



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castell-nedd

Date of inspection: February 2024

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

Overview

Since being appointed, the acting headteacher of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castell nedd has worked diligently with leaders to identify the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Teachers and assistants work together effectively to provide an inclusive and supportive learning environment for pupils. They know the pupils well and develop a caring and safe working relationship as they support them to learn.

Leaders set high expectations of the staff and support them to develop their skills appropriately through purposeful professional learning opportunities. They are aware of the importance of caring for the wellbeing of staff and pupils. Teachers and assistants work well together to ensure that pupils are ready to learn. The care and guidance provided to pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is a strength.

Teachers have good knowledge of pupils' interests and they use this information appropriately to provide a range of interesting and exciting activities that engage most pupils' enthusiasm. However, learning activities do not always challenge pupils effectively enough to develop their skills suitably in a rich range of activities. In the youngest pupils' classes, staff work well together to provide an effective learning environment that inspires them to investigate and discover independently. As pupils move through the school, a few teachers over-direct learning, which limits pupils in terms of making decisions about what to present in their work and how.

Many pupils have positive attitudes to their learning. They communicate in Welsh with increasing confidence and have pride in their local area. Most pupils behave respectfully and work well together. Overall, they enjoy using their skills to be enthusiastic and creative learners, for example in digital, art and expressive arts activities. Although pupils' literacy and numeracy skills develop consistently, provision does not support a majority of pupils to develop and apply these skills effectively enough. They develop good physical skills regularly across the curriculum.

Recommendations

R1 Improve pupils' writing and numeracy skills

R2 Provide activities that ensure a consistent challenge for pupils to achieve to the best of their ability

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castell-nedd
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	424
Pupils of statutory school age	287
Number in nursery classes (if applicable)	73
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>	13.8%
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>	4.9%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils who speak Welsh at home	34.8%
Percentage of statutory school age pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	28/02/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	07/03/2016
Start date of inspection	26/02/2024

© Crown Copyright 2024: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 01/05/2024

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.