



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castellau

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

The headteacher is an energetic and conscientious leader who has a highly effective influence on the school and its community. Along with the deputy headteacher and the staff, who work highly successfully as a team, he ensures that the school provides an effective, homely, familial and Welsh learning community for children in the area. The school is a very inclusive community that promotes the well-being of pupils and staff extremely well. Staff identify the specific needs of pupils at an early stage and use the thorough knowledge they have of their progress to plan the next steps for them. As a result, nearly all pupils are happy at the school and most make good progress from their starting points.

Staff have high expectations of pupils and encourage them to give of their best in everything they do. They plan valuable and purposeful experiences for them, which ensure that they enjoy learning and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding continuously. Teachers develop pupils' literacy and numeracy skills effectively, alongside several other skills. However, teachers do not provide enough opportunities for pupils to develop the full range of digital skills. They also do not encourage pupils to use and develop their independent learning skills effectively enough.

The school provides beneficial opportunities for pupils to identify with the local community and the wider world and provides important opportunities for them to take part in performances at the school, in the local community and more widely. Most pupils undertake their leadership responsibilities maturely. They do this through the school's wide range of children's councils. They discuss their responsibilities confidently and give sensible reasons for making specific decisions.

Leaders have an extremely productive relationship with parents and ensure that they have effective communication processes with them to enable them to raise any issues that may affect their children's learning and well-being. Governors support the school well and hold leaders to account appropriately, when necessary.

Recommendations

- R1 Provide comprehensive opportunities for pupils to develop all aspects of the Digital Competence Framework
- R2 Ensure regular and suitable opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills

What happens next

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



School context

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| Name of provider | Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castellau |
| Local authority | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council |
| Language of the provider | Welsh |
| Type of school | Primary |
| Religious character | None |
| Number of pupils on roll | 236 |
| Pupils of statutory school age | 186 |
| Number in nursery classes (if applicable) | 32 |
| 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> | 7.8% |
| 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> | 2.5% |
| Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home | 30.5% |
| Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language | 0.0% |
| Date of headteacher appointment | 01/09/2018 |
| Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable) | 01/05/2015 |
| Start date of inspection | 16/10/2023 |

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