



Report summary for parents and carers on Blaengwrach Primary School

Date of inspection: May 2023

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

Overview

Blaengwrach Primary School is a happy and caring school where the well-being of all is a priority. Pupils benefit from the many interesting and varied experiences staff provide to help them to develop into thoughtful and well-rounded citizens.

During their time at the school, most pupils make good progress and apply the skills they learn effectively across the curriculum, particularly in numeracy. This includes pupils with additional learning needs, who receive valuable robust support from staff. Across the school there is a strong focus on developing pupils' thinking skills and provision to develop pupils' ability to speak Welsh is effective. However, the quality of feedback to pupils to support their next steps in learning is at an early stage of development and does not always support progress as well as it could.

The school works hard to foster a sense of place and identity among pupils and they benefit from numerous trips and experiences to understand the culture and heritage of Wales and to develop their sense of belonging. For example, pupils enjoy learning about the history of their village and why it is named the Valley of the Witches. The school plays a pivotal part in the village and pupils work hard to contribute positively to the life of the community. Parents appreciate the guidance the school provides to help them to support their child's learning at home and the information they receive about important news and events at the school.

Over time, leaders have worked to ensure that the school continuously improves and the headteacher is beginning to develop leadership at all levels across the school. This enables a positive approach to evaluation to drive forward leadership across the school, for example by involving staff beneficially in evaluation and improvement work. However, while evaluation work ensures that leaders have a good overview of the school's main strengths and areas for improvement, leaders do not always evaluate well enough the difference that teaching and learning experience make to pupils' progress. The school's governing body is proactive and has a sound knowledge of its strengths and areas for development, as a result of frequent visits to work with staff and pupils. Together, leaders, staff, pupils and parents work for the benefit of their school, which is at the heart of its community.

Recommendations

R1 Ensure that monitoring and evaluation focuses more sharply on developing teaching and assessment to bring about further improvement in pupil progress

R2 Improve the quality of assessment and feedback to pupils to inform next steps in learning

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations.



School context

Name of provider	Blaengwrach Primary School
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	150
Pupils of statutory school age	121
Number in nursery classes	10
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%)	23.6%
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%)	9.9%
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	01/09/2015
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	17/03/2015
Start date of inspection	09/05/2023

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