



# Report summary for parents and carers on Maes Ebbw School

**Date of inspection: June 2024**

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

# Overview

Maes Ebbw is a happy community where pupils feel valued and safe. Staff place pupils at the heart of everything they do. They have an extensive knowledge of the pupils and build strong relationships underpinned by care and respect.

Teaching is a notable strength in the school. As a result, nearly all pupils make strong progress and develop a range of important skills that supports their learning and well-being effectively.

Staff consistently use a range of communication strategies to meet the wide range of pupils' needs. As a result, pupils' communication needs are well met, and they are able to share their thoughts and feelings as well as engage in their learning.

Pupils at Maes Ebbw benefit from a bespoke curriculum with a clear focus on individual development. The curriculum at the school is broad and well balanced, thoughtfully and skilfully adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. The provision for both pupils' communication and physical skills development is a notable strength.

The school supports the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all pupils very well, planning rich opportunities for pupils to learn about diversity and different cultures. As a result, in line with their abilities, many pupils develop a strong understanding of other cultures and faiths, as well as their place in Wales.

The headteacher provides robust leadership, which directs the school successfully and systematically on its improvement journey. They have created a strong sense of community and mutual endeavour. Senior leaders work in collaboration, and together they have secured and embedded the vision; 'all are challenged to grow and succeed'. They create high-quality learning environments, which further strengthen the ethos of the school, and support and celebrate pupils' learning and achievements.

# Recommendations

**R1** Further develop the role of middle leaders to increase capacity across the school.

**R2** Continue to improve the attendance of the few pupils who do not attend regularly

## 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 developing a bespoke curriculum to meet the needs of pupils with ALN.**

## School context

Name of provider	Maes Ebbw School
Local authority	Newport City Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Maintained Special
Number of pupils on roll	159
Pupils of statutory school age	125
Number in nursery classes	3
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 Maintained Special is 46.8%)	41.2%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Maintained Special is 100.0%)	100.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	27%

Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	14/03/2016
Start date of inspection	03/06/2024
<p>Maes Ebbw School is a local authority maintained special school in Newport. The school has two sites across Newport. Maes Ebbw is the main site and Maes Ebbw Bach is the smaller second site, mainly for older pupils.</p> <p>Maes Ebbw School in Newport opened in 2001, following the amalgamation of two special schools. All current pupils all have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an individual development plan (IDP).</p> <p>The school currently provides for 159 pupils aged between 3 and 19 years.</p> <p>All pupils have a range of complex additional learning needs (ALN). These needs include severe learning difficulties (SLD), physical and medical difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), and autistic spectrum condition (ASC).</p> <p>Nearly all pupils come from Newport, with very few living close to the school.</p> <p>Just under half of pupils are eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>English is the predominant language of many pupils. Around a quarter of pupils speak English as an additional language. Around a quarter come from ethnic minority backgrounds.</p> <p>A very few pupils are in the care of the local authority.</p> <p>The headteacher has been in post since 2017.</p>	

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