



Report summary for parents and carers on Alun School Mold

Date of inspection: February 2024

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

Overview

Alun School is a caring and inclusive community where leaders prioritise pupils' emotional well-being and promote a positive culture of safeguarding. Pupils take on numerous leadership roles and have effected valuable changes in the school. They collaborate well with staff and each other to ensure that everyone has the right 'to teach, to learn, to be safe and to be respected'.

The headteacher provides assured leadership and ensures strong accountability at all levels. Her vision is clear and is shared and understood by senior leaders who demonstrate this through their support to the headteacher and in their own work. In general, leaders have a sound understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement of the provision in their areas of responsibility. Their self-evaluation, however, does not always consider the impact of the provision on the standard of pupils' learning well enough.

There are many strengths in teaching. Most teachers use their subject knowledge to good effect and give clear and precise explanations. Many teachers plan suitable activities to develop pupils' learning. They have high expectations of what pupils can achieve, ask useful questions to check for understanding and give beneficial verbal feedback on their work. This enables many pupils to make at least suitable progress and practice their literacy, numeracy and Welsh language skills appropriately. However, the quality of teacher assessment varies and is not always effective enough to enable pupils to improve their work. Whilst leaders have recently taken a strategic approach to plan the progression of skills across the curriculum, this work is still in its infancy.

Many pupils are considerate, polite and courteous to others. They behave appropriately in lessons and around the school. Staff use strategies to manage behaviour through a positive approach, but these are not always implemented consistently. In addition, the school's approach to managing behaviour is not having enough impact in addressing the poor behaviour of a few pupils in lessons.

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that give pupils an appropriate range of learning experiences. The pupils within the Hearing Support Centre (HSC) receive highly effective support and access mainstream classes where they are supported well. The school offers comprehensive and worthwhile support for pupils' with additional learning needs (ALN).

Pupils in the sixth form are supported well in making suitable career choices and talk positively about their learning experiences. They engage with tasks productively, show resilience when working independently and persevere when faced with new challenges.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen self-evaluation to focus more on the impact of provision on pupils' learning
- R2 Improve strategies to address the poor behaviour of a few pupils and its impact on other pupils
- R3 Improve quality of assessment and feedback to enable pupils to improve their work
- R4 Embed provision for skills development fully across the curriculum

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Alun School Mold
Local authority	Flintshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1545
Pupils of statutory school age	1235
Number in sixth form	309
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 21.2%)	13.9%
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 14.8%)	10.9%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	1.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2014
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	11/04/2016
Start date of inspection	05/02/2024
The school runs a local authority funded hearing resources centre (HSC) that serves hearing impaired pupils from Flintshire. Currently, there are only two pupils on the register.	

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