

Ysgol Gyfun

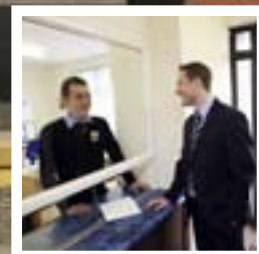


Porthcawl

Comprehensive School

Inspection Report 2007 Highlights

100%



Mission statement

All at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are committed to providing a caring and disciplined learning environment based on mutual respect in which all, irrespective of gender, race or ability, develop their talents to the full.



Ysgol Gyfun **Porthcawl** Comprehensive School

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION TO INSPECTION REPORT 2007 HIGHLIGHTS BROCHURE

The headteacher, staff, governors and pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive School welcome our very positive inspection report. The awarding of the highest grade in five of the seven key questions and the second highest in the remaining two key questions confirms the professional dedication with which the teaching staff, support staff and governors exercise their responsibilities while recognising the many outstanding features of the school.

We are pleased to note that inspectors have judged the key issues identified for action in the last inspection as having been fully met and are heartened by the numerous statements within the report identifying improvements since the last inspection.

We are very encouraged by the findings of the inspection team in relation to the high performance of our pupils and sixth form students, the high standards of key skills across all areas of the curriculum, the outstanding attitudes displayed by pupils towards their learning and the excellent progress made by pupils in their personal development.

The school places great effort on our young people's performance in external examinations and it is very pleasing to note that inspectors recognise this as an outstanding feature and that, since the previous inspection, our results are among the highest in Wales.

It is also extremely encouraging that the inspectors judged the breadth and quality of extra-curricular provision to be outstanding. We are also very heartened by the highly effective partnership arrangements recorded in the report as being outstanding.

We were very pleased to note that the provision for care, support and guidance is judged to be good with some outstanding features and that the school's very rigorous approach to bullying was recognised by the inspectors.

Essential to the success of an effective school is the quality of leadership and management at all levels of the institution. It is particularly gratifying that the inspection team credited all three key questions linked to leadership and management with the highest grade whilst identifying many outstanding features.

The very positive nature of the inspection report is a tribute to the efforts of governors, teaching and support staff, pupils, parents and the school's partners. This endorsement of our school ensures that we can move forward confidently and continue to build on the many outstanding features that are highlighted in the report.

This brochure contains excerpts taken from the Crown Copyright 2007 publication "A Report on the Quality of Education in Porthcawl Comprehensive School" following an Inspection under Section 28 of the Education Act 2005 on 8th May 2007.

As a school, we have assembled this brochure to share with you the success of the recent inspection. A full report is available from the school.

So what does it all mean?

There are seven Key Questions which are graded 1 to 5:-

Grade 1 - Good with outstanding features

Grade 2 - Good features and no important shortcomings

Grade 3 - Good features outweigh shortcomings

Grade 4 - Some good features but shortcomings in important areas

Grade 5 - Many important shortcomings

We are delighted to share with you the grades we were awarded:-

Key Question	Grade
1. "How well do learners achieve?"	1
2. "How effective are teaching, training and assessment?"	2
3. "How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?"	1
4. "How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?"	2
5. "How effective are leadership and strategic management?"	1
6. "How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?"	1
7. "How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?"	1

In the following pages all quotes are taken directly from the inspection report to illustrate the quality of provision we offer.

Inspection highlights

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- “Over the past three years, examination results have consistently been at or above the national average and local averages”.
- “Students make very good progress through their sixth-form studies and the vast majority of students stays in school for two years before progressing to further or higher education”.
- “GCSE results compare extremely well with the LEA and national results. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more grades A*-C is 11% above the LEA figure and 10% above that for all-Wales”.
- “Pupils of all abilities, including those with SEN, generally perform very well. The most-able pupils are challenged to produce work of a high quality both in oral and written responses. Pupils with SEN are successful in their work and good use is made of individual education plans (IEPs) in ensuring good levels of participation and success in mainstream classes”.
- “Transition arrangements both from primary to secondary and into the sixth-form are very strong. The outstanding primary/secondary liaison is very well co-ordinated with an impressive range of activities available”.



Inspection highlights



- “The school has two libraries, both of which are sufficiently stocked with books and other resource materials. Pupils and students use these locations well”.



