



Report summary for parents and carers on Pillgwenlly C.P. School

Date of inspection: April 2023

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

Overview

Pupils at Pillgwenlly Primary School are polite, friendly, and caring. They are eager to learn, work with others effectively and enjoy taking on leadership roles. They show a good awareness of important issues, such as equality, sustainability, and the importance of valuing others, but are not always clear about the importance of eating healthily.

The school is a vibrant, multi-cultural learning environment that gives pupils a broad range of engaging learning experiences. This helps to ensure that pupils make effective progress in areas, such as their speaking and listening, and information and communication technology (ICT) skills. However, pupils' progress in mathematics and writing is not as good.

Alongside its multi-cultural ethos, the school values its Welsh culture and language, incorporating it into the curriculum to develop pupils' understanding well. Teachers develop positive and supportive relationships with pupils and consider their ideas carefully when planning learning. However, teachers do not always provide learning that challenges pupils to develop their skills well enough, nor provide pupils with helpful enough feedback to support their learning.

The school provides effective support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), and for those with English as an additional language. A dedicated team assists teachers to identify pupils' individual needs and provide them with targeted help. Pupils in the local authority's learning support class, and those in the school's own bespoke support classes are supported well and make good progress in their learning. While arrangements to keep pupils safe are suitable, the school does not have a strong enough safeguarding culture.

There have been significant changes to the school's leadership in recent years. Leaders have developed a clear vision for the school, based around their 'BRIDGE' curriculum and an approach to teaching that provides pupils with useful opportunities to develop their independence. However, leaders do not evaluate, or plan for improvements in, pupils' learning well enough. The school provides staff with useful professional learning opportunities. However, a minority of staff do not feel part of the school's improvement journey.

Recommendations

- R1 Address the issues relating to safeguarding identified at the time of the inspection
- R2 Sharpen evaluation and improvement processes so that they focus better, and impact more positively, on pupils' learning
- R3 Improve pupils' writing and their mathematical skills
- R4 Ensure that teachers provide pupils with challenging learning experiences more consistently and give them regular and helpful feedback on their learning

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.



School context

Name of provider	Pillgwenlly C.P. School
Local authority	Newport City Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	643
Pupils of statutory school age	471
Number in nursery classes	95
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%)	36.3%
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%)	31.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	81.7%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2020
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	09/06/2015
Start date of inspection	24/04/2023

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