



Report summary for parents and carers on King Henry VIII Comprehensive School

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

During the COVID-19 pandemic the school was successful in supporting pupils and staff including providing strong support for pupils' emotional well-being. There is a wide range of helpful support for vulnerable pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN). Although arrangements to keep learners safe at a time of considerable disruption to the school site, are generally sound, a few health and safety issues were brought to the school's attention during the inspection.

The school has taken a positive approach to the implementation of Curriculum for Wales and has a clear vision which is embraced across all curriculum areas. However, leadership has not succeeded in ensuring consistently good teaching, learning and behaviour. A majority of pupils enjoy their lessons and show respect for their teachers and peers, but in around half of lessons, weaknesses in teaching and inappropriate behaviour contribute to pupils not making sufficient progress. Currently, leaders do not plan for the progressive development of pupils' literacy, numeracy or digital skills strategically enough or the development of pupils' Welsh language skills.

Although the school's self-evaluation processes are relevant, they are not carried out with sufficient rigour or focus. Consequently, the school does not identify precisely the most significant strengths and areas for development in teaching and learning.

Pupils participate enthusiastically in a range of extra-curricular activities. They understand how to lead a healthy lifestyle and the importance of looking after their mental health. Many pupils are confident, articulate and caring individuals.

Most pupils in the sixth form are responsible, enthusiastic, and ambitious learners. They demonstrate a pride in their learning and generally set a good example for younger pupils.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve the effectiveness of teaching and assessment so that pupils are consistently challenged to achieve their potential**
- R2 Strengthen self-evaluation processes so that they focus robustly on the impact of teaching on pupils' progress and provide leaders with a precise view of the school's areas for development**
- R3 Strengthen provision for and the monitoring of the progressive development of pupils' skills, including Welsh**
- R4 Strengthen approaches to promoting positive behaviour, punctuality and attendance**
- R5 Address the safeguarding issues identified during the inspection**

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	King Henry VIII Comprehensive School
Local authority	Monmouthshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1063
Pupils of statutory school age	921
Number in sixth form	141
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 20.3%)	17.5%
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 23.0%)	23.6%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	2.7%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	1.2%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2022
Start date of inspection	14/11/2022

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