



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Bryn Gwalia C.P.

Date of inspection: December 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Bryn Gwalia is a nurturing, inclusive school, which provides exceptional care and support for its pupils. Relationships across the school are strong and parents, pupils and staff feel valued. Provision for pupils' well-being is a strength of the school. The school offers a range of beneficial initiatives to help pupils to improve their self-esteem and recognise their emotions. For example, the school's nurture class, Dosbarth Derwen, supports small groups of pupils to regulate their behaviour and to make effective progress in their learning.

Leaders and staff know their pupils well. Approaches to teaching match pupils' developmental needs well throughout their time at school. Staff use questioning, assessment and feedback effectively to check pupils' understanding and to move learning on. Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is strong. This includes carefully tailored support from the school's teaching assistant. Despite their low starting points, most pupils engage well with their learning and make strong progress in their literacy, numeracy and digital skills during their time at the school.

The school curriculum is broad and balanced and teachers provide a progressive range of activities to develop pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital skills. However, across the school, opportunities for pupils to apply their skills in relevant, real-life situations are inconsistent. Teachers support pupils to develop their sense of 'cynefin' (belonging) and their understanding of life as modern-day citizens in Wales effectively. This work supports pupils to gain a good understanding of their own identity and to develop empathy with other people.

The headteacher is a compassionate, caring leader who works successfully alongside the governing body and staff to drive school improvement. Self-evaluation procedures are robust and this supports leaders to identify school strengths and areas for further improvement effectively. Leaders adopt a worthwhile, collaborative approach embracing the input of parents and the community. This provides beneficial additional support to the school and helps pupils to make strong progress with their learning.

Recommendations

- R1 Refine provision to ensure that there are consistent opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital skills in relevant, real-life situations

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Bryn Gwalia C.P.
Local authority	Flintshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	139
Pupils of statutory school age	120
Number in nursery classes	18
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 23.7%)	52.5%
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 13.2%)	13.3%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8.6%
Date of headteacher appointment	04/01/2021
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	02/11/2015
Start date of inspection	11/12/2023
<p>The school has set up its own nurture class using PDG funding. This is for pupils who are vulnerable, with high levels of emotional need. This was inspected.</p> <p>The school shares its site with a local authority PRU – this is separate to the main school building and is not managed by the school. This was not inspected.</p>	

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