

Report summary for parents and carers on Puncheston School

Date of inspection: June 2025

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

There is caring and robust leadership at the heart of Puncheston School which creates a warm atmosphere, where all pupils are welcomed and valued. The headteacher and her team work together effectively across the federation to create a happy and inclusive community, by placing local identity and heritage at the heart of pupils' experiences.

Pupils feel safe and happy at the school. They know who to turn to if they need help, and show respect for each other and staff. There is a strong relationship between pupils and adults, which fosters excellent behaviour across the school.

Staff provide stimulating sessions which inspire pupils to commit themselves enthusiastically to their learning. They use a wide range of effective teaching methods, plan engaging and meaningful sessions, and adapt activities suitably to meet the needs of almost all pupils. They provide valuable opportunities for oldest pupils to work independently. However, staff tend to over-lead the youngest children's activities and hinder their ability to research, experiment and learn independently inside and outside the classroom. Teachers question and encourage pupils effectively to extend their understanding. In the best practice, teachers share feedback in a timely manner which enables pupils to identify what they have done well. However, the feedback does not always identify the next steps in pupils' learning effectively enough for them to respond purposefully.

Across the school, almost all pupils make sound progress in their skills in various areas of learning. Reading is a central element of provision, with effective strategies and attractive books which build enthusiasm and confidence. Most pupils make excellent progress in their reading skills, which supports their literacy skills more broadly.

The school uses a suitable range of evidence from different sources to evaluate its work and to plan for improvement. Governors are active, know the federation's schools well, and support the school effectively as a critical friend.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Expand opportunities for the youngest pupils to strengthen their independent skills inside and outside the classroom

R2 Ensure regular opportunities for pupils to respond to feedback and improve their work

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 school, please follow this link to the [full report](#)

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