



Report summary for parents and carers on St Woolos Primary School

Date of inspection: May 2023

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

Overview

St. Woolos Primary School is an effective and caring school, which holds the community it serves at the heart of all it does. Pupil well-being is a strength of the school. This is due to the priority leaders and staff place upon pupils being happy and ready to learn. There is a strong focus on inclusion and ensuring equality for all, whilst celebrating diversity.

Teachers are effective in delivering a curriculum that supports pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills purposefully over the time they are at the school. From their starting points, pupils respond well and become confident when applying their skills in oracy, reading, writing and numeracy across the curriculum. However, pupils are less confident in using digital skills or when using the Welsh language.

Staff provide interesting lessons and an abundance of purposeful visits to support the learning and inspire pupils to consider their own contributions in the future. However, opportunities to develop creativity through the expressive arts are less well developed. Pupils feel that they have a voice in their school and its curriculum, and are confident when suggesting improvements, such as more opportunities to develop their physical skills.

Over time, and through constant reflection, leaders implement well-considered plans to improve the school for the benefit of the pupils. For example, there is a strong focus on improving oracy. This not only supports the youngest pupils but enables pupils who transfer to the school from other settings. This is particularly helpful to those who are new to the English language. As a result, most pupils rapidly develop linguistic skills that enable them to access the curriculum and develop as independent learners.

Governors play an active role in the school and are effective in supporting it to move forward. Together, with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, they have a clear understanding of the school's position and where the focus for improvement lies. Parents trust leaders and staff. They are very supportive of the school and appreciate its work in nurturing and developing their children.

Recommendations

R1 Improve pupils' digital and Welsh oracy skills

R2 Improve provision for expressive arts, creativity and to support the development of pupils' physical skills

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	St Woolos Primary School
Local authority	Newport City Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	366
Pupils of statutory school age	268
Number in nursery classes	54
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%)	30.1%
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%)	11.9%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	61.2%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/11/2000
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/01/2015
Start date of inspection	22/05/2023

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