



# **Report summary for parents and carers on The Court Special School**

**Date of inspection: June 2024**

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

# Overview

The Court School 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.

Many pupils have experienced the breakdown of placements with previous providers. This has adversely affected their confidence and self-esteem. At the Court School, pupils benefit from an individualised education programme with a clear focus on the development of pupils' emotional well-being. Staff across the school build trust with pupils successfully and know pupils' needs and interests well. This is a notable strength of the school. Over time, nearly all pupils make significant progress in improving their attitudes to learning and enjoy school.

Staff consistently embed a range of strategies across the school to improve pupils' health and well-being. As a result, over time, most pupils develop their understanding of healthy lifestyles well, helping them to become healthy, confident individuals.

The curriculum has recently been developed to encompass pupils' needs and interests well. Pupils enjoy learning about topics, such as astronomy and sporting heroes. Many pupils make good progress in developing their reading and numeracy skills. However, pupils' writing skills are less well-developed. The development of pupils' physical skills is a strength.

The school supports the 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 sensitive and compassionate leadership, creating a highly inclusive ethos and a strong sense of community. Senior leaders work in collaboration. Together, they have secured and embedded the vision; 'keep calm and keep learning'. They create highly supportive learning environments, where pupils thrive and begin to believe in themselves.

# Recommendations

- R1 Refine self-evaluation processes so that leaders at all levels collect and analyse data and other important information systematically to identify strategic priorities accurately**
- R2 Strengthen assessment processes to take account of pupils' progress in all areas of their learning**

## What happens next

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

## School context

Name of provider	The Court Special School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Maintained Special
Religious character	*
Number of pupils on roll	41
Pupils of statutory school age	41
Number in nursery classes	0
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%)	82.4%
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	2.4%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2016
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	09/06/2014
Start date of inspection	17/06/2024
<p>The Court School is a special school maintained by Cardiff City Council. The school supports primary aged pupils from 7 to 11 years of age with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD). Many of the pupils who attend have additional barriers to learning, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autistic spectrum condition (ASC) and emotional and mental health difficulties.</p> <p>All pupils have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an individual development plan (IDP).</p> <p>Nearly all pupils come from Cardiff, with very few living close to the school.</p> <p>Many of the pupils are eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>English is the predominant language of nearly all pupils. No pupils speak Welsh at home. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. Very few 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 September 2016.</p>	

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