



Report summary for parents and carers on Llanishen High School

Date of inspection: September 2023

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

Overview

Llanishen High School provides pupils with a vibrant environment where they are nurtured and valued as part of its inclusive community. Leaders are committed to ensuring that every pupil succeeds. They have taken decisive actions to reduce the impact of poverty and support all its pupils. The school offers an exceptionally broad range of extra-curricular activities, which enriches pupils' experiences and raises their aspirations.

Staff foster positive working relationships with most pupils, who in turn engage well in their lessons. They behave well and demonstrate high levels of respect for staff and their peers. In many lessons, teachers capture pupils' interest and help them to make effective progress in their knowledge and understanding. In these lessons, teachers use questioning skilfully to check pupils' understanding and develop their verbal responses. As a result, many pupils speak confidently and use a broad range of vocabulary to express their views. However, teachers do not always offer pupils useful written feedback on targeted pieces of work. In a few lessons, pupils do not make enough progress, mainly because of teachers' low expectations and undemanding tasks.

There is a broad range of subjects for pupils to choose from in Key Stage 4 and the sixth-form. They receive useful advice and guidance to help them make informed choices about their subjects and their future. The school has begun to roll out its Curriculum for Wales in Year 7 and Year 8 after piloting approaches. The curriculum enables pupils to develop a beneficial understanding of diversity and inclusion. However, it is not always demanding enough to ensure pupils make progress and the provision for developing pupils' skills and their grasp of Welsh across the curriculum is underdeveloped.

Leaders and staff secure a positive safeguarding culture where most pupils feel safe and free from bullying. The school's work to restore relationships following any reported incidents of bullying helps to create an inclusive culture where pupils feel confident to challenge or report any behaviour that causes them concern.

Pupils with additional learning needs, including those who attend the school's Hearing Impaired and Autistic Spectrum Disorder resource bases, benefit from highly effective support. They make good progress against their targets and are fully integrated into the school community.

Leaders have focused closely on improving pupils' attendance, in particular to reduce persistent absenteeism. While this work is having a positive impact on steadily improving pupils' attendance, these rates remain below the levels they were prior to the pandemic.

Leaders regularly review relevant data to identify areas of strengths and improvement. However, they do not use a broad enough range of evidence to support their evaluations. As a result, improvement planning is not sharp enough and leaders at all levels do not have a clear enough view of the impact of teaching on pupils' learning.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen self-evaluation and improvement planning so that they focus more precisely on the impact of teaching on learning
- R2 Improve the provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills including Welsh across the curriculum
- R3 Improve the quality and impact of written feedback
- R4 Continue to improve attendance

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 (i) the work that the school does to reduce the impact of poverty and (ii) The school's enrichment programme.



School context

Name of provider	Llanishen High School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1694
Pupils of statutory school age	1465
Number in sixth form	227
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 Secondary is 20.2%)	26.4%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Secondary is 17.8%)	8.7%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	4.4%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/06/2016
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	07/04/2016
Start date of inspection	25/09/2023

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