



Report summary for parents and carers on Goetre Primary School

Date of inspection: September 2022

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

Overview

Goetre Primary School provides pupils with a nurturing learning environment in which they feel safe and secure. Ensuring the well-being of pupils is a high priority for all members of the school community. As a result, pupils feel cared for and valued by staff. Most pupils behave well both in classrooms and when moving around the school.

Over the past year, the school has seen a period of major turbulence at senior leadership level with five different headteachers. This has had a significant impact on the school's ability to address important shortcomings in their provision. Leaders have started to make improvements, including increasing the provision for reading and information and communication technology (ICT). However, there are still shortcomings in the way that they identify and address other important weaknesses in the school's work.

In around half of classes, teaching does not ensure that pupils have the opportunity to make strong progress. As a result, pupils do not always achieve standards of which they are capable, particularly in literacy. In addition, staff do not always ensure that they provide pupils with stimulating and authentic learning experiences. They do not take into account the views of pupils about what they would like to learn well enough. In addition, pupils have too few opportunities to take on leadership roles at the school.

The provision to support pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), particularly those in mainstream classes, is generally effective. Staff identify pupils' needs at an early stage in their education and put suitable plans in place to help address the needs of individual pupils. The provision for pupils in the two learning resource bases has recently improved, but there are still inconsistencies in how well staff support pupils' learning.



Recommendations

- R1** Address the safeguarding and health and safety shortcomings identified during the inspection
- R2** Improve the quality of teaching and feedback so that pupils develop as independent learners and have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability
- R3** Improve standards of pupils' literacy and ICT
- R4** Further strengthen monitoring and evaluation to enable leaders to accurately identify and address important shortcomings in the school's work and to judge the impact of teaching and provision on improving pupils' outcomes
- R5** Further develop approaches to curriculum planning so staff have a shared understanding of progression, and all teachers consult with pupils to plan authentic learning experiences
- R6** Improve the quality of resources to support pupils' learning both indoors and outdoors

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis.



School context

Name of provider	Goetre Primary School
Local authority	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	442
Pupils of statutory school age	342
Number in nursery classes	50
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%)	53.9%
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%)	21.3%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	1.9%
Date of headteacher appointment	05/09/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	26/09/2022

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