

# **Report summary for parents and carers on Dafen Primary School**

Date of inspection: 26/01/2026

# Summary

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Staff at Ysgol Dafen create a nurturing environment where pupils feel safe, valued and able to share any worries. Caring and respectful relationships contribute to pupils' positive attitudes to school and help establish a settled atmosphere in which pupils generally behave well and show consideration for others.

Teachers plan learning that captures most pupils' interest and generally builds effectively on what they already know. They ensure that lessons have a clear purpose and use their detailed knowledge to support pupils to make steady progress across the curriculum. Younger pupils benefit from an engaging variety of learning experiences, both indoors and outdoors, that motivate them and meet their needs well. Staff adapt learning thoughtfully to ensure that the youngest pupils extend their skills and grow in confidence.

As pupils move through the school, teaching continues to reflect pupils' interests, and staff use effective questioning to help them think more deeply. Where staff provide too much direction during lessons, they limit opportunities for older pupils to make independent decisions, to learn from one another and to apply their skills without support.

Most pupils develop secure literacy, numeracy and digital skills. Teachers' consistent approach to developing reading and strengthening pupils' vocabulary supports most pupils to write for a suitable range of purposes effectively. Most pupils work with number confidently and use digital tools creatively. Across the school, teachers provide valuable opportunities for pupils to collaborate and solve problems together through their entrepreneurial activity. Many younger pupils enjoy using Welsh, but as they move through the school, most pupils' confidence and ability to speak Welsh diminishes.

Leaders have established robust systems for supporting pupils' well-being, meeting their individual needs and working with families. They evaluate the school's work accurately and implement sound actions to bring about improvement. However, leaders' actions to raise rates of pupils' attendance have not impacted sufficiently and these remain too low. Governors are highly committed and work well with leaders and staff to maintain a clear, shared vision for the school.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Improve pupils' attendance

R2 Implement a clear and consistent approach to developing all pupils as independent learners

R3 Improve pupils' Welsh language 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](#)

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