



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Maes Y Coed

Date of inspection: November 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Maes y Coed is a happy community where pupils feel valued and safe. Staff place pupils at the heart of everything they do. They have an extensive knowledge of the pupils and build strong relationships underpinned by care and respect.

Teaching is a notable strength in the school. As a result, most pupils make strong progress and develop a range of important skills that support their learning and well-being effectively.

Staff consistently embed a range of communication strategies across the school to meet the wide range of pupils' needs. As a result, pupils' communication needs are well met, and they are able to share their thoughts and feelings as well as engage in their learning.

The curriculum at the school is broad and well balanced, with a clear rationale, offering a range of beneficial experiences for pupils. Staff work skilfully together to design a curriculum which is in line with individual pupils' learning needs. The provision for pupils' creative skills development is a notable strength.

The school has highly successful multidisciplinary working practices. Professionals collaborate effectively to support pupils to overcome individual challenges.

The headteacher provides exceptional leadership, which directs the school successfully and systematically on its improvement journey, creating a strong sense of community and mutual endeavour. As a result, staff and pupils thrive, developing a strong sense of identity and belonging. The headteacher is ably supported by the senior and middle leadership teams. Together, they have secured and rooted the vision; 'learning together, growing together and making a difference'. They create high-quality learning environments, which further strengthen the ethos of the school, and support and celebrate pupils' learning and achievements.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen the use of links with the community and other settings to enhance learning for older 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 Maes Y Coed
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Maintained Special
Number of pupils on roll	117
Pupils of statutory school age	96
Number in nursery classes	0
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 Maintained Special is 46.8%)	49.8%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Maintained Special is 100.0%)	100.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	1%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2009
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/01/2015
Start date of inspection	27/11/2023
<p>Ysgol Maes-y-Coed is a local authority special school, maintained by Neath Port Talbot Council. The school provides education for pupils aged three to nineteen years. The school opened in 2007 and extended its age range to include pupils of secondary school age in 2012.</p> <p>The school also has a satellite provision based on the Afan College campus named 'Ty Margam,' which caters for 7 post-16 pupils.</p> <p>All the pupils have a local authority maintained statement of special educational needs or an IDP. The school provides for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties and autistic spectrum conditions. Many have associated communication, behavioural or sensory difficulties, and a significant number have very specific health-care requirements.</p>	

The school accommodates specialist areas such as a hydrotherapy pool and a sensory room and gardens.

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