



Report summary for parents and carers on Milford Haven Community Primary

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

Most pupils in Milford Haven Primary School behave well. They are courteous to each other, to staff and to visitors. Staff at the school have created an inclusive, nurturing environment where pupils feel safe and cared for. They support the well-being of pupils well and engage effectively with their families. Teachers and teaching assistants deliver a good range of interventions to support pupils' emotional health and this is having a positive impact on pupils' well-being.

As pupils move through the school, the progress they make is inconsistent. This means that too many pupils do not develop their skills in literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT) or Welsh well enough. These weaknesses have a negative effect on their work in other areas of the curriculum. The school is beginning to use an increasing range of visits and visitors to enhance pupils' experiences. Pupils enjoy these and respond positively, talking enthusiastically about what they have learnt. However, the school's curriculum does not offer opportunities for pupils to develop and use their skills in a co-ordinated and progressive manner. Across the school, staff have forged strong working relationships with pupils. However, the quality of teaching across the school is too variable. Often, teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve are too low and the pace of learning is too slow. Teachers regularly structure activities too tightly and guide pupils' learning too much. This hampers pupils' capacity to become independent learners who can work things out and think for themselves. Teacher's feedback to pupils does not always help them to understand what they need to do in order to improve their work.

Over time, leaders have not monitored the school's work robustly enough. This means that they have not identified major shortcomings in the school's work or put in place actions to address them. Consequently, important national priorities such as planning to implement the curriculum for Wales are still at an early stage of development. Members of the school's governing body are keen and enthusiastic but, due to an insufficient number of members and an overreliance on the views of leaders about the quality of the school's work, they have been unable to provide effective support and challenge to the school.



Recommendations

- R1 Establish an effective leadership and governance structure
- R2 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment to challenge all pupils consistently
- R3 Improve pupils' reading and writing skills
- R4 Improve pupils' numeracy and ICT skills
- R5 Establish effective self-evaluation, school improvement and professional learning processes
- R6 Develop a curriculum that engages pupils and develops their knowledge, skills and understanding systematically and progressively

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. This is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	Milford Haven Community Primary
Local authority	Pembrokeshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	653
Pupils of statutory school age	503
Number in nursery classes	80
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%)	26.4%
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%)	27.8%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	2.2%
Date of headteacher appointment	07/11/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	14/11/2022

© Crown Copyright 2023: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 20/01/2023

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.