

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gymunedol Rhydypennau

Date of inspection: 02/03/2026

Summary

The headteacher provides strong and wise leadership that sets a clear strategic direction for the school's work. He has a strong vision that focuses on creating a happy, caring and inclusive learning community where pupils' well-being and progress are core. He has high expectations for staff and pupils, and a strong ethos of cooperation amongst all staff is a prominent feature of school life. As a result, almost all pupils show positive attitudes to their learning and behave well.

Leaders promote a positive culture of professional learning and ensure that staff improvement targets link clearly to the school's priorities. They use action research effectively to strengthen staff's understanding of teaching and learning which contributes positively to the quality of the provision.

Staff have developed an interesting and inclusive curriculum that engages and maintains pupils' interest skilfully. The provision supports the development of many pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills effectively, including those with additional learning needs and those from low-income households. Most pupils develop suitable reading skills in both languages, and speak Welsh confidently as they mature. However, as they move through the school, a few pupils tend to turn to English too often when communicating with each other.

Teachers use pupils' ideas effectively in planning 'cer am her' activities. However, in some cases, teachers over-lead learning, which limits pupils' opportunities to make independent choices about their learning and to make consistent progress in developing their skills over time.

The school makes effective use of the local area and community to enrich pupils' learning experiences and to develop their understanding of Welsh history and culture. Teachers provide suitable opportunities for pupils to develop their moral awareness and discuss current issues. However, pupils' understanding of equality, diversity and different identities is less developed.

Recommendations and next steps

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

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- R1 Expand opportunities for pupils to make independent choices about what to learn and how to present their work
- R2 Develop opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of diversity, equality and identities in different communities

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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Publication date: 07/05/2026