



Report summary for parents and carers on Whitchurch Primary School

Date of inspection: April 2024

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

Summary

Whitchurch Primary School is a thriving learning community where pupils feel safe and valued. The headteacher's compassionate leadership, supported by two deputy headteachers, committed governors, and a wider leadership team, fosters an inclusive ethos where pupils develop as creative, independent thinkers. The school has made significant progress in refining its curriculum, with teachers providing a rich range of stimulating learning experiences that cater to individual pupil needs. As a result, nearly all pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), engage positively with the opportunities available to them and make at least sound progress.

From an early age, pupils are encouraged to be curious and explore the world around them. By Year 6, pupils confidently choose areas to research and decide how they will present their work. Staff monitor pupils' progress effectively, providing helpful feedback and encouraging resilience and independence in learning. Teachers plan systematically for the progressive development of pupils' literacy skills, and most pupils use their reading and writing skills well in their wider learning. However, opportunities for older pupils to develop and apply their reading skills at a suitable level are not yet consistent enough.

The school ensures that pupils frequently apply their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. There is a strong, inclusive culture, and provision for pupils with ALN is highly successful. The school's arrangements to manage pupil attendance are sound, but the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals remains a concern. Leadership across the school is highly effective, with a dedicated governing body working alongside leaders and staff to monitor and evaluate progress in teaching and learning. The school operates successfully within its financial capabilities and provides valuable opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills. Staff value the wide range of professional development offered, and the school makes a positive contribution to developing teaching across the region.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Improve the attendance of pupils that are eligible for free school meals
- R2 Further develop and refine opportunities to develop older pupils' reading 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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