



Report summary for parents and carers on Pontlliw Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2023

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

Overview

Pontlliw Primary is a nurturing, happy and hard-working school that places a high priority on the well-being of its staff and pupils. Leaders have created a strong culture of mutual support when working together towards the school's core values of 'Respect, Care, Community'. These values are shared across the school community and encourage respect and kindness between staff and pupils. Staff ensure that the local community is a key part of the school's life and work. As a result, the school forms a central part of community life and there is a strong culture of belonging and community pride.

The school's curriculum provides a wide range of interesting and stimulating experiences across many of the areas of learning and experience. Pupils' views are an important part of the process of planning activities and, as a result, most pupils apply themselves enthusiastically to their experiences. There is a positive environment in the classrooms and most teachers use a good range of effective teaching techniques to deliver interesting and engaging learning experiences. However, there is a tendency for teachers to over-direct learning. This limits the development of pupils' independent learning and thinking skills.

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school, based on developing pupils' well-being, sense of citizenship and belonging. She shares this vision successfully with everyone in the school community. Leaders support the headteacher effectively and there is a strong sense of teamwork across the school. Governors are very supportive of the school's vision and work, although they do not play a robust enough role in the school's self-evaluation processes. As a result, their role as critical friend to the school is underdeveloped.

There is effective support for pupils with additional learning needs, and the school thinks carefully about how to support pupils' basic skills in literacy and numeracy as well as addressing their social and emotional needs. As a result, the school is an inclusive environment where staff work hard to ensure that pupils make good progress and are becoming ambitious and capable learners.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills and make decisions in relation to their learning
- R Ensure that members of the governing body play a full part in self-evaluation processes to support the school to identify all strengths and areas for improvement

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 the school's commitment to partnership working with parents and carers, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

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| Name of provider | Pontlliw Primary School |
| Local authority | City and County of Swansea |
| Language of the provider | English |
| Type of school | Primary |
| Number of pupils on roll | 223 |
| Pupils of statutory school age | 180 |
| Number in nursery classes | 28 |
| 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 23.0%) | 10.5% |
| 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 16.1%) | 10% |
| Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home | 1.9% |
| Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language | 3.8% |
| Date of headteacher appointment | 01/09/2013 |
| Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable) | 01/07/2014 |
| Start date of inspection | 20/03/2023 |

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