



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Hirael

Date of inspection: November 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Hiracl is an inclusive and supportive community that promotes a caring ethos successfully. There are warm working relationships between pupils and staff, which fosters a caring environment and a firm sense of care and well-being among pupils.

Pupils enjoy learning and are enthusiastic during lessons and tasks. They are keen to please staff and, as a result, succeed as confident learners. During their time at the school, many pupils develop purposeful social, listening, reading, numeracy and digital skills.

Teachers plan the curriculum purposefully, which promotes beneficial learning opportunities for pupils. Pupils' outcomes are good where planning, teaching and feedback on their work are challenging and consistent. However, teachers do not provide activities for pupils to develop their oral Welsh skills, or their extended writing skills in Welsh and English, regularly and effectively enough. Feedback to support pupils in the next steps of their learning is also inconsistent across the school.

Staff support and care for pupils consistently and conscientiously. This contributes to pupils' desire to learn and persevere with tasks. Staff encourage pupils successfully to take responsibility for their own well-being and behaviour and to embrace the valuable relationships that exist within the school. As a result, emotional well-being support for pupils and their ability to use this support is a strong feature of the school.

Staff use the accommodation productively to meet pupils' needs purposefully and, as a result, teachers plan activities to promote learning effectively. However, provision of outdoor learning experiences is not as effective, particularly for the youngest pupils. Leaders keep in close contact with the school's wider community and build on the positive relationship with parents.

The headteacher leads the school purposefully and ensures that the care and well being of pupils are a priority. This is central to her vision. She works diligently with staff and governors to ensure that the school is an inclusive learning community that promotes positive opportunities for pupils.

Leaders evaluate the school's work effectively by using regular and rigorous self evaluation processes. The school's monitoring activities lead to relevant improvement plans and purposeful training opportunities for staff to develop their skills through agreed professional learning.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve the standard of pupils' extended writing across the school
- R2 Improve pupils' Welsh language skills, particularly their oral skills
- R3 Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning effectively

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gynradd Hiracl
Local authority	Cyngor Gwynedd
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	202
Pupils of statutory school age	160
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	19
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 23.7%)</i>	26.2%
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 13.2%)</i>	12.38%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	52.2%
Date of headteacher appointment	06/11/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	15/06/2015
Start date of inspection	27/11/2023
<p>The headteacher began in post on 06/11/23. However, although she has been in post less than a month, she has a very sound and thorough knowledge of the school in terms of pupils' learning and well-being, planning, teaching and assessment and care and child safeguarding systems. This is because she has acted as the assistant headteacher at Ysgol Hiracl since 2016 and has been a member of staff at the school since 1992. As a result, her knowledge and understanding of leadership and management arrangements, self-evaluation processes and staff's professional development are up-to-date and extremely robust.</p>	

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