



## Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

**Date of inspection: November 2024**

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

# Summary

Most pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have very positive attitudes to school life and are proud to be a part of it. Pupils of all ages are extremely polite and respectful towards adults and visitors. They play or socialise together happily during break and lunchtimes and enjoy each other's company. This is an excellent feature.

Staff prioritise pupils' well-being and convey a supportive and caring ethos. As a result, most pupils feel happy at school and are willing to turn to staff for support if necessary. There are robust arrangements to help children in the Reception class settle well at the beginning of their school life and a number of beneficial activities for Year 6 pupils, as well as their peers from other local schools, to prepare them for life in the secondary department. The personal and social education programme includes a good range of learning experiences that support pupils to make healthy decisions in relation to their lifestyle, including how to keep themselves safe online. Continuous attention is given to the importance of attending school regularly with pupils and their families, but attendance levels remain low in comparison with the pre pandemic period.

Across the age range, many pupils make adequate progress in their knowledge and understanding and a few make strong progress over time. However, as a result of shortcomings in leaders' strategic planning and how teachers plan their lessons and tasks, pupils do not achieve as well as they could. The support given to pupils with additional learning needs is beneficial, including classes in the 'Y Gelli' unit, but provision for more able pupils is not effective enough. The current management arrangements do not allow leaders to gain a comprehensive overview of the continuum in pupils' learning experiences as they move through the school or of whole-school provision to develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

Recently, leaders have placed an appropriate focus on strengthening arrangements for staff to develop professionally and this has had a positive effect on a few important areas, such as the quality of feedback on pupils' work. The school improvement plan, along with improvement plans for specific subject areas, include a number of key areas for development. However, line management processes are not robust enough to enable leaders to hold staff to account for their work.

The condition of the accommodation, site safety and supervision arrangements in the secondary department are a cause for concern. The inspection team's specific concerns were passed on to Powys Local Education Authority and to the governors.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Address the safeguarding issues identified during the inspection**
- R2 Improve attendance**
- R3 Improve the quality of teaching**
- R4 Strengthen strategic leadership and provision for the progressive development of pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills**
- R5 Establish robust and consistent line management arrangements to ensure that leaders hold staff to account for their work and give full consideration to pupils' development in an all-age school**
- R6 Strengthen self-evaluation and improvement planning processes by giving clear attention to the impact of provision on pupils' outcomes, along with the progress they make in their learning and skills**

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](#).**

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