



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Glan y Môr

Date of inspection: December 2024

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

Ysgol Glan y Môr is a caring community that places an emphasis on fostering a sense of community and supporting the well-being of pupils and staff. In lessons, most teachers develop positive working relationships with pupils and there is a purposeful learning environment. As a result, during the week of the inspection, most pupils' behaviour was good.

A strong feature of the school's work is the way in which it promotes pride in the Welsh language and culture. The Welsh department and Welshness committee organise a variety of rich experiences to deepen pupils' understanding of their local area and encourage pride in the language. Many pupils also appreciate the opportunities provided to discuss contemporary topics and important issues through the personal and social education programme. They also value opportunities to take part in physical and cultural activities at events such as the Gŵyl Glan y Môr festival and various activities organised by the physical education department. Pupils are given beneficial opportunities to influence the school's work through the school Senedd.

The school has recently strengthened its procedures to improve pupils' attendance. However, this has not had enough impact and, as a result, the attendance of pupils, including those who are eligible for free school meals, has not improved. During the inspection, the school's attention was drawn to a safeguarding issue relating to lunchtime arrangements.

A majority of pupils, including those with additional learning needs, make suitable progress in their lessons and over time. The school has clear and purposeful procedures for identifying and supporting these pupils. In the few lessons where teaching is at its best, pupils make strong progress. However, a minority of pupils make more limited progress. This is often as a result of shortcomings in teachers' planning. The expectations of a minority of teachers of what pupils are able to achieve in individual lessons and over time are not high enough. Although there are valuable opportunities for pupils to use their skills in subjects across the curriculum, provision is not coherent enough so that pupils develop their skills progressively.

The headteacher is supported purposefully by members of the senior leadership team. They work diligently to fulfil their duties, although some have too heavy a workload, which means that they are not always able to act strategically enough to drive improvements. The school has useful calendar of self-evaluation activities. However, leaders at all levels do not evaluate the effect of teaching and provision on pupils' standards and progress adequately. This means that they do not identify the exact areas that are in need of improvement incisively enough and do not always hold those that they lead to account sufficiently for the quality of their work.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Address the safeguarding issue that was raised during the inspection**
- R2 Improve attendance**
- R3 Ensure that teachers always plan teaching, including provision for skills, to challenge pupils to the best of their ability**
- R4 Strengthen strategic leadership, including how responsibilities are distributed, to increase capacity in important areas for improvement and increase accountability**
- R5 Ensure that self-evaluation and planning for improvement processes focus on the effect of provision on pupils' outcomes**

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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