



## Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

**Date of inspection: October 2024**

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

# Summary

The headteacher led the amalgamation of the Infant and Junior schools skilfully. Through consultation and collaboration, he ensures that staff at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen work as one effective team. Staff have beneficial professional learning to support pupils' well-being and ensure that this aspect of the school's work is at the heart of everything they do. Provision, such as "Y Cwtch" nurture resource, supports pupils with individual needs well. Staff commitment to enrichment activities, such as residential trips, is admirable. Leaders use grant funding purposefully to ensure that these residential opportunities are available to all pupils, including those eligible for free school meals.

Staff have engaged in professional learning to develop their Welsh language skills. They speak Welsh regularly in lessons and around school and inspire pupils to do the same. As a result, many pupils' progress and enjoyment of learning Welsh is strong.

Teachers share appropriate learning objectives and use questioning to develop pupils' understanding effectively. However, feedback does not always provide pupils with enough specific information on how to improve and not all teachers have high enough expectations of pupils, particularly the more able.

Many pupils develop oracy and reading skills effectively. However, a minority of pupils, in particular more able pupils, do not develop their writing skills as well as they could. Many pupils develop their mathematical skills suitably. However, they do not apply these skills in problem-solving and reasoning activities as well as they could. This is something the school recognises and has started to address. Over time, most pupils do not develop a broad enough range of digital skills. Overall, most pupils make suitable progress from their starting points.

The school is highly inclusive, collaborates with external agencies and modifies provision well to support pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) successfully. Provision for pupils with ALN is strong.

Leaders show the capacity to implement improvement strategy effectively. For example, their work to improve standards of pupils' well-being, reading and Welsh have been successful. However, their work to improve other aspects of the school's work is less effective.

The governing body supports the school well, balancing challenge and support successfully.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Further improve teaching and assessment to ensure that teachers have consistently high expectations of pupils, particularly the more able
- R2 Sharpen the school's procedures for self-evaluation and monitoring
- R3 Ensure that the curriculum supports all pupils to develop their writing, problem-solving and digital skills effectively

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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Publication date: 16/12/2024

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