

Report summary for parents and carers on Bishopston Comprehensive School

Date of inspection: May 2025

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

High quality teaching is a notable strength of Bishopston Comprehensive School, and this fosters strong pupil engagement, exemplary behaviour and consistent progress. Most pupils are enthusiastic learners and collaborate effectively with one another in a supportive manner to enhance their learning. They embrace the school ethos that it is 'cool to do well in school'.

A key strength is the collaborative development of a curriculum that successfully promotes literacy, numeracy, digital and wider skills. Intervention strategies support pupils with weaker skills effectively. Generally, pupils demonstrate mature verbal communication, apply an array of reading strategies well and produce extended written work for a range of audiences and purposes. Numeracy is well developed, with many pupils solving a range of problems that involve fractions, percentages and ratios successfully. Digital competency is strong, with pupils using technology to enhance their learning across the curriculum.

Creativity is nurtured in lessons and through varied, engaging activities, including festivals and inter-generational projects. This is a notable strength. The development of Welsh language skills is supported well during Welsh lessons but opportunities to use Welsh around the school are limited.

The school provides a broad, balanced curriculum, with strong pastoral support and an effectively planned and responsive personal and social education programme. Enrichment opportunities and community partnerships enhance learning and pupil well-being. Pupil leadership is a priority, with wide representation in decision-making roles.

Support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is a notable strength, with effective identification, tailored teaching, and targeted interventions. The Specialist Teaching Facility (STF) offers a nurturing environment.

Pupil attendance has improved as a result of working alongside stakeholders. Despite this, attendance remains below pre-pandemic levels and needs further improvement.

Leaders are ambitious and inclusive and pupil and staff well-being are prioritised. The robust systems for self-evaluation, improvement planning and professional development ensure that there is a strong culture of collaboration and accountability. Governors provide effective support and challenge, and financial planning is well aligned with school priorities.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Continue to improve attendance

R2 Increase the use of the Welsh language outside of Welsh lessons

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Full Report

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

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