



Report summary for parents and carers on

Pontllanfraith Primary School

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

Pontllanfraith Primary School provides a caring environment for pupils. They feel safe in school and confident to speak to staff if they are concerned or worried. Across the school, pupils' engagement with visitors, staff and each other is a notable feature. Most pupils are polite and treat each other and adults with respect.



During their time in school most pupils make very good progress in developing their speaking and listening skills. Pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), and those who attend the two special resource base classes make good use of the suitable range of learning experiences on offer and make good progress in most areas of learning from their individual starting points. On the whole, most pupils are well motivated to learn and collaborate successfully in lessons.



Teachers are beginning to develop authentic opportunities which reflect the new Curriculum for Wales and its four purposes. Most lessons engage the pupils well but teaching does not ensure that pupils achieve to the best of their ability at all times. There are few opportunities for pupils to become independent learners. Across most classes, pupils do not always have enough opportunities to use their literacy and numeracy skills in other areas of learning. As a result, they do not generally use these skills as well as they could.



Leaders have created a strong team ethos amongst staff who support pupils' well-being successfully. They form close working partnerships with many outside agencies. However, communication with parents to strengthen the learning community is less effective.

Leaders, with the support of the governing body, keep the work of the school under review suitably. However, arrangements for monitoring the quality of the school's work and sustaining improvement overtime are less effective. Monitoring activities do not always identify key areas that need improving. For example, leaders have not identified that teaching does not provide sufficient challenge for all pupils or that progress in addressing national priorities, such as developing and implementing the Curriculum for Wales, is limited.

Recommendations

- R1 Develop and implement effective evaluation and improvement processes
- R2 Ensure that teaching supports pupils to develop the full range of skills progressively as they move through the school and that pupils have opportunities to use these skills in their work across the curriculum
- R3 Develop effective partnerships with parents

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.



School context

Name of provider	Pontllanfraith Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	227
Pupils of statutory school age	159
Number in nursery classes	39
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 21.3%)	28.5%
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 22.2%)	10.1%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	03/09/2012
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	10/03/2014
Start date of inspection	21/11/2022

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