Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Craig Y Don

Date of inspection: February 2025

Summary

Ysgol Craig Y Don is a caring learning environment where staff and pupils show high levels of respect towards one other. Leaders provide purposeful strategic direction and create a strong culture of teamwork. They focus sharply on improvement priorities that enhance pupils' experiences, particularly in relation to their well-being, knowledge and skills.

The school delivers a rich and engaging curriculum that helps pupils explore and understand their community, Wales, and the wider world. Teachers have high expectations of pupils, which contribute to pupils' enthusiasm for learning and strong levels of engagement. They provide activities that encourage curiosity, independence, and teamwork. This allows pupils to develop valuable skills, although overall pupils do not receive enough opportunities to apply their writing and numeracy skills to a suitably challenging level in their work across the curriculum. Many pupils develop Welsh listening skills appropriately, and respond suitably to simple instructions, but are less confident in speaking Welsh. Teachers enrich pupils' learning with beneficial outdoor activities, which provide hands-on experiences that enhance creativity and physical development.

The school has effective links with external partners. Strong relationships with the community help staff to enrich pupils' experiences. Leaders maintain effective communication with other agencies to support pupils' well-being needs and to support those who have additional learning needs (ALN). Despite the school's work to promote good attendance, the number of pupils who are persistently absent from school remains too high.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Provide suitably challenging opportunities for pupils to apply their writing and numeracy skills in their work across the curriculum

R2 Improve pupils' confidence in speaking Welsh

R3 Reduce the number of pupils who are persistently absent

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

Full Report

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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