



## Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen

**Date of inspection: November 2023**

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

# Overview

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen is an inclusive school that promotes a positive environment and ethos. Pupils enjoy learning and are keen to please during lessons and activities. This is because of the strong working relationships with their teachers and other members of staff. The specialist resource base and its pupils play an important part in the school's daily life.

Learning is successful where teaching and feedback to pupils are purposeful and challenge them to perform at their best. This helps many pupils to make good progress in developing their listening, speaking, reading and digital skills. They also develop suitable extended writing skills and their numeracy across the curriculum is satisfactory. However, the quality of teaching and learning is not consistently good across the school.

Staff provide support and care for pupils conscientiously. Their shared philosophy encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own well-being and behaviour well. This contributes successfully to their positive attitudes to learning and their willingness to persevere with tasks. The school encourages pupils to trust their peers and staff while developing respect and courtesy towards the feelings of others.

Staff use the accommodation productively to target pupils' needs purposefully and, as a result, planning of activities to promote pupils' learning is effective. However, provision of outdoor learning experiences is not as effective, particularly for the youngest pupils. Leaders keep in close contact with the school's wider community and build on the positive relationship with most parents and carers.

Leaders evaluate the school's work to plan for improvements thoroughly. The headteacher provides purposeful leadership and is determined to succeed for the benefit of pupils and the community. The senior management team, staff and governors share her vision successfully. They work together diligently to ensure that the school is fully inclusive and promotes good learning opportunities. The headteacher shares responsibilities effectively among staff and provides beneficial opportunities for professional learning. This contributes to a positive whole-school ethos, where staff and pupils feel valued for their contributions to school life.

# Recommendations

- R1 Ensure consistency in teaching practices across the school
- R2 Plan jointly to improve pupils' numeracy and extended writing skills
- R3 Improve the quality and provision of outdoor learning experiences, particularly for the youngest pupils

## What happens next

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



# School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	203
Pupils of statutory school age	150
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	22
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>	12.1%
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>	14.7%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/06/2013
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/06/2015
Start date of inspection	06/11/2023

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