



Report summary for parents and carers on St Gwladys Bargoed School

Date of inspection: June 2023

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

Overview

St Gwladys is an inclusive and nurturing school where pupils feel valued and cared for. There is an established culture of mutual respect. This is a strong feature that enables nearly all pupils to thrive, show resilience and embrace challenge within a positive working environment. The headteacher leads a team of dedicated staff who work collaboratively to develop pupil well-being and support them to be caring and successful learners. Leaders and staff support the headteacher effectively and there is a strong sense of teamwork across the school.

The school provides a well-developed curriculum that gives meaningful opportunities for nearly all pupils to develop resilience and experience challenge. Teachers ensure that lessons are well planned and build on pupils previous learning. They provide opportunities for nearly all pupils to work both independently and collaboratively. Very good use is made of the limited outdoor space, enabling all pupils to experience a wide range of high quality learning activities that promote the development of skills across the curriculum. This is a very strong feature in the early years. The school provides effective support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).

The governing body is supportive of the school and values the role the school plays in the local community. However, its role in challenging the school is not fully developed.

Pupils are proud of their school. They enjoy learning and speak with enthusiasm about their experiences and the roles they play as part of the school community. Parents appreciate the support and guidance they receive from the school. They attend a range of activities that enable them to support pupils in their learning and well-being.

The headteacher has been successful in developing a wide range of partnerships with other schools and organisations to improve curriculum delivery and professional development opportunities for all school staff.

There is a suitably strong culture of safeguarding throughout the school. However, during the inspection the team brought a few matters to the attention of school leaders, for example in relation to traffic management.

Recommendations

R1 Address the safeguarding issues identified by the team during the time of the inspection

R2 Further develop the evaluation of pupils' learning, improvement work and grant spending

What happens next

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

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to developing pupils' independence in the early years and how this continues as pupils move through the school, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	St Gwladys Bargoed School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	433
Pupils of statutory school age	319
Number in nursery classes	79
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%)	27.4%
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%)	8.8%
Date of headteacher appointment	January 1999
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/02/2015
Start date of inspection	12/06/2023

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Publication date: 14/08/2023

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