



Report summary for parents and carers on Markham Primary School

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

Markham Primary School provides a safe, nurturing and vibrant place for pupils and staff, where pupils are proud to be a part of such a supportive learning community. Staff are ambitious for their pupils and help them develop positive attitudes to learning. There is a strong focus on developing literacy, numeracy and digital skills in all classes. Teachers and support staff work effectively together to make sure that all pupils achieve well in using these skills, including those with additional needs. A strength of the school is how leaders, staff and pupils promote the school's Welsh identity and language.

The school has created a stimulating and resourceful learning environment in all classes which inspire pupils to engage well with their learning. The outside learning space however is underdeveloped.

The 'RISE' curriculum approach enables all pupils to make very good progress from their baselines, providing a strong and embedded system for ensuring effective differentiation across the school. Pupils are empowered to make informed decisions and set their own level of challenge. This approach provides pupils with ownership of their learning whilst ensuring they fully understand where they are, what their next steps are and how they can be effectively challenged.

Pupils have a strong voice in the school and contribute well to a variety of groups and committees, where their influence has had a positive impact on school life. Nearly all pupils enjoy attending school, however attendance has slipped due to the pandemic and holidays being deferred.

The school has successfully established and embedded a comprehensive programme of support. This includes parental and family engagement as well as developing a wide range of agency and community involvement. It provides a 'team around the school' approach, which effectively meets the needs and enriches the lives of many pupils and their families.

The headteacher provides strong and supportive leadership. She engages and empowers teachers and support staff to work and learn together. All staff see school improvement as everyone's responsibility. Governors are knowledgeable about the work of the school. They know the community well and are supportive of the school's actions to raise pupils' aspirations.



Recommendations

- R1 Improve outdoor provision to enrich all pupils' learning experiences
- R2 Improve attendance

What happens next

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

Estyn will invite the school to prepare two case studies on its work in relation to securing strong differentiation through effective curriculum design and effectively engaging the school community, for dissemination on Estyn's website.



School context

Name of provider	Markham Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	n/a
Number of pupils on roll	185
Pupils of statutory school age	148
Number in nursery classes	16
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 21.3%)	37.6%
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 22.2%)	25.7%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	02/04/2018
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	03/02/2014
Start date of inspection	07/11/2022

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