



Report summary for parents and carers on Pencoed Comprehensive School

Date of inspection: September 2024

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

Summary

Pencoed Comprehensive School is a caring, inclusive school where the well-being of individuals is prioritised, and diversity celebrated. A strong sense of community and belonging forms a secure foundation for pupils to learn, grow, thrive and flourish.

A strength of the school is the way that leadership responsibilities are shared across the school. This enables leaders to prioritise their work effectively and provides opportunities for staff to develop their skills in line with their ambitions. This work to distribute leadership extends to empowering pupils who benefit from a wide variety of opportunities to make a difference to the school through a range of pupil leadership groups. There is a valuable emphasis on developing teachers' practice which has resulted in a culture of professional learning and commitment to improvement. The development and refinement of the use of data has contributed positively to improvement processes.

The strong focus on pupil well-being creates a positive environment for learning. Overall, many teachers support pupils well and as a result, many pupils engage with their learning and make secure progress. However, the evaluation of teaching does not always pay enough attention to considering the impact of teachers' approaches on pupils' learning, progress and skills. As a result, although there are many strengths in teaching, there are fewer examples of excellent practice and strong pupil progress.

The school has developed a wide range of beneficial strategies to improving attendance, but despite the school's work to improve this aspect, rates of attendance remain below pre-pandemic levels.

The school hosts a local authority learning resource centre, Tŷ Ewenni, for pupils who have a recognised moderate learning difficulty (MLD). Pupils in the resource centre are well-supported to develop a wide range of learning and life skills. They make good progress from their individual starting points.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made two recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

R1 Improve attendance

R2 Sharpen self-evaluation to focus more precisely on the impact of provision on pupils' learning and skills

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



If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).

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