



Report summary for parents and carers on Llwydcoed Primary

Date of inspection: February 2023

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

Overview

Pupils at Llwydcoed Primary School enjoy attending school. They are keen to talk to adults and speak confidently about how proud they are of their school. Pupils feel safe and well cared for, and they trust that adults will always support them through difficult times. As they move through the school, most pupils make strong progress from their individual starting points and use their knowledge and skills effectively in their work across the curriculum. The school genuinely values the pupils' opinions. They have frequent opportunities to influence the work of the school and are delighted to work alongside school leaders to bring about improvements.

Across the school, pupils develop positive attitudes to reading and writing and enjoy many opportunities to be physically active. They use digital tools effectively to support their learning and develop good mathematical and Welsh language skills. Teachers work with their pupils to plan learning experiences that capture their interests. These experiences allow pupils to explore the issues that are important to them, such as staying healthy and sustainability. Pupils are keen to do well and to take on new challenges. However, the over scaffolding of a few literacy and numeracy activities constrains pupils' ability to respond creatively and to direct their own learning.

Pupils' well-being is at the heart of the school's ethos and all staff work hard to make sure that the school is a thoughtful and inclusive environment. This togetherness is demonstrated by the positive working relationships between staff and pupils. Teachers think carefully about how pupils learn best and use a range of methods to engage them successfully in their learning. All staff develop their professional skills and knowledge together well, and this enables them to adjust provision to meet the needs of individual pupils. The standard of care, support and guidance provided across the school community is strong and underpins the school's vision, to empower children to achieve highly.

The headteacher shows strong and considerate leadership. Along with the support of school leaders and governors, she has developed an enthusiastic team of professionals, who have a strong understanding of the needs of the pupils and the local community. Partnerships with parents are robust and the school has earned their confidence. These partnerships prove particularly beneficial when leaders and staff are deciding the right approaches to adopt so that their pupils can prosper. Leaders and staff are well on their way to implementing a curriculum that is authentic and reflects the needs of the community. Overall, school leaders and governors keep the work of the school under close review and there are good arrangements for monitoring the quality of ongoing school improvements.

Recommendations

- R1 Extend opportunities for pupils to respond creatively and make more independent choices about their learning
- R2 Strengthen provision for more able pupils to ensure that they are suitably challenged

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 reducing the cost of the school day and providing additional support for low-income families in the community, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	Llwydcoed Primary
Local authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	125
Pupils of statutory school age	91
Number in nursery classes	21
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%)	29%
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%)	3%
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	05/04/2021
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	02/06/2014
Start date of inspection	06/02/2023

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