



Report summary for parents and carers on Coed -y- Garn Primary School

Date of inspection: October 2022

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

Overview

Coed-y-Garn Primary is a warm and inclusive school, which promotes a positive atmosphere and ethos. Pupils enjoy learning and they are enthusiastic during lessons and in activities. This is due to the very strong working relationships that they have with their teachers and other staff. The learning resource base, and its pupils, play a very important part in the school's daily life.

Learning is particularly successful where the teaching and feedback to pupils are purposeful and challenge pupils to perform at their best. This helps many pupils to make strong progress in developing their listening, speaking, reading and number skills. However, the quality of teaching and feedback is not consistently challenging across the school. Overall, teachers do not give pupils enough opportunities to use and develop their independent learning skills, especially when writing extended pieces of work.

All staff promote a very positive ethos of support and care for pupils in all areas of the school. This encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own well-being and behaviour extremely well. This contributes to their positive attitudes to learning and their resilience to persevere with tasks. The school helps pupils to build confidence in themselves as individuals, while also developing a strong respect for the feelings of others. Overall, the school environment promotes beneficial learning opportunities, which includes a stimulating woodland area.

Leaders evaluate the school's work to plan for improvements thoroughly. The headteacher provides strong and effective leadership. She has a determination to succeed for the benefit of pupils and the community. The senior leadership team, the staff and the governors share her purposeful vision. They work together well to ensure that the school is inclusive and that it promotes good learning opportunities.

The headteacher shares responsibilities effectively among staff and provides beneficial opportunities for professional learning. This contributes to a positive whole-school ethos, where staff and pupils feel valued for their contributions to school life.



Recommendations

R1 Address the issues related to the school site, identified at the time of the inspection

R2 Challenge all pupils through consistent and effective teaching

R3 Ensure that teachers provide opportunities for extended independent writing

R4 Ensure that teachers' feedback moves individual pupils on to the next stage in their learning effectively

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 the teaching and the use of the learning environment to promote authentic learning experiences in the learning resource base, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	Coed -y- Garn Primary School
Local authority	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Not applicable
Number of pupils on roll	212
Pupils of statutory school age	164
Number in nursery classes	30
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 21.3%)	33.8%
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 22.2%)	21.3%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	2.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2019
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	03/03/2014
Start date of inspection	17/10/2022

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