



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gynradd Tycroes

Date of inspection: March 2024

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

Overview

Leaders, staff and governors at Tycroes Primary School provide a safe and stimulating environment for pupils. The headteacher is a compassionate leader who places pupils' and staff's well-being, happiness and learning at the heart of the school's work. Leaders and governors manage change well. They pay careful attention to the development of staff to ensure that all embrace the school's values and contribute to the strong team ethos. Subsequently, staff and pupils are happy and feel valued and safe.

Pupils feel a firm sense of pride and belonging to their school and their locality. Their behaviour is exemplary. Parents are highly appreciative for the quality of education and the strong, supportive care their children receive. Leaders and staff nurture pupils' personal, social and communication skills well. Pupils' interactions with adults are courteous and respectful.

The school's curriculum is engaging, relevant and planned well to ensure that pupils develop their knowledge and skills progressively. Pupils focus on their learning well and attend school regularly. However, too often teachers over-direct pupils' learning and do not provide sufficient challenge or opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills and make decisions about their learning. Leaders have developed an effective system for the assessment of all pupils as they move through the school; they use this to track the progress of every pupil. However, teachers' use of daily assessments of pupils is not effective enough to plan subsequent learning. Pupils' evaluation of their own successes and next steps in learning is underdeveloped.

Leaders at Tycroes Primary are reflective and strive for success. They have a comprehensive process of self-evaluation in search of school improvement. Leaders and staff at all levels work hard to improve the school. However, while leaders have established a rigorous cycle of evaluation activities, reviewing the impact these actions has upon the quality of teaching and learning is not robust enough. As a result of effective leadership and provision, most pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN) and those whose circumstances make them vulnerable to underachievement, make good progress.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen review processes within self-evaluation activity to have a clear focus on the impact of improvements on teaching and learning
- R2 Ensure that teachers use assessment information to refine their teaching to support and challenge pupils appropriately
- R3 Embed systematic opportunities for pupils to develop their independence and their skills in evaluating and improving their own learning

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 Tycroes
Local authority	Carmarthenshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	190
Pupils of statutory school age	157
Number in nursery classes	13
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 Primary is 23.7%)	21.0%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Primary is 13.2%)	12.1%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	3.8%
Date of headteacher appointment	16/04/2018
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	10/11/2015
Start date of inspection	11/03/2024

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