



## Report summary for parents and carers on Gnoll Primary School

**Date of inspection: November 2023**

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

# Overview

Gnoll Primary School is a caring community where pupils feel safe and happy, and make effective progress. Nearly all pupils forge positive relationships with their peers and staff alike and demonstrate high levels of respect for one another's cultures. They enjoy coming to school and are enthusiastic about their learning. Pupils know that staff expect them to behave well and respect everyone in the school and the community. Pupils are proud to be part of such a highly inclusive school. Many pupils participate enthusiastically in pupil voice groups and work to improve the school.

The school places a strong emphasis on supporting the well-being of all. There are strong relationships with parents and families and the school provides an effective range of support in collaboration with outside agencies. Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is highly beneficial. The work of the school's learning support centre, 'The Rainbow' classes, is particularly effective. Pupils are fully included in the life of the school and nearly all make strong progress. There is a strong culture of safeguarding across the school.

Staff offer pupils a variety of learning experiences, which help to keep pupils interested in their learning. As a result, most pupils, including those with ALN, engage well with their learning, make good progress and achieve well. However, in a few instances teachers over-direct learning and this hinders pupils' independence, including knowing how to improve their own work.

The school's curriculum takes account of pupils' interests. Teachers and teaching assistants are skilful and support pupils to develop a range of skills well. However, provision to develop pupils' writing and numeracy across the curriculum is less well developed.

The acting headteacher provides strong and caring leadership and knows the school well. She is ably supported by the acting deputy headteacher and all staff. Staff and senior leaders form an effective, successful team. The team works purposefully alongside the governing body to secure improvements for the school. Together, they understand most of the school's strengths and areas for development.

# Recommendations

- R1 Increase opportunities for pupils to develop their independence when learning, including improving their own work following feedback
- R2 Provide opportunities for pupils to write at length and to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum
- R3 Continue to improve attendance

## What happens next

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



## School context

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Name of provider   | Gnoll Primary School                     |
| Local authority  | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council |
| Language of the provider   | English                                  |
| Type of school   | Primary                                  |
| Number of pupils on roll   | 342                                      |
| Pupils of statutory school age   | 263                                      |
| Number in nursery classes  | 49                                       |
| 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%) | 42.8%                                    |
| 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%)               | 26.6%                                    |
| Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language  | 2.3%                                     |
| Date of headteacher appointment  | 01/09/2011                               |
| Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)  | 28/06/2016                               |
| Start date of inspection   | 20/11/2023                               |

© Crown Copyright 2024: 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: 25/01/2024

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