



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Bryn Onnen

Date of inspection: March 2024

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

Overview

Pupils, staff and parents take pride in the happy and homely ethos that exists at Ysgol Bryn Onnen. There is a wonderful working relationship between staff and pupils and a clear priority is placed on improving pupils' well-being. Nearly all pupils know whom to approach if they need a listening ear and, as a result, they feel very safe within the school's inclusive environment. Pupils are polite and respectful towards each other, staff and visitors. Most pupils are well behaved and treat others with courtesy and respect.

The Welsh language is new to all pupils on entry to the school. Overall, most pupils make appropriate progress in their oracy skills as they move through the school. Most pupils listen attentively and their commitment in lessons is good. On the whole, their English literacy and numeracy skills develop purposefully by the end of their time at the school. However, pupils do not develop their skills effectively enough to write at length across the areas of learning. Pupils' progress in their digital skills is also slow. Across the school, the quality of teaching is inconsistent. Overall, teachers do not ensure a consistent level of challenge for all pupils which, in turn, slows progress in their learning.

The headteacher has established a strong team ethos and a sense of belonging among the staff. The new senior management team are beginning to fulfil their roles appropriately and support teachers and assistants strongly. Leaders have stable self evaluation arrangements to identify the school's strengths and improvement priorities. However, they do not always act strategically and incisively enough to ensure improvements in standards of teaching and learning. Members of the governing body are supportive of the headteacher and staff and ensure that the school's safeguarding arrangements are sound.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen leadership at all levels to implement the school's improvement priorities more effectively
- R2 Raise pupils' standards of Welsh, particularly their writing skills
- R3 Ensure consistency in effective teaching practices across the school and raise teachers' expectations to provide a consistent challenge for all pupils

What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress. This is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Bryn Onnen
Local authority	Torfaen County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	
Number of pupils on roll	191
Pupils of statutory school age	147
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	26
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>	23.7%
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>	19.0%
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	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	02/09/2019
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	06/07/2015
Start date of inspection	04/03/2024

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