



## Report summary for parents and carers on Penarlag C.P. School

**Date of inspection: December 2023**

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

# Overview

Pupils who attend Penarlag Primary school receive a high level of care, support and respect. Pupils are proud of their school and speak highly of the experiences they have. Across the school, pupils are friendly, welcoming, and behave well. They have good manners, are polite and inquisitive and enjoy learning new things. They develop valuable relationships with their peers and staff, which have a positive impact on their learning and well-being.

Most pupils begin school with skills that are appropriate for their age. As they move through the school, most pupils make strong progress in their learning and do so with confidence and enjoyment. Pupils with additional learning needs benefit from valuable support, and as result they also make good progress by the time they leave the school. Staff make skilful use of the learning spaces both within and outside of their classrooms to develop pupils' independence and to provide them with opportunities to carry out interesting practical activities.

The headteacher and governors work together well to ensure that pupils are safe and happy in school. Generally, leaders identify what the school is doing well and what it needs to do to improve. They take suitable steps to make the improvements needed. However, the school has not yet developed a curriculum that enables pupils to make constructive links between their own lives and their learning. Staff have not been given enough opportunities to undertake professional learning to support curriculum development and are not empowered to lead the necessary improvements themselves.

During their time at Penarlag, most pupils gain good Welsh, digital, literacy and mathematical skills and they learn to use these well in a range of contexts. The school has a clear Welsh identity. Throughout the school, staff model the Welsh language passionately and it has a high profile in many aspects of the school's work. The Criw Cymraeg pupil group plays an integral part in the school's Welsh language provision and a good range of other groups enable pupils to positively influence the life of the school.

# Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen distributed leadership to develop a coherent and progressive approach to curriculum and assessment
- R2 Ensure that professional learning is strategically planned to meet the needs of the school's immediate improvement priorities

## What happens next

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



## School context

Name of provider	Penarlag C.P. School
Local authority	Flintshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	197
Pupils of statutory school age	160
Number in nursery classes	15
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%)	17.2%
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%)	6.3%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	3.1%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	7.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	02/01/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	23/06/2015
Start date of inspection	04/12/2023

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