieve'. This vision permeates every area of the school and is exemplified by the headteacher, staff and pupils. Leaders have developed worthwhile systems to support strong self-evaluation of school practice, identifying strengths and areas requiring further development. As a result, the school operates smoothly on a day-to-day basis, with a clear focus on well-chosen improvement priorities.

Recommendations

R1 Improve pupils' independent learning skills

R2 Use the best practice across the school to ensure that all teaching allows pupils to develop their reasoning, thinking and problem-solving skills

R3 Ensure that the classroom provision for additional learning needs takes good account of the targets within individual development plans

R4 Develop arrangements to promote healthy eating and drinking in line with the Welsh Government's requirements

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Llanilltud Faerdref Primary
Local authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	183
Pupils of statutory school age	136
Number in nursery classes	24
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%)	34.8%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	5.1%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/05/2019
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/05/2014
Start date of inspection	30/01/2023

© Crown Copyright 2023: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 03/04/2023

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.