



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Coed y Dderwen

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Leaders and staff at Ysgol Coed y Dderwen work diligently together to create a positive and caring learning community where the well-being of pupils, their families and staff is paramount. The highly effective leadership, along with passionate and well-informed governors, know their school and local community well. They work conscientiously to reduce the impact of poverty on the lives and life-chances of all pupils. They know what pupils need to thrive. This means that pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning are exemplary.

Staff ensure that the school is a calm environment, where pupils learn through a range of interesting experiences drawn from an exciting and highly innovative curriculum. On a few occasions, teachers over-direct learning, which means that pupils are not always challenged to their full potential. Staff use the outdoors effectively to inspire and enrich pupils' learning experiences. They ensure that pupils develop their skills and become independent, resourceful and creative individuals. Pupils are confident and articulate speakers who write purposefully across the curriculum. They develop their physical skills well through activities that improve their dexterity and stamina indoors and out. During their time in school, nearly all pupils make at least expected progress, including those with additional learning needs and those who attend the learning resource base.

All staff work together well to promote a caring and nurturing ethos throughout the school. They all know their roles well to keep pupils safe. The school has a strong culture of safeguarding children. However, the current arrangements for pedestrians and vehicles to enter and leave the school grounds during drop-off and collection times are not appropriate.

Recommendations

- R1 Address the health and safety issue that was identified during the core inspection
- R2 Ensure that teachers offer sufficient challenge for pupils of all abilities

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 its work in relation to designing a rich, varied and engaging curriculum, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gynradd Coed y Dderwen
Local authority	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	234
Pupils of statutory school age	181
Number in nursery classes	28
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%)	42.3%
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%)	11.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	6.1%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2019
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	10/01/2016
Start date of inspection	16/10/2023

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