



Report summary for parents and carers on Tongwynlais Primary School

Date of inspection: June 2023

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Overview

The pupils at Tongwynlais Primary School enjoy coming to school and take part in lessons and activities with great enthusiasm. Staff know their pupils well and work effectively to ensure that they are happy and safe when they are at school. The school's support for pupils' well-being is strong and staff work successfully to cater for pupils' individual needs and to address any issues or worries that they may have. The school is aware of the challenges that some families may have as a result of deprivation and is working thoughtfully and sensitively to ensure that this does not negatively affect the learning experiences of their children.

Teachers plan engaging learning activities that often capture the interest of pupils and make them keen to learn. They include pupils well in the planning of topics, lessons and learning activities, and this is one of the reasons that pupils find their lessons so interesting. However, the activities that teachers plan do not always focus clearly enough on the next steps in pupils' learning. As well as this, the curriculum does not ensure that pupils build effectively on their previous learning as they move through the school. Generally, pupils make good progress with their literacy, numeracy and thinking skills but their ability to understand and use the Welsh language is underdeveloped.

The leadership structure for the federation is going through a period of change. The headteacher is new to his role, having previously been the deputy headteacher for the federation. Building upon his former position, he has continued to successfully develop positive working relationships with staff and parents across both schools. Leaders and governors are keen to make the most of the advantages of being part of a federation, for instance by using existing strengths in one provider to make improvements in the other. They are aware that leadership responsibilities are not distributed equally or effectively enough at the moment and that too many important areas are currently overseen by the headteacher in addition to his wider strategic role.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that leadership responsibilities are distributed effectively and focus on improving outcomes for pupils
- R2 Improve the quality and consistency of teaching
- R3 Ensure that the curriculum develop pupils' skills and knowledge progressively and meets statutory requirements
- R4 Raise standards in Welsh

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.



School context

Name of provider	Tongwynlais Primary School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	197
Pupils of statutory school age	145
Number in nursery classes	24
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Primary is 23.0%)	20.2%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Primary is 16.1%)	7.6%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8.1%
Date of headteacher appointment	17/04/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/12/2017
Start date of inspection	05/06/2023

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