



Report summary for parents and carers on Upper Rhymney Primary School

Date of inspection: June 2023

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

Overview

Upper Rhymney Primary School is a caring and inclusive school, which encourages pupils to learn in a positive atmosphere and to be happy. Pupils enjoy the activities and tasks provided and use a wide range of strategies and resources to learn productively. Pupils' enthusiastic attitudes and readiness to learn during lessons is due to the purposeful working relationships that exist with their teachers and other staff.

The staff provide beneficial learning opportunities for pupils, which includes using the woodland area regularly. Where learning is particularly successful, the teaching and assessment is engaging and purposeful and staff have high expectations of pupils. However, the quality of teaching varies in terms of its impact on pupils' progress. Teachers' feedback is also inconsistent when attempting to develop the next steps in pupils' learning.

All staff provide a high level of support and care for pupils in all aspects of school life. This encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own learning and well-being. Pupils' behaviour is very good, and they are determined to persevere and learn purposefully. As a result, they develop good literacy and creative skills across the curriculum. However, the planning to improve pupils' numeracy and digital skills is not as effective.

The headteacher provides effective and purposeful leadership. She is determined to succeed for the benefit of pupils and the community. The senior leadership team, the staff and the governors share a clear vision. They work together well to ensure that the school is an inclusive learning community that promotes positive opportunities for pupils.

The headteacher shares responsibilities effectively among staff. This creates a positive whole-school focus, where staff and pupils feel valued for their contributions to school life. Leaders evaluate the school's work to plan for improvements thoroughly. They use robust self-evaluation processes and identify development areas well, such as improving outdoor resources for younger pupils. Additionally, these monitoring practices lead to worthwhile training opportunities for staff to develop their skills through effective professional learning.

Recommendations

- R1 Challenge all pupils through consistent and effective teaching
- R2 Plan effective progression in pupils' numeracy and digital skills as they move through the school
- R3 Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning across the school
- R4 Improve the resources and outdoor learning opportunities for younger pupils

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	Upper Rhymney Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Not applicable
Number of pupils on roll	162
Pupils of statutory school age	116
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%)	48.8%
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%)	19.0%
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	01/01/2012
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	14/11/2014
Start date of inspection	19/06/2023

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