



Report summary for parents and carers on Radnor Valley C.P. School

Date of inspection: February 2023

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

Overview

Radnor Valley County Primary School is an inviting, nurturing place to learn. The headteacher leads a small team of energetic teachers, many of whom are at the beginning of their profession. School staff strive to improve all aspects of school life and professional working relationships across the school are a strength. Pupils are keen to come to school, parents feel they are included in the life of the school and governors are heavily involved in ensuring that the school is a safe and happy place to be.

Throughout the school, pupils' behaviour is exceptional and they often engage positively with their learning. Pupils enjoy opportunities to learn more about the heritage and culture of Wales, beginning at their doorstep, and especially enjoy learning and practising the language. As a result, pupils become confident speakers, readers and writers and their enthusiasm spills into the community, where local businesses are now keen to practice the language too. Across the school, pupils develop extremely positive attitudes to reading and make accelerated progress in developing their reading skills. They use digital skills well and make the most of opportunities to be active, especially in the school's extensive, natural outdoor environment. Many develop good mathematical skills and knowledge but do not use these skills often enough in their work across the curriculum. They do not always build systematically on literacy or creative skills coherently enough to make the progress they are capable of. Teachers use questioning well and provide pupils with appropriate guidance to support their learning during lessons.

The school is developing its understanding of how pupils make progress but this is at an early stage of development and arrangements to monitor pupils' progress over time are less secure. Teachers include pupils' ideas when planning learning experiences and when choosing how to learn during lessons. From a young age, pupils are keen to do well. They develop as articulate learners and follow instructions carefully when completing work. However, pupils do not generally have enough opportunities to learn in a wide enough variety of ways to enable them to become independent learners. They do not learn in enough depth across the curriculum.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen leadership capacity in order to address improvement priorities
- R2 Develop teaching to secure effective progress for all pupils, and learning experiences that allow pupils to explore concepts in enough depth
- R3 Provide opportunities for pupils to take more responsibility for their learning and develop as independent learners

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to the work of its governing body, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	Radnor Valley C.P. School
Local authority	Powys County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	49
Pupils of statutory school age	40
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%)	13.6%
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%)	16%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	September 2015
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	24/06/2014
Start date of inspection	13/02/2023

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