

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Bontnewydd

Date of inspection: May 2025

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

Pupils, staff and parents take pride in the school's Welsh, inclusive and familial ethos. As a result, pupils build positive working relationships, which contribute successfully to developing a caring, happy and safe learning community.

Most pupils work well with their peers. They ask thoughtful questions and contribute enthusiastically to class discussions. Most pupils have strong oracy skills. They apply their Welsh speaking skills in a wide range of activities across the school. This is a notable strength of the school.

Most pupils' digital skills are sound. Many also develop their writing and mathematical skills purposefully. However, there are not enough rich opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy and extended writing skills progressively across the curriculum.

The curriculum provides deep learning experiences that build effectively on skills taught in the past. On the whole, teaching sessions include interesting learning activities in the learning areas which offer an appropriate level of challenge. However, in a very few lessons, when teaching is less effective, teachers' expectations are too low, the pace of lessons is too slow and there is an over-reliance on ready-made frameworks which limit pupils' ability to develop their independence while learning.

The headteacher is a passionate leader. He creates a purposeful learning environment based on an ethos of 'learning together', which promotes effective teamwork. This nurturing environment, which is at the heart of his improvement strategies, lead to good behaviour and enthusiasm for learning among pupils. Leaders' willingness to improve practices through regular evaluations leads to robust improvement processes. The governing body supports and challenges leaders thoroughly and focuses on improving teaching and learning through an effective monitoring cycle.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Co-ordinate more opportunities for pupils to apply their writing and numeracy skills progressively in their work across the curriculum
- R2 Reduce the use of ready-made frameworks to promote pupils' independent learning skills further

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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