

Report summary for parents and carers on St David's College

**Date of inspection: September
2025**

This report is also available in Welsh

Summary

Pupils feel respected and valued at St David's College. Staff develop strong, positive relationships with pupils, which supports the school's family ethos. Pupils are polite, respectful, and communicate confidently with peers, teachers and visitors. Across the school, they demonstrate good social skills and work supportively with others. Pupils contribute positively to school life through the school council.

Pupils make secure progress in their learning at all stages. In the primary phase, they listen attentively, engage imaginatively with stories, and begin to make predictions and connections. Their writing develops through extended tasks, such as recounts of historical visits. Mathematical skills are suitably developed and pupils participate enthusiastically in physical activities, building coordination and teamwork.

In Key Stage 3, pupils extend their subject knowledge through discussion, questioning and practical tasks, while oracy, particularly in modern languages, is a strength. By Key Stage 4, pupils write increasingly independently and with accuracy, respond thoughtfully to literature, and apply critical thinking skills, such as analysing historical sources. Mathematical understanding is broadly secure, with more able pupils showing strong algebraic reasoning. In the sixth form, learners demonstrate greater mastery of subjects, develop extended writing and critical reading, and apply their skills across the curriculum.

The curriculum is broad and balanced, with innovative provision such as outdoor education and animal management. Teaching is mainly strong, characterised by high expectations and positive learning environments, though feedback to pupils is inconsistent in quality. A wide range of interventions support individual learning needs well.

Leaders and governors are committed to the school's growth, but quality assurance and self-evaluation lack rigour. Safeguarding practices have been strengthened through improved processes, broader staffing and stronger external collaboration.

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) 2024, required to maintain its registration.

Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

The quality of education provided by the school

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The provision of information

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made two recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

R1. Improve the rigour and quality of self-evaluation processes at all levels to ensure effective school improvement

R2. Strengthen governance to provide challenge and support of school improvement priorities

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.

Full Report

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#)

© Crown Copyright 2025: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 01/12/2025