



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Derwen

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Derwen is a friendly and inclusive school, which promotes a caring ethos successfully. There are purposeful working relationships between pupils and staff that support a positive environment and instil a strong sense of learning and well-being among pupils.

Pupils enjoy learning both indoors and around the school grounds, and they are enthusiastic during lessons and tasks. During their time at school, pupils develop effective social, literacy, numeracy and digital skills. However, the provision for Welsh does not improve pupils' oracy skills well enough. Pupils' outcomes are particularly successful where the teaching is challenging and consistent. They respond enthusiastically when they receive feedback from teachers that challenges them to perform at their best.

The planning of the school's curriculum and the school environment promotes beneficial learning opportunities. For example, staff use the woodland and orchard creatively to engage pupils in outdoor learning. Staff demonstrate positive attitudes towards pupils, and they support and care for them diligently. This contributes to pupils' eagerness to learn and their resilience to persevere with tasks. Staff effectively encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own well-being and behaviour and the emotional support for pupils is a strong feature of the school.

The headteacher leads the school with the pupils' care and well-being at the heart of his vision. He works well with senior leaders, staff and governors to ensure that the school is an inclusive learning community that promotes positive opportunities for pupils. Generally, leaders evaluate the school's work effectively, using regular self-evaluation processes, which lead to purposeful development plans. However, they do not hold staff to account robustly enough for the effectiveness and consistency of their teaching. The school's monitoring activities lead to relevant training opportunities for staff to develop their skills through agreed and purposeful professional learning.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that the rigour of monitoring processes improves the consistency and effectiveness of teaching
- R2 Ensure that provision for Welsh improves pupils' oracy skills

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Derwen
Local authority	Flintshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	203
Pupils of statutory school age	163
Number in nursery classes	22
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%)	6.9%
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%)	6.7%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.5%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2008
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	11/05/2015
Start date of inspection	02/10/2023

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