



Report summary for parents and carers on Gwernymynydd C.P. School

Date of inspection: January 2024

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

Summary

Leaders have brought two schools together as a safe and nurturing learning community where pupils feel valued and flourish in their development as caring citizens. They have focused well on developing consistency of experience for pupils across the two sites. This is a notable achievement, especially given the very high rates of staff turnover in recent times. Leaders are beginning to take advantage of the opportunities that the federation arrangements present, for example to enable staff to plan joint educational visits and topic work.

Relationships between staff and pupils are extremely beneficial and contribute positively to pupils' well-being. Standards of pupils' behaviour are excellent and they generally engage positively with the learning experiences provided for them.

Teaching ensures that most pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), make suitable overall progress during their time at school. Progress is most evident in pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills. They generally use these skills well to support learning in other curriculum areas, for example when finding out about the Celts and Welsh history. However, the school's curriculum does not always include a wide enough range of learning experiences. For example, opportunities for physical education and expressive arts are infrequent and teaching does not ensure that pupils develop their Welsh language skills progressively as they move through school.

Where leaders focus their efforts, for example to improve teaching of mathematics, they show the capacity to bring about positive change. However, over time, leaders have not always focused their work well enough on improving teaching and learning. This means that provision for younger pupils does not always match their developmental needs or interests well enough and that teaching for older pupils does not always challenge them to achieve as well as they could.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made three recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1 Improve teaching and the learning experiences provided for pupils from Nursery to Year 2
- R2 Improve the leadership and monitoring of teaching to ensure that teachers consistently make the best use of teaching time and provide the right level of support and challenge for pupils
- R3 Ensure that pupils access a suitably broad range of learning experiences that include opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills progressively as they move through school

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

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).



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