

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gyfun Y Strade

Date of inspection: 16/03/2026

Summary

Ysgol Gyfun y Strade is a warm and supportive community where positive working relationships between staff and pupils are a basis for a productive learning environment. Most pupils behave respectfully and apply themselves enthusiastically to their learning, which enables many to make sound progress from their starting points. Most pupils feel safe and value the school's inclusive and familial ethos, which gives them a strong sense of belonging.

Many teachers plan learning effectively and provide activities that build logically on pupils' previous knowledge. In the strongest examples, teaching engages pupils' interest successfully, which develops their ability to think more deeply and encourages them to be more independent learners. In a few lessons where teaching is not as strong, teachers do not plan effectively enough to provide pupils with sufficient challenge.

The school places a strong emphasis on nurturing and developing pupils' skills. Leaders plan and co-ordinate purposeful and valuable provision to develop literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills, integrating them effectively to enrich learning across the curriculum. As a result, many pupils make sound progress by using their skills meaningfully and applying them confidently and skilfully across the subjects. The curriculum is broad and relevant and supports the development of pupils as well-rounded individuals.

Arrangements for well-being, care, support and guidance are strong. Staff know the pupils well and provide tailored support which responds sensitively to their needs. The 'Strade yn y Gymuned' initiative provides pupils with purposeful support which improves their well-being, engagement with learning and helps them to overcome obstacles relating to poverty and social and emotional difficulties. There is suitable provision for pupils with additional learning needs and safeguarding arrangements are sound.

There are valuable opportunities for pupils to contribute to school life and lead initiatives which develop their confidence and sense of belonging to the school's wider community. Sixth-form pupils broadcast Welsh language music and weekly well-being messages through the school's radio station, 'Sain y Sosban', by promoting the Welsh ethos and the community of Ysgol y Strade.

The headteacher is a reliable and robust leader with a clear vision. He is supported effectively by the leadership team and governors. The school has suitable arrangements to evaluate its work and plan for improvement, which has led to improvements in a number of areas, including improving the quality of teaching and provision for skills. However, over time, leaders have not succeeded in improving attendance, including the attendance of pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Improve pupils' attendance levels, including pupils who are eligible for free school meals
- R2 Share the strong teaching practices that were seen in the best lessons to strengthen the standard of teaching further

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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