



Report summary for parents and carers on West Monmouth Comprehensive School

Date of inspection: March 2024

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

Overview

Staff and governors at West Monmouth School are committed to helping pupils to thrive in a supportive environment. They use a range of strategies to raise pupils' aspirations and provide them with beneficial individual support where needed. Most pupils feel safe in school. They value the opportunities they have to participate in extra-curricular activities, develop their leadership skills and play an active role in school life.

Nearly all pupils behave maturely around the school and show respect to their teachers and their peers. In the many lessons where teachers plan suitably demanding tasks, pupils engage well in their learning and make sound progress. A minority of pupils find it hard to work independently and do not always make the progress that they could. This is often because teaching does not challenge them sufficiently.

Leaders have secured a number of improvements to the school's work. They have been successful in promoting a culture of safeguarding, have improved rates of attendance well and use a range of beneficial strategies to reduce the impact of poverty on pupil outcomes. They have developed a curriculum which meets the needs of nearly all pupils effectively and are making sound progress in developing their Curriculum for Wales. However, the school has not developed a sufficiently effective approach to the progressive development of pupils' skills across the curriculum or ensured that all teaching consistently challenges pupils to achieve as highly as possible. In general, leaders have a sound understanding of the main strengths and areas for development in their areas of responsibility. However, there is too much variation in how rigorously leaders evaluate their provision and how precisely they plan for improvement.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that all teaching consistently challenges pupils of all abilities to make progress and develop their independence in learning
- R2 Strengthen provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills across the curriculum
- R3 Ensure that self-evaluation processes are consistently robust and accurate, and that leaders plan for improvement precisely

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	West Monmouth Comprehensive School
Local authority	Torfaen County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1183
Pupils of statutory school age	1183
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%)	28.0%
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%)	16.8%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	1.6%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	1.4%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2020
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	07/03/2016
Start date of inspection	04/03/2024

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