



Report summary for parents and carers on Newtown High School

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Since the school was removed from special measures in October 2021, the headteacher and his staff have worked diligently to continue to improve key aspects of the school's work. Strengthened arrangements for self-evaluation and improvement planning have enable leaders at all levels to make beneficial improvements to teaching and arrangements for care, support and guidance. As a result, many pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), make sound progress in lessons. Attendance, including that of pupils eligible for free school meals, has also improved well.

In many lessons, effective teaching helps pupils to progress in their knowledge, understanding and skills. Most pupils behave well and engage positively in their learning. Many feel safe in school, but a few feel that the school does not deal with issues quickly or effectively enough. This is often because the school does not communicate to pupils and parents the actions it has taken clearly enough.

Senior and middle leaders carry out many aspects of their roles enthusiastically and effectively. This has a positive impact on, for example, how well teacher feedback supports pupil progress. However, although in general leaders evaluate teaching and learning robustly in order to identify areas for development, they do not always evaluate the impact of leadership thoroughly enough. As a result, whole-school improvement strategies are not always carried out consistently across both campuses. In addition, senior leaders do not ensure that middle leaders collaborate with their counterparts on the other campus to strengthen provision across the whole school.

Recommendations

- R Refine leadership responsibilities so that the school's improvement work has a consistent impact across the two campuses, in particular provision for the development of pupils' literacy, numeracy and Welsh skills
- R2 Improve communication between staff, and with pupils and parents, to develop cohesion, effective collaboration and a consistent sense of community across the whole school
- R3 Continue to refine evaluation and improvement processes so that they take full account of the impact of leadership on the outcomes of all pupils

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.



School context

Name of provider	Newtown High School
Local authority	Powys County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1007
Pupils of statutory school age	936
Number in sixth form	70
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%)	18.0%
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%)	28.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	2.4%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	2.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2018
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	18/05/2015
Start date of inspection	16/10/2023

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