



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Brynhyfryd

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Brynhyfryd is a caring school that places a priority on pupils' well-being and academic progress. Senior leaders create a safe learning environment in which pupils and staff thrive. As a result, most pupils have a strong sense of pride and belonging to the school community.

The headteacher has an open-door policy and has succeeded in creating a culture of honesty and collaboration among staff. Leaders at all levels have a good understanding of the main strengths and areas for improvement within their areas of responsibility. This is based on new self-evaluation and improvement planning arrangements which evaluate provision according to its effect, for example the effect of teaching on pupils' standards. With the support of senior leaders, the headteacher has developed shared whole-school values in partnership with stakeholders.

Through their good understanding of pupils and their needs, staff provide careful pastoral support. The comprehensive systems for tracking academic progress and well-being ensure that staff identify any difficulties that individual pupils have quickly and provide timely support. Although pupils' attendance has been consistent over the past two years, it remains too low compared to pre-pandemic levels. The team that supports pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) does this successfully by providing suitable interventions and clear guidance for staff.

The school provides a balanced and inclusive curriculum that meets the needs of most pupils. This is reinforced by wide ranging and varied offer of courses that align with the aspirations of the school's older pupils. On the whole, many teachers plan suitable activities to ensure that pupils develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills. However, there is no developed whole-school strategy to ensure pupils' progressive development in these skills.

In most cases, teachers foster positive working relationships with their pupils. They create a positive working environment and, as a result, most pupils have healthy attitudes towards their work and make sound progress over time. These teachers support pupils well, by providing valuable verbal feedback while circulating the classroom. However, teachers' written feedback on pupils' work does not always provide them with clear enough guidance on how to improve their work.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve attendance
- R2 Strengthen the quality of feedback that is given to pupils on how to improve their work
- R3 Strengthen the strategic co-ordination for pupils' progressive development in their literacy, numeracy and digital skills

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Brynhyfryd
Local authority	Denbighshire County Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1053
Pupils of statutory school age	864
Number in sixth form	189
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 Secondary is 20.2%)	7.2%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Secondary is 17.8%)	11.7%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	43.5%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.7%
Date of headteacher appointment	03/04/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	12/05/2015
Start date of inspection	09/10/2023

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