

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Derwen

Date of inspection: 02/02/2026

Summary

Ysgol Derwen is a welcoming and vibrant school, where leaders implement a clear vision for the learning and well-being of all pupils. They have established an inclusive community ethos, where staff, pupils and their families feel valued and respected. Leaders focus well on securing effective teaching and learning, which results in nearly all pupils making strong progress.

Staff nurture caring relationships with pupils and encourage them to be responsible and kind. Leaders implement robust systems to identify pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and work well with other agencies and parents, to ensure they receive any specialist provision they require. Throughout the school pupils' behaviour is exemplary.

Across the school, teaching is effective. From an early age, staff encourage all pupils to develop their independence successfully. They organise environments thoughtfully to enable pupils to access helpful resources without support and share useful strategies for them to use if they find something difficult. Consequently, most pupils show high levels of independence in their learning.

Leaders and staff have developed a highly engaging curriculum. They plan purposeful opportunities for pupils to influence what and how they learn which motivates them successfully and makes learning meaningful. This work is particularly effective in numeracy, where pupils regularly plan and explore their own investigations.

The school places a firm focus on enhancing the development of pupils' literacy skills. Staff model language well and support pupils' speaking and listening skills successfully. This ensures pupils build particularly strong oracy skills. Staff teach reading effectively and give pupils access to a wide range of stimulating reading material to inspire them to read regularly. This contributes significantly to many pupils becoming keen book lovers who read with confidence and understanding.

Teachers plan regular Welsh language sessions across the school. However, in general, they do not place a strong enough emphasis on promoting the Welsh language or teaching pupils about the history and culture of Wales.

Senior leaders work successfully with staff and governors to evaluate the school's work. This contributes to their secure understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. A few teachers are starting to improve their leadership skills although, overall, distributed leadership is at an early stage of development.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Establish effective distributed leadership across the school
- R2 Ensure staff promote the Welsh language and teach pupils about the history and culture of Wales effectively

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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