



# Report summary for parents and carers on Bryn Bach County Primary School

**Date of inspection: July 2023**

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

# Overview

Bryn Bach County Primary School is a caring and welcoming environment for all its staff, pupils and families. Nearly all pupils enjoy school and feel happy and safe. Staff ensure that the well-being of pupils is a high priority for all and, as a result, pupils feel valued and proud to be part of the school community.

Members of the new senior leadership team have begun to make improvements to the provision for pupils. They have a clear vision for the future of the school. In a short time, they have improved arrangements for the teaching of reading and strategies for supporting pupils' well-being.

Relationships between staff and pupils, and between each other, are positive and supportive. Most pupils have positive attitudes to school life. They behave well during lessons and when moving around the school. The school provides extra-curricular activities that develop and enhance a wide range of skills effectively and inspire pupils to take up new interests. These experiences develop pupils' life skills and well-being positively.

Overall, the teaching and the learning experiences provided for pupils are appropriate. Staff provide pupils with numerous opportunities to build on their knowledge and understanding. However, staff do not ensure that pupils develop their skills systematically or apply them purposefully, for example in writing.

Self-evaluation processes are appropriate and inform leaders of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Leaders regularly review the school's work against its improvement priorities and use a wide range of information appropriately including data from pupil assessments, carrying out learning walks and scrutinising pupils' standards within their books. However, leaders' monitoring activity does not always pick up on important areas of teaching and learning that need improving. Examples include the way teachers plan for writing, Welsh and how feedback helps pupils to improve their work as they move through the school.

# Recommendations

- R1 Sharpen self-evaluation and improvement processes so that they impact more positively on the quality of teaching and learning
- R2 Improve standards of writing
- R3 Improve pupils' Welsh oracy skills
- R4 Ensure that learning experiences meet all pupils needs and develop their skills systematically

## 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	Bryn Bach County Primary School
Local authority	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	N/A
Number of pupils on roll	233
Pupils of statutory school age	171
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%)	23.5%
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%)	18.1%
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	15/05/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	05/01/2015
Start date of inspection	03/07/2023

© Crown Copyright 2023: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 05/09/2023

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.