



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Nantgwyn

Date of inspection: April 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Nantgwyn provides strong care, support and guidance where pupils and families are supported to reduce any barriers to their learning. Most pupils feel cared for and valued, and this contributes notably to their confidence and positive attitudes to school. The newly reformed behaviour system ensures that pupils are rewarded for their good behaviour and that any issues around behaviour are addressed in a timely manner. As a result, the behaviour of nearly all pupils of primary age is consistently good and many secondary aged pupils behave well.

Staff work tirelessly to improve the attendance of pupils ensuring they engage with all aspects of school life. While attendance has improved slightly from last year, attendance levels, especially those of specific groups of pupils remain too low. The school supports pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), well with a range of purposeful provision that ensure they make progress from their starting points at the school.

Teachers and support staff throughout the school create and maintain positive working relationships with pupils. This is a notable feature of the school's provision. Teaching is effective in many instances across the school. As a result, many pupils make at least suitable progress in developing their knowledge and understanding as they move through the school with a minority making strong progress. However, overall, the impact of teachers' feedback is variable. In a minority of cases, teachers' feedback does not provide useful enough advice about developing pupils' learning further and these pupils continue to make the same errors.

The school provides a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that meets the needs of nearly all pupils. Overall, teachers provide suitable opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy skills in work across the curriculum but opportunities to develop numeracy are less developed in subjects other than mathematics.

The headteacher and leaders set a positive tone for the school's work. They nurture a team ethos and promote collaboration across the school effectively. They place the well-being of pupils, staff, and the community at the heart of the school's work. They work diligently to improve key aspects of the school's provision. Generally, evaluation work ensures that leaders at all levels have an accurate overall picture of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. However, this work does not always focus sharply enough on issues relating to pupils' progress in learning. Leaders are developing a culture of professional reflection and of continuous improvement. This is supporting a sense of teamwork and a shared sense of purpose.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that teachers' assessment and feedback are consistently effective and lead to improvements in the quality of pupils' work
- R2 Improve attendance, especially that of specific groups of pupils
- R3 Sharpen evaluation and improvement processes so that they focus on the impact of the school's provision on pupils' learning
- R4 Continue to strengthen opportunities for pupils to develop their numeracy skills in relevant areas across the curriculum

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Nantgwyn
Local authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	All Age
Religious character	*
Number of pupils on roll	1070
Pupils of statutory school age	979
Number in nursery classes	49
Number in sixth form	N/A
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 All age schools is 21.6%)	33.6%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in All age schools is 12.7%)	2.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.6%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	*
Date of headteacher appointment	01/11/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	24/04/2023
This is Ysgol Nantgwyn's first inspection.	

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