



Report summary for parents and carers on Maesmarchog Primary School

Date of inspection: January 2024

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

Overview

Maesmarchog Primary School is an inclusive and caring school. Leaders, governors and staff know pupils well. They prioritise well-being and inclusivity and this means that pupils enjoy coming to school and feel valued and cared for by staff. Pupils behave well and show respect for each other and their teachers and other staff. The school listens to and considers the views of pupils and parents effectively. However, attendance rates are low, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils.

Teaching across the school is inconsistent. In many lessons, teaching does not develop pupils' skills in literacy and numeracy, well enough. Teaching staff do not provide enough opportunities for pupils to work independently and develop specific skills. As a result, pupils, including those with additional learning (ALN) needs and pupils in the learning support centre, do not achieve as well as they could.

The school's curriculum is at an early stage of development. Planning for pupils to build and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding is not yet systematic or progressive. Teachers use a range of assessment procedures to record the progress pupils are making. However, they do not use assessment information well enough to inform their teaching in lessons or over time. This means that they do not plan well enough to meet pupils' learning needs as they move through the school. This limits pupils' progress.

Senior leaders do not accurately identify areas that need development. Improvement plans and processes are not specific or rigorous enough to bring about necessary changes. As a result, the pace of development is slow. Governors are engaged in the life of the school and ensure that well-being and inclusivity are a high priority. However, governors do not have enough first-hand evidence about standards and pupil progress to hold the school to account.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that leaders use evaluation and improvement processes effectively to ensure that the teaching and learning experiences provided for pupils meet their educational and developmental needs
- R2 Provide a purposeful and engaging curriculum that develops pupils' skills progressively
- R3 Make effective use of assessment information to inform teaching and to support pupils' progress in lessons and over time
- R4 Improve attendance, particularly for vulnerable learners

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	Maesmarchog Primary School
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	101
Pupils of statutory school age	83
Number in nursery classes	10
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%)	36.8%
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%)	32.5%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	12/10/2015
Start date of inspection	22/01/2024

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