

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Y Castell

Date of inspection: October 2025

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

Ysgol Y Castell provides a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where pupils feel valued and supported. Staff prioritise pupil well-being and work effectively as a team to foster a caring ethos. As a result, pupils behave well and feel confident that their views are respected.

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with pupils contributing meaningfully to its development. Most pupils, including those with additional learning needs, make good progress in developing their oracy, reading, and writing skills. They also build secure mathematical understanding and apply their numeracy and digital skills appropriately across the curriculum. However, in a few lessons, pupils are too passive due to over-direction from teachers, and the level of challenge is not consistently high. Teachers do not always have high enough expectations for pupils' progress or plan learning experiences that build well enough on prior learning, in a few lessons.

Where teaching is strongest, lessons are engaging and purposeful, with practical activities that promote skill development. Teachers use questioning effectively and provide helpful verbal feedback to support learning. However, teachers' written feedback to pupils does not lead to improvements in the quality of work often enough.

Leaders use a range of self-evaluation processes to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This has led to successful developments, such as enhancing provision for the Welsh language. Leaders do not always evaluate the effectiveness of teaching sharply enough.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1. Strengthen self-evaluation and improvement processes to identify and address shortcomings in teaching

R2. Improve the use of assessment and feedback to support pupils' progress

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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