



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Morgan Llwyd

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

The headteacher, senior managers and staff at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd place a clear priority on supporting the well-being of the whole school community. Together, they foster a close-knit and supportive relationship with pupils and this succeeds in creating a familial and caring environment.

A notable element of the school is the provision to support the development of pupils' learning and well-being. The 'Learning Hub' and 'Pastoral Hub' provide quiet, stimulating places for pupils to work with support from teachers or to receive purposeful well-being support. As a result of the extensive use of both 'Hubs', many pupils benefit academically or socially over time.

Most pupils behave in a civilised manner and treat each other, staff and visitors with respect. Sixth-form pupils are mature and friendly. They show pride in the Welsh language and see the importance of continuing with Welsh-medium education.

The school provides a valuable range of purposeful learning experiences and relevant courses for pupils of all ages. 'Project' lessons for younger pupils provide valuable experiences and an opportunity for them to work together on a number of interesting areas, such as politics. In addition to developing their literacy and numeracy skills, this also encourages their creativity and promotes their skills in working independently. Younger pupils are given beneficial opportunities to develop their personal and social skills through health and well-being lessons. However, planning to develop all skills across the school is not strategic enough.

In lessons, many pupils make appropriate progress in their subject knowledge and understanding. In the best cases, where teaching is robust and most successful, pupils make very good progress. However, strong teaching practice is not commonplace across the whole school. In a minority of cases, shortcomings in teachers' planning and how they use questioning mean that pupils do not make sufficient progress.

Leaders at all levels are increasingly developing their ability to evaluate the quality and impact of their work. Clear and comprehensive quality assurance arrangements have now been established. However, the ability of leaders to identify strengths and shortcomings in teaching and learning has not been developed fully to enable them to identify exactly which areas need to be improved and prioritise these.

Governors and all staff take pride in the school and uphold its importance as the only Welsh medium secondary school in the county. There are suitable opportunities for pupils to socialise in various clubs during lunchtime or after school. However, leaders do not plan strategically to ensure co-ordinated opportunities for pupils to use the Welsh language outside lessons. They also do not provide enough opportunities for sixth form pupils to develop beneficial personal experiences by leading activities or initiatives and, by doing so, have a positive influence on younger pupils.

Arrangements for safeguarding children are appropriate and all staff understand their responsibility to keep pupils safe. The school grounds are extensive and open and, as a result, there are a few health and safety issues that are a cause for concern.

Recommendations

- R1 Disseminate the good practice in teaching in order to strengthen provision across the school
- R2 Improve strategic planning for skills, PSE and opportunities to develop and celebrate the Welsh language
- R3 Strengthen the ability of leaders at all levels to identify strengths and areas for improvement in teaching and learning
- R4 Address the health and safety issues that were identified during the inspection

What happens next

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

We have asked the school to provide an effective practice case study on the impact of the support for pupils' well-being and progress through the 'Pastoral Hub' and the 'Learning Hub' provisions.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Morgan Llwyd
Local authority	Wrexham County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	857
Pupils of statutory school age	763
Number in the sixth form	80
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 secondary sector is 18.5%)</i>	16.0%
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 secondary sector is 23.0%)</i>	18.0%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	22.1%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	09/03/2018
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/01/2014
Start date of inspection	24/10/2022

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