

Report summary for parents and carers on Gwaunfarren Primary School

Date of inspection: 09/03/2026

Summary

Gwaunfarren Primary School provides a welcoming and inclusive environment where pupils feel safe, valued and respected. Strong relationships between staff and pupils create a caring ethos, and staff know pupils well, supporting their well-being successfully. Pupils have a positive attitude to learning, behave respectfully and contribute to calm, purposeful classrooms. They are kind to one another and develop a strong sense of belonging.

Leadership is strong, with clear expectations and effective teamwork supporting pupils' engagement. Nearly all pupils, including those with additional learning needs and those from low-income households, make strong progress from their starting points. Teaching is generally consistent and purposeful. However, there is a tendency to over direct pupils on what and how they learn and this limits their independence.

The school provides a language-rich environment that supports pupils to develop their communication skills well. Most pupils make strong progress in spoken English and grow in confidence in Welsh. Reading is a strength, and pupils become fluent, expressive readers. Writing develops well across the school, and in mathematics most pupils build secure number skills and apply these appropriately.

Most staff use questioning techniques to gain a valuable insight into pupils' levels of understanding and to support pupils to make progress. However, teachers' feedback does not always support pupils progress well enough and enable them to improve their work or identify the next steps in their learning.

The curriculum is broad and engaging and celebrates the area's unique heritage, as well as developing pupils' understanding of diversity both within Wales and the wider world. Classroom environments are calm and welcoming throughout the school. Opportunities for pupils to learn purposefully in the outdoor areas are underdeveloped.

Leaders and governors work effectively together, using self-evaluation and professional learning to support ongoing improvement and maintain a clear focus on pupils' progress and well-being.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Develop pupils' independence by giving them more opportunities to influence how and what they learn
- R2 Ensure that all teachers provide pupils with helpful feedback and opportunities to improve their work accordingly
- R3 Provide opportunities for pupils to engage in purposeful outdoor learning

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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