



Report summary for parents and carers on Bigyn County Primary

Date of inspection: September 2023

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

Overview

Leaders, governors and staff at Bigyn Primary School know pupils well. They place a high priority on ensuring good emotional support for pupils and this means that pupils enjoy coming to school, and feel safe and well cared for by staff. In most cases, pupils behave well and show care and respect for each other, their teachers, and other staff. Leaders have worked effectively to develop the school's support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).

In many classes, teachers provide interesting and enjoyable lessons and activities that help pupils to make progress. However, the overall quality of teaching is inconsistent, often lacks purpose and does not help pupils to understand what they do well and what they need to improve. In a few classes, teachers do not provide enough challenge for pupils in the activities that they plan or have high enough expectations of what pupils can achieve. This means that too many pupils do not build their skills systematically and make consistent progress as they move through the school. Whilst leaders are aware of some of the issues with teaching, their self-evaluation and improvement processes are not rigorous enough and progress in improving the quality of teaching has been too slow.

The school's curriculum needs improvement. The school is at the early stages of implementing Curriculum for Wales. Leaders have not taken advantage of the freedom it offers to design a curriculum that allows pupils to learn through meaningful activities that reflect the needs of pupils and their community.

Recommendations

- R1** Improve the rigour of self-evaluation and school improvement activities to ensure that pupils receive consistently good teaching in all classes across the school
- R2** Develop an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of pupils and develops their digital, numeracy and literacy skills systematically in meaningful contexts
- R3** Ensure that lessons and learning activities have a clear purpose and provide opportunities for pupils to understand what they do well and what they need to do to improve further
- R4** Improve attendance

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	Bigyn County Primary
Local authority	Carmarthenshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	210
Pupils of statutory school age	147
Number in nursery classes	36
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%)	46.0%
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%)	38.1%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8.8%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2014
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/07/2015
Start date of inspection	25/09/2023

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