



# Report summary for parents and carers on Cilffriw Primary School

**Date of inspection: November 2023**

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

# Overview

Pupils at Cilffriw Primary School enjoy coming to school and are happy and well behaved. Despite this, senior leaders and governors need to strengthen the school's safeguarding culture.

The school has an appropriate vision to develop pupils as independent learners who achieve well. However the quality of teaching is too variable and teachers do not have high enough expectations of the standards that pupils can achieve. They do not use ongoing assessment data well enough to help plan next steps in pupils' learning. As a result, too many pupils do not make the progress they are capable of and do not develop the skills needed to become effective independent learners. Pupils' standards in Welsh and digital competence are particularly weak. In addition, teachers do not provide pupils with sufficient opportunities to use their literacy and numeracy skills in meaningful and authentic contexts.

Provision for pupils in the specialist classes is good. Teachers use a variety of different teaching methods to engage pupils with their work. As a result, all pupils in these classes make strong progress. However, the progress of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in mainstream classes is too inconsistent.

The school has recently revised its planning to implement the Curriculum for Wales. There is now greater consistency in teaching approaches, but too often staff do not build systematically on pupils' existing knowledge and skills in learning activities that they plan.

Senior leaders are committed to the school. However there are serious shortcomings in the way that they plan strategically to improve the school. Senior leaders do not ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly distributed and communication, particularly with parents, is inadequate.

Senior leaders do not monitor and evaluate the work of the school in a systematic way or use the findings well enough to make improvements. As a result, they do not always identify and address important shortcomings in the school's work quickly enough. Senior leaders and governors do not have an appropriate overview of how they are ensuring that pupils eligible for free school meals and those from low income households are making appropriate progress.

# Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen safeguarding arrangements and address the safeguarding and health and safety issues identified during the inspection
- R2 Improve strategic leadership at all levels
- R3 Improve teachers' use of on-going assessment to inform appropriate next steps in pupils' learning and to challenge pupils to achieve to the best of their ability
- R4 Improve provision for the teaching of and the progressive development of pupils' skills

## What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. This is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report.



## School context

Name of provider	Cilffriw Primary School
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	194
Pupils of statutory school age	157
Number in nursery classes	19
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%)	23.8%
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%)	26.8%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	7
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2015
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	02/06/2015
Start date of inspection	20/11/2023

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