



Report summary for parents and carers on Dolau Primary School

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Gynradd Dolau Primary School is a friendly, vibrant and inclusive learning community where everyone has high expectations and aspirations of themselves and others. Pupils are proud to be a part of the school and strive enthusiastically to achieve to the very best of their ability. They treat each other with respect and support each other with admirable maturity as they work and play. Nearly all pupils' behaviour is good. The school promotes a strong culture of safeguarding and, as a result, pupils enjoy their learning experiences and feel safe at school.

Many pupils make strong progress in developing their language, numeracy and digital skills from their starting points. As a result of the school's commitment to promoting bilingualism, pupils from the Welsh and English-medium classes progress well in both languages and access all areas of learning with confidence.

The school's curriculum is broad and balanced. Teachers plan engaging and exciting learning experiences that encourage pupils to explore, to be curious and to develop as independent learners. Pupils contribute suitably to what and how they learn as their ideas and likes are incorporated into activities and themes. Teachers model good learning behaviours well and provide timely feedback that reinforces understanding and stimulates pupils' deeper thinking. Activities challenge pupils purposefully and the indoor and outdoor learning areas are busy and productive places. In a very few examples, the pace of teaching is not quick enough and questioning does not guide the next steps in learning as effectively as it could.

The headteacher is an inspirational leader. He is an unrelenting advocate for all pupils and staff and his vision is based around aspiring continually for the very best standards, progress and well-being for all. The headteacher is supported highly effectively by a team of motivated and dedicated staff. They benefit greatly from the outstanding opportunities for developing leaders within the school that impacts effectively on pupils' learning experiences and progress. The governors support the school skilfully and enthusiastically and they have a strong understanding of their duties and obligations. They provide leaders and staff with purposeful support and ensure that the school makes the best use of its resources.

Recommendations

- R1 Share best teaching practice particularly to improve the pace of lessons and teachers' questioning skills

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 for dissemination on Estyn's website on its work in relation to its outstanding professional learning pathways that strategically develop leadership at all levels.



School context

Name of provider	Dolau County Primary School
Local authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	520
Pupils of statutory school age	393
Number in nursery classes	60
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%)	6.3%
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%)	1.8%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	13.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	07/01/1997
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/07/2015
Start date of inspection	16/10/2023
The school is a lead school for initial teacher education.	

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