



Report summary for parents and carers on

Thornhill Primary School

Date of inspection: October 2022

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

Overview

The pupils at Thornhill Primary thoroughly enjoy coming to school and make notable progress in their social skills. There is a feeling of mutual trust and respect between the pupils and the staff. Pupils know that adults in the school care for them and that they can turn to them at any time when they face challenges or have difficulties. Senior leaders have worked hard to create this culture and it plays a key role in ensuring the very positive attitudes the pupils have towards their learning. Pupils' behaviour across the school is exceptional.

The school has established a strong team over time which enabled them to deal with the impact of the pandemic well through community engagement activities from a distance. The well-being of the pupils and their families became an important focus of the school and through weekly family activities, continued to foster these strong links. The headteacher and staff have continued building on these activities which has impacted on nearly all pupils returning to school safe and well. These regular engagement activities such as Craft-a-noon's for the Grandparents and their grandchildren, Father Reading Every Day (FRED) and the Schools' Out Dads Out (SODA) club develop the pupil's tolerance, respect and confidence skills successfully which is very evident in and around the school's setting.

Most pupils make sound progress across the school, particularly those with additional learning needs (ALN). Nearly all pupils develop effective speaking and listening skills and use these well when discussing with each other and with adults alike. The provision for pupils' personal development is effective and overall, the school's curriculum offers a suitable range of learning experiences. However, teachers' expectations of what the pupils can achieve, particularly the more able, are low and pupils are only beginning to contribute to how and what they learn. The pupils do not always receive the opportunity to use their literacy, numeracy and digital skills across the curriculum often enough. Across the school, opportunities to develop independent learners is inconsistent.

The school has suitable processes to monitor the quality of teaching and learning and its provision. An example of this is the school's work to improve pupils' reading which has been successful and led to improvements in the provision and the progress pupils make. However, improvement processes have not been rigorous enough to identify all key areas for improvement.



Recommendations

- R1 Improve the effectiveness of school improvement planning**
- R2 Ensure that teaching across the school challenges all pupils, particularly those who are more able**
- R3 Develop younger pupils' independence and creativity, particularly when using the outdoors**
- R4 Plan purposeful opportunities for pupils to develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills across the curriculum**

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.



School context

Name of provider	Thornhill Primary School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	461
Pupils of statutory school age	339
Number in nursery classes	62
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 the Primary sector is 23.0%)	14.2%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in the Primary sector is 16.1%)	10%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	4.1%
Date of headteacher appointment	07/09/2011
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	20/01/2014
Start date of inspection	03/10/2022

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