

Report summary for parents and carers on Talocher School

Date of inspection: 16/03/2026

Summary

Talocher School provides a supportive environment where strong relationships enable pupils to feel safe and re-engage with learning successfully. Staff know pupils very well and use this understanding to create calm, purposeful learning experiences that over time build pupils confidence.

The curriculum is broad and relevant, combining academic learning with practical and therapeutic experiences that support pupils' independence and preparation for the future. Opportunities such as outdoor learning and work-related experiences enhance engagement and motivation. A particular strength is the school's structured approach to developing reading, which enables many pupils to make strong progress and apply their reading skills with increasing independence. Pupils also make steady progress in numeracy through practical learning approaches.

Teaching is effective in most cases, with many staff adapting their approaches thoughtfully in response to pupils' needs. Where this is strongest, pupils engage well and make strong progress. However, in a minority of lessons, activities do not provide sufficient challenge or respond closely enough to pupils' progress.

The school supports pupils' personal development very well. Through consistent staff modelling and a well-developed health and well-being curriculum, pupils develop respect, confidence and positive relationships with staff and each other. Opportunities such as the peer mentor programme and school council enable pupils to take responsibility and contribute to the school community.

Leaders provide clear direction and have established a reflective culture that supports improvement. Safeguarding arrangements are robust and well understood by staff. Although attendance has improved, it remains too variable for a few pupils. In addition, limitations in information technology infrastructure restrict opportunities for pupils to develop their digital skills.

Overall, the school's strong relationships, inclusive ethos and effective provision support nearly all pupils to make positive progress in their learning, well-being and readiness for their next steps.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1. Build on established practice to ensure all teaching provides appropriate challenge and meets the needs of pupils

R2. Strengthen provision for the development of pupils' digital skills

R3. Continue to improve attendance and engagement in learningAdd in recommendations

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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