



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Blaendulais

Date of inspection: December 2022

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

Overview

Ysgol Gymraeg Blaendulais is a happy, homely and caring school that encourages pupils to take pride in their community, their culture and their Welshness. Nearly all pupils behave maturely and respectfully towards others and take pride in their school. All staff have a very productive working relationship with pupils, their families and members of the community, which promotes positive attitudes in terms of learning and pupils' well-being. As a result, most pupils make sound progress from their starting points and are very aware of how to take care of their well-being.

Teachers and assistants work diligently to provide a good range of beneficial experiences that focus on developing pupils' awareness of their 'cynffin' (local area). They use the local area effectively to enrich pupils' outdoor learning experiences and nurture their skills. The strong emphasis on developing pupils' oral skills is a strong feature of provision. As a result, most pupils use polished spoken language and natural dialect successfully. Overall, teachers plan a good range of learning experiences that reinforce and apply pupils' skills across the curriculum. However, they do not always provide enough opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills regularly enough. At times, over-direction by teachers and assistants also hinders the development of pupils' independent learning skills and thinking skills.

Although they are relatively new to their roles, the acting headteacher and acting deputy headteacher work effectively with stakeholders to maintain and improve provision and pupils' outcomes. With energetic support from the chair of governors, leaders and staff are committed to providing the best possible start to pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Blaendulais. The very strong team ethos that exists across the school supports this well. Although leaders are successful in improving specific elements of provision, self-evaluation processes are not always robust enough to identify clearly what they are doing well and what needs to be improved.



Recommendations

- R1 Provide regular opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum
- R2 Expand opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills and make decisions in relation to their learning
- R3 Strengthen self-evaluation and planning for improvement processes

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Blaendulais
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	100
Pupils of statutory school age	72
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	12
Percentage of statutory school age pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average <i>(The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in the primary sector is 23.0%)</i>	9.2%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) <i>(The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in the primary sector is 16.1%)</i>	16.7%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	28%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	0%
Date of headteacher appointment	September 2021
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/03/2014
Start date of inspection	05/12/2022

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