



## Report summary for parents and carers on Gilfach Fargoed Primary School

**Date of inspection: November 2023**

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

# Overview

This school is part of a federation, characterised by strong leadership, high expectations, good quality classroom provision, and a focus on the well-being of staff and pupils. The headteacher has fostered a successful learning culture where everyone, staff and pupils, feel proud to be members of the school community, and want to do their best.

The federation leaders are strategic in their approach to partnership working. This benefits the staff, in terms of their professional learning, building capacity and effective deployment. Most importantly, it benefits the pupils in receiving effective teaching, that results in notable progress from their starting points. As a result, by the end of their time at the school, nearly all pupils achieve well across the curriculum, and develop their self-confidence and sense of empathy and responsibility. The provision for most areas of learning is strong, although leaders have rightly recognised the need to strengthen the provision to develop pupils' wider mathematical skills and ICT (information and communication technology) systematically.

Teachers devise exciting, engaging topics and activities that their pupils enjoy. The professional relationships between staff and the pupils are a particular strength of the school. As a result, classrooms are well resourced, purposeful, happy learning environments where learning proceeds at a good pace. Pupils influence the learning appropriately and contribute their views about what interests them. In the best examples, teachers allow pupils to think for themselves, but this is not always the case and, occasionally, teachers over-direct the learning.

Teaching assistants provide skilled, worthwhile support for any pupil that may require help to keep pace with their peers. Staff care deeply for their pupils and know them well as individuals. In addition, leaders work supportively with families wherever appropriate, for example to help them to improve their child's attendance.

# Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that teaching and learning experiences develop pupils' digital and mathematical skills, coherently and systematically
- R2 Share the strong practice across the school to support pupils to think for themselves and extend their independent learning skills

## What happens next

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

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to, Establishing a cohesive team for a successful federation, for dissemination on Estyn's website



## School context

Name of provider	Gilfach Fargoed Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	186
Pupils of statutory school age	132
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%)	36.5%
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%)	3.8%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2014
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	15/03/2016
Start date of inspection	20/11/2023

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