



Report summary for parents and carers on Minera Aided Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2023

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

Overview

Most pupils start Minera Primary School with weak literacy and numeracy skills. From these starting points and over time they do not make sufficient progress in the development of these skills, particularly in the development of writing. Nearly all pupils behave well, and most younger pupils engage enthusiastically in the outdoor learning environment where they begin to learn through exploration.

The school has begun to develop its curriculum in line with Curriculum for Wales based around a range of themes. Teachers are starting to enhance learning suitably through a range of trips and visits. However, provision for the progressive development of key skills such as literacy and numeracy is underdeveloped. As a result, the majority of pupils do not progress as well as they should in these areas.

Teachers and support staff prioritise pupils' well-being and forge positive relationships with them. This supports pupils to feel safe and to be considerate and respectful to others. However, teaching does not consistently meet the needs of all pupils well enough. Too often, teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve are too low and the pace of learning is too slow. Teachers rely heavily on standardised test data and do not use day-to-day assessment well enough to ensure that all pupils make the progress they are capable of making.

The school is inclusive and provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is appropriate. As a result, most pupils with ALN make suitable progress against their individual targets. Leaders and teachers promote a strong safeguarding culture, and they develop pupils' spiritual, moral and social skills well. Whilst the school promotes the benefits of healthy eating appropriately, a minority of pupils eat unhealthy snacks at breaktimes.

Following a period of staffing change and uncertainty leaders have put in place a new leadership structure. These roles are at an early stage of development. Leaders have begun to work with staff to address a few improvement priorities including reading and ALN. However, generally, leaders have not monitored the school's work carefully enough. As a result, they do not identify important aspects of the school's provision and teaching that require improvement.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve leadership at all levels ensuring that self-evaluation and school improvement actions focus on identifying and addressing the key improvements in teaching and learning
- R2 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment to ensure that pupils make appropriate progress, particularly in writing
- R3 Improve the curriculum and provision for the progressive development of pupils' 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. This is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report..



School context

Name of provider	Minera Aided Primary School
Local authority	Wrexham County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School
Number of pupils on roll	107
Pupils of statutory school age	86
Number in nursery classes	21
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%)	25.9%
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%)	8.2%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	5.6%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2016
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	05/05/2014
Start date of inspection	06/03/2023

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