- “Pupils display considerable enthusiasm for the work they undertake and become actively engaged in the learning opportunities provided. Pupils recognise and understand the progress they are making. Pupils reflect on the work they are doing, either individually or in small groups”.
- “The school is a happy and relaxed community and the caring use of the communal areas around the school demonstrates a sense of ownership and pride on the part of the pupils”.
- “Pupils behave responsibly around the school and in lessons. They have a clear understanding of the importance of good behaviour in a learning environment. A strong emphasis is placed upon the importance of self-discipline; working with others and improving one’s own performance are good features of the effective learning that takes place”.
- “Behaviour is very good, based on self-discipline and outstanding relationships exist between students and teachers. Students realise the importance of good attendance for academic success and there is a business-like approach towards punctuality to lessons”.
- “Good teaching is characterised by detailed planning, clear objectives, appropriate pace and challenge, good subject knowledge and good awareness of recent development in subject teaching. It is also based upon a willingness to take risks and, in the best practice, on a determination to push pupils a little further than they thought they could go”.

- “Relationships between teachers and pupils, and amongst pupils, in most lessons are extremely good. Expectations are high on both side and this allows challenging work to be set and completed”.



Inspection highlights



- “The overall promotion of pupils’ and students’ personal development is an outstanding feature of the school”.
- “There is an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities, held mainly during lunchtimes and after school. The participation rates are very high and extensive opportunities are provided for participation in sport, music, drama, homework clubs, visits related to curricular subjects, foreign visits, theatre trips, concerts, annual musicals and competitions. The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme is very well supported with many pupils achieving silver and bronze awards”.
- “The school is extremely pro-active in canvassing the needs of employers through the extensive careers programme, individual interviews for pupils with the careers officer, visits and interviews with the business community, as well as through the work experience programme”.
- “Teachers are well qualified and committed. There are sufficient, suitably qualified and experienced staff to deliver the school’s planned curriculum effectively. Teachers in the sixth form are highly qualified, experienced and are deployed well to ensure all students are provided with every opportunity to succeed”.
- “There are several outstanding features in leadership and management, in terms of effectiveness in giving clear direction and promoting high standards at all levels of management”.



- “Sixth-form students are mature, well-motivated young adults with a wide variety of talents and interests who display confidence without arrogance and are personable and at ease with visitors to the school. Their behaviour is very good and outstanding relationships exist between students and teachers”.
- “The overall provision for care, support and guidance is good with some outstanding features. The school has a committed team of teachers who co-operate closely with outside agencies to provide an inclusive and supportive community. Pupils and students see their teachers as caring and approachable”.
- “An outstanding feature is the school’s provision for more able and talented pupils”.

Inspection highlights



- “The school has a very rigorous approach to bullying, in the event of bullying taking place, there are good follow-up procedures in place”.
- “The school works very effectively with a wide range of local partners to enhance both the curriculum and extra-curricular activities for its pupils. The school is a strong focus in the community and held in regard by its community partners”.
- “The governing body has a wide range of expertise and experience and fulfils its leadership role very effectively. The governors are highly pro-active and knowledgeable in helping the school to set its strategic direction. The quality of strategic management and evaluation by the governing body is an outstanding feature of the school”.
- “The overall quality of the accommodation is good and, in some areas, very good. The school benefits from a range of sports’ facilities of high quality; good drama and dance facilities are provided for the performing arts. Through diligent financial planning, the rolling programme of improvement, driven by the school, has provided a range of new facilities. The school’s on-going drive for improvement of facilities for pupils is an outstanding feature of the school”.

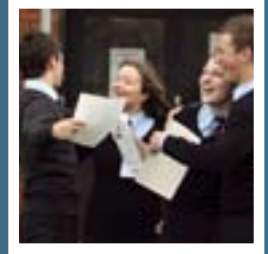
- “The overall quality of the accommodation is good and in some areas very good”.
- “The sixth form benefits from good accommodation within a dedicated, sixth form block. This accommodation has a range of seating and work areas including a café section that students can access throughout the day. Students have a good access to ICT facilities and they make extensive use of the larger library”.
- “There are pleasant recreational areas with seating for pupils throughout the campus, and the grounds and buildings are well maintained. There is little evidence of litter or graffiti. The school has created two quiet, supervised areas exclusively for the use of Y7 and Y8 pupils during break time. Classrooms and corridors benefit from good wall displays and, overall, the accommodation provides a good environment for learning and teaching to take place”.



“The school has recently installed a high-speed broadband system throughout the campus, providing good access to ICT facilities of high quality in all subject areas. The provision of IT facilities is an outstanding feature of the school”.

- “Overall, the provision of IT facilities is an outstanding feature of the school”.
- “The way that the school manages its resources is an outstanding feature of the management of the school; financial planning and control are significant strengths”.
- “Overall, when measured against its outcomes, the school provides very good value for money”.

2024



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