Estyn

Report summary for parents and carers on
Catwg Primary School

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Catwg Primary School is a warm and caring school, where staff place a high priority on the well-being of its pupils. This results in pupils who are very happy and feel safe in the school environment. Across the school, most pupils make good progress in their learning from their individual starting points, including pupils in the hearing-impaired classes (HIC) and those with additional learning needs (ALN). However, the tendency to over-direct the teaching and a lack of challenge impact on the expected progress of more able pupils.

Relationships between staff and pupils, and between each other, are exceptional. All pupils are very supportive of each other and have very positive attitudes to school life. They behave extremely well during lessons and when moving around the school. Teachers are beginning to design a rich and varied curriculum, which engages most pupils in their learning.

The school provides a good range of extra-curricular activities that develop and enhance a wide range of skills effectively and inspire pupils to take up new interests. These experiences develop pupils' life skills and well-being positively. Pupils enjoy their lessons, but their contribution towards their own learning is inconsistent across the school and their role as representatives of the pupils is underdeveloped.

Most pupils across the school develop strong oracy and reading skills. This is also true of the development of pupils' comprehensive grasp of number work in mathematics. However, from Year 3 to Year 6, teachers do not provide pupils with sufficient opportunities for them to develop the full range of mathematical concepts consistently. In addition, there are few opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills in other areas of the curriculum.

The newly appointed headteacher provides clear strategic leadership. The school's vision, mission and values are evident in the work of senior leaders, staff and governors. He has developed a strong team ethos where all staff feel valued and are passionate about providing a quality education for all pupils.

Recommendations

R1 Ensure that pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 have sufficient opportunities to experience all mathematical concepts and to apply their numeracy skills regularly in their work across the curriculum

R2 Ensure that teaching consistently provides opportunities to develop older pupils' independent skills and challenges all pupils, particularly those who are more able

R3 Provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to influence what and how they learn and to contribute to the development of the school

What happens next

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

School context

Name of provider	Catwg Primary School
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	229
Pupils of statutory school age	176
Number in nursery classes	33
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 23.0%)	18.9%
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 16.1%)	18.8%
Date of headteacher appointment	05/09/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	06/07/2015
Start date of inspection	02/10/2023

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.