



Report summary for parents and carers on Ynyshir Primary School

Date of inspection: June 2023

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

Overview

Leaders work purposefully to create a safe and inclusive environment where pupils and staff feel valued and supported. They have built a strong team ethos across the school and ensure that the well-being of all staff and pupils is a high priority. However, there has recently been significant staffing turbulence and, although leaders have ensured staff morale has remained high, the turnover of teachers has created instability that has impacted negatively on the quality of teaching and learning.

Staff meet pupils' social and emotional needs well. They deal with pupils' concerns thoughtfully and appropriately in a timely manner. The school's curriculum provides a suitable range of learning opportunities. Teaching assistants manage pupils in small groups effectively, offering valuable individual support for vulnerable pupils. As a result, many pupils requiring intervention make strong progress.

However, too many lessons do not hold pupils' interest, as they lack pace and excitement. Teachers' expectation of what pupils can achieve are too low, and they do not pitch tasks well enough to challenge pupils, especially the more able. As a result, many pupils do not make the progress they could in essential skills, such as reading and writing in English, and in acquiring the basic skills to communicate in Welsh. Too many pupils do not attend school regularly enough, and this also affects the progress that they make.

Leaders have an appropriate vision for teaching and learning. However, it is not shared well enough and too often is not evident in classrooms. Leaders' monitoring of the school's provision does not focus well enough on pupils' standards and progress. Although leaders identify suitable areas for improvement in the school's work, their actions do not always result in sufficient improvements in outcomes for pupils.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that self-evaluation and improvement actions focus sharply on their impact on improving pupils' standards, in particular, their skills in reading, writing and the Welsh language
- R2 Raise teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve and ensure sufficient challenge, particularly for the more able
- R3 Improve attendance, particularly for pupils eligible for free school meals

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	Ynyshir Primary School
Local authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	255
Pupils of statutory school age	184
Number in nursery classes	44
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%)	26.7%
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%)	3.3%
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	01/01/2011
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	03/03/2015
Start date of inspection	19/06/2023

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Publication date: 21/08/2023

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