



# Report summary for parents and carers on Machen Primary School

**Date of inspection: June 2023**

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

# Overview

Machen Primary is a warm, welcoming school that provides an engaging learning environment that supports all pupils. Staff are positive role models and share a vision to support pupils' well-being. Staff and pupils have a sense of pride in their school and what it has to offer. The Welsh language is celebrated throughout the school day, and is a prominent feature in daily activities, formal and informal situations.

Leaders know their school well and understand the actions they need to take to improve aspects of its work. They focus on developing pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills effectively and most pupils make good progress during focused sessions. However, independent learning tasks do not always enable pupils to deepen their understanding and apply their skills across the curriculum.

Teachers plan a good range of learning experiences and provide valuable interventions to support pupils with additional learning needs. They make effective use of assessment information to monitor the progress pupils make and to identify groups of pupils who may benefit from additional support. When given the opportunity, pupils enjoy talking about their work and the actions they follow to complete tasks. However, feedback does not always focus on the skills pupils are developing, and the actions they need to take to improve their work.

The school is beginning to develop its curriculum and consider how they can use the locality and Wales to enrich pupils' learning experiences. Teachers plan a range of engaging activities for pupils to develop their creative and problem-solving skills across the curriculum. However, the value and impact of these activities vary across the school, especially older pupils.

The headteacher values the contributions governors, staff and pupils make. There is a strong culture of supportive and caring leadership. Leaders at all levels work effectively to provide the best they can for all pupils. They reflect honestly on pupils' progress and accurately identify the school's strengths and areas for development. Governors are valuable members of the school community and offer appropriate support and challenge to the school.

# Recommendations

- R1 Improve opportunities to develop pupils' deeper understanding and application of skills across the curriculum, especially when engaged in independent learning
- R2 Ensure consistency in the quality and use of pupil feedback to support pupils to make improvements to their work
- R3 Extend opportunities for pupils to develop their creative and problem-solving skills in purposeful, real-life activities

## What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations.



## School context

Name of provider	Machen Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	176
Pupils of statutory school age	131
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 23.0%)	5.3%
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%)	14.5%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	05/06/2002
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	09/11/2014
Start date of inspection	12/06/2023

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