



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Bro Dinefwr

Date of inspection: September 2024

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

Ysgol Bro Dinefwr is a caring community where staff prioritise pupils' well-being. There are valuable opportunities for pupils to develop personally and socially through relevant lessons and a wide variety of sporting, creative, musical and performance extra-curricular activities. Most pupils play and socialise together in a civilised manner during break and lunchtimes and are satisfied with the way in which they are treated by staff. The close and supportive relationship between staff and pupils at Canolfan Cothi is a strong feature. Pupils with additional learning needs receive valuable emotional and academic support in the mainstream at Canolfan Barcud and through the stimulating and beneficial outdoor 'Natur' provision.

In a few lessons, pupils make strong and swift progress in their subject skills because of good teaching and careful planning. However, broadly across the school, a majority of pupils make appropriate progress in their subject knowledge and understanding, they do not make as much progress as they could due to shortcomings in teaching. These shortcomings include low expectations, a slow pace to lessons and a lack of tasks that develop pupils' thinking skills and their independence, as well as their literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

The school offers a wide range of courses for pupils in key stage 4 and the sixth form, many of which are available in both languages separately. Leaders' evaluation of the curriculum offer and their strategic planning for any necessary adaptations are in their early stages.

Since his appointment in April 2023, the headteacher has adopted a culture of fairness and respect. He has established a robust line management system and has identified the school's main areas for improvement. However, the roles and responsibilities of some senior leaders are not defined clearly and the school's current procedures for ensuring the quality of its work are not incisive enough to allow them to identify the exact areas that require improvement. Leaders at all levels do not make a close enough link between the quality of teaching and the progress made by pupils. Planning for the progressive development of pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills is underdeveloped.

Governors are passionate about the school and very supportive. Their role as critical friends is developing appropriately. Although leaders seek the views of staff on aspects of the school's work, they do not canvas the opinions of parents and pupils regularly enough to support them in planning improvements.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made six recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1 Improve teaching, paying particular attention to raising teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve and increasing the level of challenge for pupils of all abilities**
- R2 Ensure coherent provision to develop pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills**
- R3 Sharpen self-evaluation and improvement planning arrangements so that leaders evaluate the school's work according to its impact on pupils' progress and achievement**
- R4 Strengthen strategic planning for the curriculum in key stage 4 and the sixth form and whole-school leadership roles and responsibilities**
- R5 Improve attendance**
- R6 Ensure appropriate management and monitoring of the budget**

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).

© Crown Copyright 2024: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 02/12/2024

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.