



## Report summary for parents and carers on Radyr Comprehensive School

**Date of inspection: February 2024**

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

# Overview

Leaders in Radyr Comprehensive School place improving teaching at the centre of all of their work. This, along with the high priority they place on pupils' well-being and developing their sense of belonging, means that most pupils enjoy being at school, engage effectively during lessons and feel safe and valued as part of the school community.

The impact of professional learning on the quality of teaching is a notable strength of the school. Leaders have focused closely on developing teaching as the core element of their approach to implementing Curriculum for Wales. This work has had a positive impact, for example on improving the quality of questioning in lessons.

Staff foster positive relationships with their pupils that help them to feel safe and ready to learn. In many instances, strong teaching helps pupils make good progress in their learning. In a minority of lessons, inspirational teaching supports pupils to make particularly rapid progress.

The school has taken a measured approach to developing the provision for pupils' skills. This has ensured a well-understood whole-school approach where opportunities for pupils to apply their reading, writing and speaking skills are plentiful and their ability to read and understand a broad range of complex texts is a strength. The opportunities for pupils to helpfully apply their numeracy and digital skills are planned carefully.

The headteacher and his senior team have developed a clear vision for the school which is rooted in providing high-quality learning experiences and developing a coherent approach to their Curriculum for Wales. They have secured a generally broad and balanced curriculum, although this narrows in Year 9 when pupils begin their option choices. Leaders carry out an extensive range of evaluation activities and know their school well. However, their evaluation of learning, including the progress that pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) make, is not always rigorous enough. This means that improvement planning is sometimes not sufficiently precise.

Leaders have established a positive safeguarding culture where staff understand their roles and most pupils know where to turn to when they require support. Most pupils feel free from bullying and that staff deal with any issues or poor behaviour effectively. Most pupils behave well in lessons and around the school and show respect for staff visitors and their peers. Pupils embrace the extensive range of leadership opportunities and have successfully supported the school to celebrate diversity and create a culture where most pupils feel included as part of the whole school community.

# Recommendations

- R1 Refine self-evaluation activities so that they focus precisely on pupils' learning and skills, including those of pupils with additional learning needs
- R2 Ensure that pupils have access to the full range of learning experiences until the end of Year 9

## What happens next

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

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to the impact of professional learning on improving the quality of teaching.



# School context

Name of provider	Radyr Comprehensive School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1409
Pupils of statutory school age	1157
Number in sixth form	249
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 21.2%)	14.3%
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 14.8%)	8.7%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	1.3%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	3.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2012
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	11/03/2016
Start date of inspection	26/02/2024

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