



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Ifor Bach

Date of inspection: December 2023

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

Overview

Ysgol Ifor Bach is a successful learning community that celebrates Welshness, courtesy and respect and pupils' achievements particularly well. The acting headteacher provides clear and wise guidance and values everyone's efforts in contributing to pupils' well-rounded education. All staff are committed to ensuring a high quality of care and well-being for pupils across the school, in a homely and supportive learning environment. This has a strong influence on pupils' attitudes towards each other and towards others both inside and outside the school.

Teaching staff and assistants model language purposefully and enthusiastically, which has an effect on pupils' oracy skills from a young age. As a result, pupils' use of, and pride in, the Welsh language is a strong feature. Staff work together successfully to plan a range of stimulating and relevant learning and play experiences for pupils. Pupils' pride in their local area and the history of the coal mines is clear.

Most pupils develop knowledge, understanding and skills which are appropriate for their age and starting points successfully. For example, most develop their oral and reading skills skilfully, contributing purposefully to class discussions and expressing their opinions clearly and maturely. However, pupils' independent writing skills have not developed effectively enough.

On the whole, teachers provide regular opportunities for pupils to work independently and work together to solve challenges and complete projects. In the few cases where teaching is not as effective, there are limited opportunities for pupils to work independently and improve their work purposefully following feedback from teachers.

Provision to support the learning skills of pupils with additional learning needs is purposeful. As a result, they make good progress over time against their targets and previous attainment.

The school's self-evaluation and quality assurance arrangements are thorough. Members of the governing body support the acting headteacher and staff purposefully. They have a sound awareness of the school's strengths and priorities for improvement and provide an appropriate balance of support and challenge.

The acting headteacher, with the support of staff and governors, promotes a culture of safeguarding in a highly effective and supportive manner. As a result, pupils are happy and safe at the school.

Recommendations

R1 Develop pupils' independent writing 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 Ifor Bach
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	259
Pupils of statutory school age	202
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	30
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>	24.8%
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>	7.9%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	2.5%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	23/03/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	04/12/2023

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