



Report summary for parents and carers on Pengam Primary School

Date of inspection: February 2023

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

Overview

Pengam Primary School is part of the Fleur-De-Lys and Pengam Federation. It is a vibrant and nurturing school where pupils feel valued and supported by staff. As a result, nearly all pupils approach school life with enthusiasm and show positive attitudes towards their learning, each other and their school community.

During their time at the school, most pupils make good progress from their starting points, including those pupils with additional learning needs. Pupils of all ages are becoming confident mathematicians and their digital skills are developing well across the school. While pupils' writing skills are developing suitably, they do not always write well enough at length particularly across the curriculum. Younger pupils use the Welsh language effectively. However, older pupils do not always show enough progression from these strong foundations. Overall, pupils benefit from an engaging curriculum, which encourages an interest in their local area and the diverse nature of Wales.

Staff know their children well. They work diligently to support the needs of all pupils, including those who require additional help. Occasionally, staff are too eager to intervene and over-direct pupils' learning. As a result, pupils become less independent, as they are not always challenged well enough to develop their own thinking or reflect carefully enough on their learning.

Pupils have many opportunities to take on leadership roles and pupil voice groups work closely with governors and the federation. These groups ensure that pupils have a strong voice in the school, for example where super ambassadors work effectively to raise awareness of the rights of the child across the school.

Leaders have developed a strong culture of mutual support and collaboration across the school and the federation. Staff work with dedication to ensure that pupils experience a wide range of learning opportunities in the classroom and outdoors. The extensive range of after-school clubs provided by staff further inspire pupils to develop new interests. As a result, nearly all pupils are happy and proud to attend Pengam Primary School.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve teaching and assessment to ensure that all pupils are challenged appropriately and that learning activities meet their developmental needs
- R2 Improve opportunities for pupils to develop their independence and effectiveness as learners
- R3 Improve pupils' speaking and extended writing skills
- R4 Strengthen school improvement processes to ensure that leaders provide suitable challenge for staff on the impact their teaching makes on pupils' progress
- R5 Improve attendance of pupils, particularly those pupils eligible for free school meals

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Pengam Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	N/A
Number of pupils on roll	217
Pupils of statutory school age	185
Number in nursery classes	32
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%)	19.3%
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%)	10.7%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	N/A
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2013
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/05/2014
Start date of inspection	02/06/2023

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