

Report summary for parents and carers on Hirwaun Primary School

Date of inspection: December 2025

Summary

Leaders and staff use the well-designed, modern school building effectively to create a calm and nurturing learning environment where pupils feel valued and respected. Staff make the most of the large open spaces to promote positive attitudes to learning. Relationships between staff and pupils are caring and respectful.

Teachers have designed a curriculum that meets the needs of pupils at Hirwaun successfully. The curriculum reflects the local area and Welsh context effectively and allows pupils to contribute meaningfully to what they learn. Teachers use successful strategies that help pupils understand what they are learning and what makes a good piece of work. They provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on their learning and how they can improve. This supports pupils to make clear progress over time.

Overall, most pupils make good progress from their starting points. In literacy, most pupils develop strong oracy skills. Teachers use a structured and consistent approach to teaching reading and developing writing. By Year 6, pupils apply their strong skills purposefully across different areas of learning.

In mathematics, many pupils make good progress in their understanding of number. The development of pupils' problem-solving skills in mathematics lessons and across the curriculum is at an early stage of development.

Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is good. Staff working in the recently established Learning Resource Base (LRB) and with other pupils with ALN ensure these pupils make good progress from their starting points.

Leaders use a wide range of evidence to identify strengths and areas for improvement. They implement well-considered plans and use structured approaches that have led to a range of successful improvements. However, leaders have not been rigorous enough in raising attendance levels, which remain below national averages, and not all staff and governors have completed mandatory safeguarding training.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Ensure that all staff and governors undertake all mandatory safeguarding training

R2 Improve attendance

R3 Develop pupils' problem-solving skills

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](#)

© Crown Copyright 2026: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 05/02/2026