



Report summary for parents and carers on St Mary's & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Date of inspection: January 2023

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

Overview

St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School provides a caring and inclusive environment for its pupils, which encourages them to learn, be happy and enjoy school life. Pupils participate willingly in the activities provided for them and use resources productively to improve their knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. The purposeful working relationships that exist with most of their teachers and other staff support the school's vision of 'Learning Together' successfully.

Overall, the school environment promotes beneficial learning opportunities. Learning is particularly successful where the teaching is purposeful and challenges pupils to perform at their best. However, the quality of teaching is inconsistent and the quality of teachers' feedback to pupils does not help them to improve their work effectively.

Most staff provide strong support, care and guidance for pupils in all aspects of school life. This motivates pupils to focus on their individual learning and well-being. They are keen to learn and they are ambitious and capable learners. As a result, pupils' behaviour is exemplary.

Pupils develop good literacy skills, which includes writing in extended forms effectively. They also develop appropriate digital skills and their numeracy skills across the curriculum are satisfactory. Staff make the best use of the school grounds to provide engaging learning experiences in the outdoors for pupils.

Leaders evaluate the school's work to plan for improvements well. The new headteacher provides effective leadership. The senior leadership team, most of the staff and the governors share her clear vision, and they work together cohesively to ensure that the school improves.

Recent changes to monitoring and evaluation processes highlight the headteacher's determination to ensure success for the pupils and the community. The new monitoring practices and improvement plans align well to relevant training opportunities for staff to develop their skills, through purposeful professional learning courses.

Recommendations

- R1 Address the site safety issue, identified at the time of inspection
- R2 Ensure that the new leadership practices improve the consistency and effectiveness of teaching across the school
- R3 Provide effective opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy and digital competency skills across the curriculum
- R4 Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning effectively

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Local authority	Bridgend County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Catholic
Number of pupils on roll	217
Pupils of statutory school age	170
Number in nursery classes	21
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 31.2 %)	31.2%
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 16.1%)	1.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	3%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/04/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	07/03/2014
Start date of inspection	23/01/2023
Both the headteacher and deputy headteacher have been in post for less than a year.	

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Publication date: 27/03/2023

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