



## Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol y Creuddyn

**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

Ysgol y Creuddyn is a homely school where the well-being and individual needs of all pupils are at the heart of its work. Staff listen carefully to pupils' views to ensure that their voice is central to everything. The school's pupils are likeable and respectful of each other, staff and visitors. They take pride in their school and behave well in their lessons and around the school. Sixth-form pupils are extremely mature and polite. Many make strong progress and their contribution to school life is notable.

Many teachers are enthusiastic about their subject and about learning. This has a positive effect on pupils' attitudes. These teachers are strong language models who plan interesting lessons that build in terms of challenge. As a result, many pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), make sound progress over time. In a minority of lessons where teaching is more effective, teachers challenge pupils to think deeply and ask probing questions. Pupils in these lessons make strong progress. However, in a few cases, teachers' expectations of pupils' use of the Welsh language are too low.

As a result of strong support from staff, nearly all pupils feel safe within the inclusive ethos of 'Teulu'r Creuddyn'. The most vulnerable pupils receive effective support in response to their individual needs. Through successful collaboration with partner primary schools, pupils settle quickly into secondary education. The language 'immersion' scheme enables pupils who arrive from non-Welsh-speaking backgrounds to become fluent quickly.

Staff have a clear vision to provide valuable learning experiences for pupils which is based on the school motto, 'Dawn, Dysg, Daioni'. Their purposeful planning to develop Curriculum for Wales and assess pupils' progress is notable. The opportunities that pupils are given to develop their numeracy skills in various context across the curriculum are a notable strength. Staff succeed in building on secure basic skills from mathematics lessons. These curricular experiences are enriched with an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities to develop their wider skills.

The acting headteacher has a clear vision that is conveyed consistently by a dedicated team of staff. Staff have good knowledge of pupils' individual needs. Through their comprehensive quality assurance systems, leaders have a sound understanding of the main strengths and areas for improvement within the school. They seek the views of pupils and staff regularly and include them when making key decisions. Leaders have succeeded in leading improvements in areas such as teaching and learning, and ensured that many pupils make sound progress over time. However, there is room to strengthen accountability between leaders to respond more sharply to the school's main improvement priorities, such as improving pupils' attendance.

# Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen accountability and ensure that leaders focus sharply on the main improvement priorities
- R2 Increase pupils' use of the Welsh language
- R3 Improve pupils' attendance

## What happens next

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

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to purposeful planning to deliver a relevant and contemporary curriculum to pupils and its work in developing pupils' numeracy skills, to be disseminated on Estyn's website.



## School context

Name of provider	Ysgol y Creuddyn
Local authority	Conwy County Borough Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	633
Pupils of statutory school age	531
Number in sixth form	102
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%)	9.6%
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%)	6.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	59.9%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.9%
Date of headteacher appointment	17/04/2023 (Acting Headteacher)
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	10/05/2016
Start date of inspection	11/03/2024

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