

Report summary for parents and carers on Valley Community School

Date of inspection: June 2025

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

The headteacher provides robust leadership which sets an effective direction for the school's development. The headteacher's vision is supported by a team of dedicated staff who are an integral part of an inclusive and supportive learning community. The governing body demonstrates a firm commitment to the school's activity, and contributes skilfully to informing its work by offering constructive support and challenge. Leaders have an understanding of the school's strengths and the areas that need to be developed further. However, self-evaluation processes are not sharp enough to focus in sufficient detail on the effect of teaching on learning.

Staff provide a curriculum that is rooted effectively in the school's local context which fosters its close relationship with the local community. Pupils show real pride in their local area. The school is committed fully to the community council's support initiatives, which play a key role in fostering pupils' strong pride in their community.

Staff plan rich and inspiring learning activities. Across the school, most pupils make sound progress in their skills, particularly in their numeracy and digital skills. However, staff's feedback does not always provide enough of a challenge to support pupils to achieve to the best of their ability.

Staff build positive relationships with pupils, prioritising their wellbeing on a daily basis. They respond sensitively to individual needs, by building on sound knowledge of pupils' backgrounds and needs. Teachers and assistants provide a stimulating and engaging learning environment that promotes pupils' personal and social development beneficially. As a result, almost all pupils show enthusiastic attitudes towards their learning. Pupils feel safe, happy and confident that staff listen to them. Through this, the behaviour of almost all pupils across the school is excellent.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Refine self-evaluation processes to focus in detail on the effect of teaching on pupils' progress and standards
- R2 Ensure that feedback provides a challenge for pupils to achieve to the best of their ability consistently

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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