



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

**Date of inspection: December 2023**

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

# Overview

Pantside Primary is a happy, caring school where all pupils are treated with respect and kindness. The headteacher and staff work with dedication to create a warm and valued environment for pupils and the wider school community. Staff promote positive behaviour effectively, and most pupils engage actively in lessons. The school provides strong support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) particularly those in its resource base classes. As a result, although most pupils start school with skills at or below the expected level, many make suitable progress and are developing as confident learners, who enjoy being part of their school.

Pupils develop their speaking skills effectively and most listen well to others. From an early age, they enjoy expressing themselves, sharing their ideas and talking about their own experiences. The school offers a well-planned range of experiences to enhance pupils' speaking and listening skills and also encourages participation in creative performance activities. For instance, all pupils are provided with opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument.

Pupils develop their early reading skills suitably. However, a minority of older pupils do not develop secure enough reading skills and struggle to make sense of the texts they are reading. When given the opportunity pupils write well, particularly in their science and technology work. The school is beginning to develop more regular opportunities for pupils to write in a wider range of contexts to help develop their creativity and improve their redrafting skills.

Pupils develop secure number skills and are beginning to apply these to other areas of the curriculum. However, teachers do not always ensure that pupils have enough opportunities to use these to solve problems or practice and apply their skills at a suitably challenging level. Overall, the school effectively promotes the use of the Welsh Language, with a strong commitment to developing these language skills in both pupils and staff.

Leaders and governors reflect well on what the school is doing well and how it can further improve. Teachers receive useful professional development and support, and the school manages its resources well. However, overall school improvement planning is too broad and does not always focus clearly enough on the quality of teaching and how this can further improve pupils' progress.

# Recommendations

- R1 Sharpen self-evaluation processes to focus more clearly on the impact of teaching on learning
- R2 Improve teaching to ensure that all pupils are challenged effectively
- R3 Refine the curriculum to ensure that pupils make systematic progress in developing their knowledge and skills across all Areas of Learning and Experience

## What happens next

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



## School context

Name of provider	Pantside Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	N/A
Number of pupils on roll	208
Pupils of statutory school age	158
Number in nursery classes	29
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 23.7%)	47.0%
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 13.2%)	34.8%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2015
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/02/2016
Start date of inspection	11/12/2023

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