



Report summary for parents and carers on Borthyn V.C. Primary School

Date of inspection: October 2022

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

Overview

Borthyn VC Primary School is a happy, hardworking school where leaders and staff have cultivated strong relationships with the community to support pupils to become aspirational and ambitious learners. As a result, most pupils, including those with additional learning needs, make strong progress across the curriculum.

Leaders, staff, and governors have worked together to create a clear vision for the school. Pupils understand the 'Borthyn BATS' ethos and use it to support them in their learning. This is evident in the positive attitudes they show when approaching challenge. Nearly all pupils behave well across the school and demonstrate good manners, humour and kindness to each other and adults.

Staff work diligently to listen to pupils and use their ideas to improve the school. Most pupils take part in a class 'Senedd' and many have regular opportunities to influence what and how they learn.

Teachers know their pupils well, and during lessons, give useful support, guidance and feedback to help them improve their work. They plan carefully for pupils' learning and have clear expectations for the progress they want their pupils to make. In a minority of instances, pupils do not have enough opportunity to develop their problem-solving skills in maths and the overuse of worksheets sometimes restricts their creative thinking.

Staff are working well together to develop and refine their approaches to the Curriculum for Wales. They place the four purposes at the heart of their curriculum planning and developing their approaches to effective teaching. Leaders ensure that nearly all staff collaborate well to influence the school's priorities for improvement and have relevant opportunities to improve their practice through engaging professional learning.

A particular strength of the school is the strong relationships with parents and the wider community. Parents feel well-supported by staff and are encouraged to be involved in the work that their children are doing. As a result, there is a shared commitment across the school community to support its children to be curious and excited by learning, to treat others well and endeavour to do the best that they can.



Recommendations

- R1 Reduce the over reliance on worksheets to provide pupils with better opportunities to present and redraft their work
- R2 Improve pupils' problem-solving skills in mathematics
- R3 Refine and embed approaches to teaching and assessment that are having the most impact on pupils' learning and share this good practice across the school

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 its work in building effective links with parents, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	Borthyn V.C. Primary School
Local authority	Denbighshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales
Number of pupils on roll	95
Pupils of statutory school age	90
Number in nursery classes	5
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%)	35%
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%)	37.9%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	3.9%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	7.4%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2015
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/03/2014
Start date of inspection	03/10/2022

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