



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdâr

Date of inspection: September 2022

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

Overview

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdâr is a caring, happy and homely school where pupils treat each other, staff and visitors with respect. Nearly all pupils are exceptionally well behaved and behave positively and maturely towards others. They feel proud of their school and its community. All staff have an effective working relationship with pupils, which promotes good attitudes to learning and well-being, in addition to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment. They know the pupils well and respond purposefully to their emotional and social needs. Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is also effective and meets their needs well.

Welsh is new to many pupils on entry to the school. Overall, the youngest children make appropriate progress in their oral skills during their first years at the school. With encouragement from adults, many develop their skills to communicate with increasing confidence in Welsh and English and develop their numeracy and digital skills purposefully by the end of their time at the school. However, teachers do not always ensure that all pupils are challenged fully or provide beneficial opportunities for them to apply and build on their skills effectively enough across the school.

The school has an appropriate supply of leaders who support teachers and assistants robustly. They make a valuable contribution towards establishing a strong team ethos and a sense of belonging among the staff. Members of the governing body are supportive of the headteacher and staff. However, leaders do not always identify beneficial opportunities to share good practice across the school or to arrange support to ensure consistency in, and improve, teaching and provision. They also do not always act strategically enough to improve their understanding of what has had a positive effect on outcomes and what needs to continue to improve. Overall, the school's safeguarding arrangements are not coherent or robust enough.



Recommendations

- R1 Improve and strengthen child protection and safeguarding arrangements
- R2 Strengthen the ability of leaders to act more strategically in evaluating the quality of provision and implementing the necessary improvements
- R3 Ensure that teaching sets high expectations for all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability
- R4 Provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop and apply their skills across the areas of learning

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn will review the school's progress.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdâr
Local authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	424
Pupils of statutory school age	306
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	60
Number in the sixth form	
Percentage of statutory school age pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average <i>(The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in the primary sector is 21.3%)</i>	15.4%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) <i>(The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in the primary sector is 22.2%)</i>	21.2%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	21.6%
Date of headteacher appointment	January 2014
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	10/05/2016

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