

# **Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Santes Helen**

Date of inspection: 26/01/2026

# Summary

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Ysgol Santes Helen is an inclusive and caring school in which pupils' wellbeing is central to its daily work. The school's ethos, under the motto 'Câr dy gymydog (Love thy neighbour)', fosters a respectful and supportive environment, and staff provide strong care for pupils and their families. However, many pupils, including those from low-income households, do not make enough progress in their skills over time. In addition, leaders do not identify or address the shortcomings in the standard of teaching in many lessons.

Teachers provide a few appropriate activities that link to termly themes and are enriched by local visits. Many pupils' reading and mathematics skills develop suitably. However, teachers do not plan the curriculum coherently or comprehensively enough to ensure that many pupils make full progress in their writing, numeracy and digital skills over time. In addition, many of the learning activities do not engage pupils' interest successfully enough.

Staff promote the Welsh language by modelling language suitably. However, most pupils do not make robust use of the language when working and socialising with each other. Recently, staff have focused on building pupils' independence, but the level of challenge and the pace of many lessons do not respond to the needs of all pupils, particularly those with additional learning needs and those of higher ability.

The headteacher leads with strong commitment, and governors are supportive. However, leaders do not plan strategically enough to lead the necessary improvements. The outcomes of the self-evaluation processes are not reliable enough to identify the most important aspects for improvement, including the quality of teaching, pupils' skills, and developing a stimulating and comprehensive curriculum

# Recommendations and next steps

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## **We have made four recommendation to help the school continue to improve:**

- R1 Respond to the safeguarding concern that was raised during the inspection
- R2 Improve leaders' effectiveness, especially in terms of self-evaluation and planning for improvement.
- R3 Ensure the necessary improvements to the curriculum and teaching
- R4 Provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop and apply the full range of 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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