



Report summary for parents and carers on Clydach Primary School

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

Clydach Primary school is an inclusive environment where pupils feel safe and cared for by their teachers. Staff work hard to build positive working relationships and provide good support for pupils' emotional well-being. Pupils are enthusiastic learners and enjoy sharing their work with visitors.

In general, pupils make suitable progress in their skills and understanding across the school. In a few areas of the curriculum pupils are making good progress, for example in mathematics and when developing their oracy skills. However, not all groups of pupils, including those with additional learning needs or the more able, are challenged or supported well enough. This means that these groups of pupils do not always make enough progress from their starting points.

The school is beginning to develop its curriculum appropriately and is providing a few engaging learning experiences for pupils. However, progress towards the Curriculum for Wales is slow and the school has not yet developed its curriculum well enough to ensure that pupils build on their skills and make sustained progress. The re-introduction of school trips following the pandemic is having a positive impact on pupils' enjoyment of learning. Pupils engage enthusiastically with experiences such as their woodland walks.

Due to significant levels of staff absence, the school does not currently have an effective leadership team. The local authority and governors have recently appointed an interim headteacher who is helping to improve staff well-being and pupils' progress. However, this arrangement is temporary and there remains a lack of capacity in leadership at all levels. This is slowing the progress of the school and reducing its ability to build strong relationships with parents to help them support their children's learning. In addition, self-evaluation and improvement activities, as well as professional learning opportunities for staff, do not focus sufficiently well on improving the quality of teaching and learning. The local authority and governing body recognise challenges facing the school and are providing additional support.



Recommendations

- R1 Establish stable and effective leadership at all levels and improve communication with stakeholders
- R2 Improve self-evaluation and strategic planning to enable the school to identify and sustain the necessary improvements in teaching and learning
- R3 Improve teaching across the school to ensure that all groups of pupils are challenged well enough and make suitable progress
- R4 Improve the curriculum and provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills
- R5 Ensure that professional learning encourages collaboration across the school and improves teaching and learning

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. This is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	Clydach Primary School
Local authority	City and County of Swansea
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	NA
Number of pupils on roll	202
Pupils of statutory school age	169
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%)	24.6%
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%)	14.2%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	7.7%
Date of headteacher appointment	03/09/2012
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/01/2014
Start date of inspection	07/11/2022

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