

Report summary for parents and carers on Heolddu Comprehensive School

Date of inspection: 09/03/2026

Summary

Heolddu Comprehensive School is a caring and inclusive community where most pupils feel safe, valued and supported to succeed. Pupils benefit from a strong culture of care that is evident in the positive relationships they develop with staff and with one another. Nearly all pupils show respect towards teachers, visitors and their peers, and most behave well in lessons. Many pupils, including those with additional learning needs, approach their work with diligence, develop independence and make appropriate progress in their learning.

Staff at all levels have a secure understanding of pupils' individual needs and provide effective academic and pastoral support. This is particularly evident in the purposeful work of staff supporting pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), who help many pupils overcome barriers to learning and engage positively with school life.

Leaders place a strong emphasis on teaching and learning. This includes strong individual support through coaching and professional discussion. As a result, in many lessons, teachers plan tasks which build incrementally, use questioning to deepen pupils' understanding and adapt the pace to support learning. In a minority of cases, pupils make strong progress. In these instances, teachers inspire strong enthusiasm for subjects and create a culture where pupils are expected to participate fully and complete work to a high standard. While teachers provide suitable opportunities for pupils to apply their skills across the curriculum, they do not always ensure that these skills develop progressively as pupils move through the school.

The school promotes pupils' well-being through a strong safeguarding culture and a well-planned personal and social education programme that helps pupils understand healthy relationships and respect diversity. Staff monitor attendance carefully and work closely with pupils and families to address concerns. As a result, attendance for all groups of pupils is better than that in similar schools.

The Learning Pathways Centre provides high-quality support for pupils unable to engage fully in mainstream education. Effective care, support and partnership working help pupils improve attendance, build confidence and engage with learning. Its broad and purposeful curriculum enables pupils to make strong progress. Leadership uses resources well to meet pupils' diverse needs and drive improvement.

Strong and purposeful leadership underpins the work of the school. The headteacher provides a clear and ambitious vision for improving pupils' outcomes through 'The Heolddu Way'. This vision is shared effectively across the school community, contributing to a cohesive and collaborative approach to evaluation. As a result, staff, governors and partners work together well to strengthen provision and support pupils' progress.

Although the school's reflective and collaborative evaluation processes help leaders to identify strengths and areas for improvement, improvement planning is not always sufficiently precise.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Refine improvement planning to address the few areas for development identified in this inspection.
- R2 Continue to refine provision to support the progressive development of pupils' skills across the curriculum.

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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