

# Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Bryn Castell

Date of inspection: 26/01/2026

# Summary

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Ysgol Bryn Castell is an inclusive and caring school where strong, trusting relationships underpin all aspects of its work. Staff establish secure, compassionate relationships with pupils, many of whom arrive with significant prior challenges in engagement in education. These relationships are central to improvements in pupils' well-being, confidence, engagement in learning and social development.

Most pupils we met report that they feel safe, well supported and able to share concerns with staff. Behaviour in lessons is generally calm and purposeful, with staff acting as positive role models and managing dysregulation effectively. However, the behaviour of a few pupils outside lessons disrupts learning. In addition, the limitations of the physical environment inhibit pupils' ability to consistently regulate their emotions effectively.

Leaders are developing a secure safeguarding culture which is reinforced through effective training and multi-agency partnerships. Attendance is monitored closely and supported by effective partnership working. However, overall attendance remains low and continues to be an area for improvement.

Teaching, learning and assessment are strong features of the school. Staff know pupils well and use robust assessment and tracking systems to plan effectively and support progress. Verbal feedback is used particularly well, enabling pupils to reflect on and improve their work.

The curriculum is broad, balanced, offering flexible and personalised pathways that prepare pupils successfully for future education, employment or training. Staff enhance pupils' learning through enrichment opportunities and external partnerships. Nearly all pupils make secure progress from their starting points in literacy, numeracy, digital, social and independence skills. However, in a few instances lessons are not consistently challenging for all pupils.

Leadership is clear and purposeful, with a committed staff team, effective governance and a strong culture of professional learning. Leaders are developing shared leadership across middle leaders, such as leaders of each area of the curriculum.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Improve attendance.
- R2 Strengthen teaching, building on best practice, to provide a consistent level of challenge for all pupils.
- R3 Continue to work with the local authority to ensure that the school's learning environments are suitably adapted to meet the growing number of pupils and the increasingly complex range of need.

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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