

Marc Belli
St John Baptist C.I.W. High School
Glan Road
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10/01/2025

Dear Marc Belli

Interim visit: December 2024

Dear Marc

Thank you for your support with the interim visit to the school on 11th and 12th December 2024. We valued the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and discuss the improvement work that the school has carried out since the core inspection.

During the visit we had the opportunity to:

- Talk with pupils and hear their feedback about the school.
- Visit a sample of lessons across the curriculum to see pupils and staff undertaking their work.
- Undertake lesson observations and work scrutiny activities alongside senior leaders.
- Speak with senior leaders about your improvement work and how you have recently begun to adapt approaches in the areas of focus
- Speak with middle leaders about their work and hear about the benefits and challenges they are experiencing.
- Visit the inclusion provisions to speak with staff and pupils about their work.

Focus of visit

How well do leaders in the school consider the impact of teaching on pupils' learning, progress and skills?

During the visit we noted that since your very recent appointment as executive headteacher, the school has reviewed its systems to evaluate the quality of teaching and learning across the school. These are beginning to enable your senior leaders to

gather a more robust overview of the strengths and areas for improvement in teaching, learning and skills provision.

Senior leaders recognise that the provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills is at an early stage of development as is the support to improve the quality of teaching across the school. To address this, the school has recently introduced 'The St John's Six', guiding principles for teachers when planning learning. In addition, there is a programme of professional learning for staff to develop their understanding of these principles, although it is too early to evaluate the impact of this work.

We think it would be helpful for you to consider:

- How will the school ensure that all staff have a shared understanding of effective teaching and learning?
- How will the school ensure that all pupils develop their knowledge, understanding and skills effectively?
- How well do self-evaluation processes focus on pupils' learning and progress?

Do the school's improvement processes enable them to evaluate robustly the effectiveness of leadership?

During the visit, we heard about how you are planning to strengthen leadership at all levels. Leaders are beginning to gather a range of first-hand evidence to support their line management meetings. For example, a recent work scrutiny helped senior leaders to identify important areas for development in the provision to improve pupils' writing and reading skills and in the provision for pupils' numeracy skills. As a result, the school has recently put in place plans to improve the impact of provision on pupils' skills. However, it is too early to measure the impact of this work.

Senior leaders are beginning to work with middle leaders to improve their focus on evaluating and securing improvements in their areas of responsibility. Leaders rely heavily on performance data to evaluate aspects of the school's work. Because of this they do not consider well enough the progress pupils across the school are making in their learning. They do not consider the impact of provision on learning well enough. As a result, in general, leaders have too positive a view of the impact of their work.

We think it would be helpful for you to consider:

- How will the school ensure that leaders prioritise and address the recommendations from the previous core inspection?
- How will professional learning and accountability processes help to support and challenge senior and middle leaders to develop their capacity to improve important aspects of the school's work?
- How will leaders effectively support and challenge staff to secure improvements across the school?

Thank you again for all your help to plan and arrange our visit.

The school's/PRU's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website: [Inspection report St John Baptist C.I.W. High School 2020](#)

Yours sincerely



Catherine Evans
Assistant Director