



## Report summary for parents and carers on St Mary's R.C. Primary School

**Date of inspection: November 2023**

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

# Overview

St Mary's R.C. Primary School is a warm, caring and welcoming school. Its vision of 'Love, Grow, Believe, Achieve' permeates all it does. Pupils are secure and their relationships with staff are strong. As a result, pupils behave very well and are quick to settle and engage in their work.

During their time at the school, most pupils, including those with English as an additional language (EAL) or with additional learning needs (ALN), make strong progress in their learning. Teachers' development of the basic skills of all pupils is a strength of the school. In addition, learning support staff aid pupils in accessing learning extremely well. However, the independent learning skills, particularly of more able pupils, are less well developed.

The school's curriculum is broad and balanced, providing a suitable range of learning experiences. Teachers' plan purposeful opportunities to develop pupils' oracy, reading, writing and mathematics skills well. Provision to support pupils to make progress in their numeracy and digital skills is less developed. Teachers and support staff provide high quality feedback to pupils about the strengths and areas for development within their learning. As a result, most pupils make strong progress in their learning, knowing the steps required to improve their work. However, staff do not provide enough opportunities for pupils to make choices about their learning.

The school is well led by the headteacher, with able support from the deputy headteacher and senior staff. The team work purposefully to ensure teachers' expectations for their pupils are appropriate, including for more vulnerable groups of learners. Leaders ensure that the school sits at the heart of the community it serves. Parents feel valued and part of the life of the school and parish, benefiting from the successful partnerships fostered between the home and school. Nearly all pupils are happy and proud to attend the school.

# Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that teaching challenges all pupils, including the more able, to develop their independent learning skills
- R2 Improve provision for pupils to develop and apply their numeracy and digital skills
- R3 Provide opportunities for pupils to make choices in their learning to develop a more engaging curriculum

## 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 R.C. Primary School
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Catholic
Number of pupils on roll	235
Pupils of statutory school age	185
Number in nursery classes	23
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 23.0%)	31.1%
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%)	8.6%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	43.8%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	21/09/2015
Start date of inspection	20/11/2023

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