



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Pontyberem

Date of inspection: March 2023

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

Overview

The school's leadership is strong and effective and respects the contributions of everyone associated with it. As a result, the school is an inclusive one where leaders and staff promote healthy relationships well, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equality, equal opportunities and fairness for all individuals within its community. They respect the contributions of all pupils to the school's life and work and implement procedures to ensure that they are all in a good place emotionally to enable them to learn. As a result, nearly all pupils are happy and feel safe in the school's caring and inclusive community.

A broad and balanced curriculum is provided for pupils that builds effectively on their knowledge, understanding and skills. Provision is exciting and provides an opportunity to pupils to learn about their local area, Wales and places further afield. This raises their awareness of their place in society and the importance of being responsible and conscientious citizens. As a result, most pupils develop very positive attitudes towards their learning, are keen to take advantage of the rich range of learning experiences and make sound progress from their starting points.

Pupils are given a strong voice to contribute to what they would like to learn. They are very happy about this and particularly about the opportunities they are given to organise interesting activities that add to the richness of the curriculum and that often place a clear focus on supporting humanitarian activities.

Pupils are given regular and valuable opportunities to take part in sports, activities, performances and events such as eisteddfodau and concerts, which nurture their self-confidence and their physical, expressive and creative ability.

Staff know their pupils very well and meet the needs of different groups masterfully, including those with additional learning needs, others who have challenges in terms of behaviour and others who are vulnerable. Most teachers have very high expectations and classroom arrangements are effective, on the whole. However, this practice is not consistent or effective enough across the school. Although the school develops most pupils' literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology skills well, strategies to enable a minority of pupils to read fluently and enjoy reading have not been developed consistently enough.

Recommendations

R1 Ensure that all teachers and support staff have consistently high expectations and effective classroom organisation

R2 Ensure that procedures to promote pupils' skills and enjoyment while reading are widespread and consistently effective 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 how the school meets pupils' emotional needs to ensure that they are in a good place to learn.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gynradd Pontyberem
Local authority	Carmarthenshire County Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Not a denominational school
Number of pupils on roll	230
Pupils of statutory school age	198
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	None
Percentage of statutory school age 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 the primary sector is 23.0%)	15.8%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in the primary sector is 16.1%)	13.2%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	50.2%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/11/2014
Start date of inspection	13/03/2023

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