

Report summary for parents and carers on Marlborough Primary School

Date of inspection: 29/06/2026

Summary

Overall, leaders provide a clear strategic direction and have created an inclusive, supportive community where most pupils are happy, behave well and demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. Leaders and staff share a strong commitment to helping pupils succeed. Consequently, many pupils make good progress from their starting points, including pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), those attending the specialist resource bases (SRBs) and those eligible for free school meals.

The school's curriculum is broad and engaging. It promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well, helping them to develop as ethically informed citizens. Pupils benefit from opportunities to develop entrepreneurial, independent and life skills. There are strong opportunities for pupils to use and improve their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. Provision for developing pupils' digital skills is a particular strength. Opportunities for purposeful exploration and play, indoors and outdoors are less well developed.

Teachers provide pupils with many engaging learning experiences. They question pupils thoughtfully and purposefully and provide helpful verbal feedback that supports their progress. Many pupils make effective progress in developing their reading and writing skills and their mathematical knowledge and understanding. Most pupils demonstrate resilience, collaborate well and develop effective thinking skills. However, teachers do not always adapt learning sufficiently well to provide appropriate challenge or support for all pupils, including those in the SRBs. Few pupils develop their Welsh language skills strongly.

The headteacher has high expectations of staff and pupils. She develops leadership at all levels thoughtfully. Through a model of distributed leadership, the school brings about improvements in provision effectively, for instance in pupils' digital learning. However, monitoring activities are not always focused sharply enough on teaching and learning. Governors support the school effectively. Leaders do not ensure that the school's culture of safeguarding is consistently strong.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Address the issues relating to safeguarding identified during the inspection
- R2 Address inconsistencies in teaching to ensure that pupils are challenged and supported consistently
- R3 Ensure that pupils have stronger opportunities to influence their learning and to learn through exploration and play, both indoors and outdoors

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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