

This letter is also available in Welsh

St Illtyd's R.C. High School
Newport Road
Rumney
CF3 1XQ

06/01/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: December 2025

Thank you for your support during the interim visit to the school on the 4th and 5th of December 2025. We valued the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work the school has undertaken since the core inspection.

During the visit we had the opportunity to:

- Hold discussions with leaders and staff about their self-evaluation and improvement planning, and their work to improve the quality of teaching and assessment
- Talk with pupils and hear their feedback about the school
- Visit a small sample of lessons in subjects across the curriculum
- Scrutinise a sample of pupils' work
- Scrutinise a sample of relevant school documentation
- Undertake joint lesson observation and book scrutiny activities with leaders and discuss the main findings from these activities

Focus of visit

To what extent has the effectiveness of leadership improved at all levels, including the quality of self-evaluation and improvement planning?

Since the time of the last inspection, it is clear that leaders have taken a range of steps to strengthen self-evaluation and improvement planning. This has involved increasing staff responsibilities and involvement in improvement activities. As a result, the staff that we met during the visit feel valued and invested in this aspect of the school's work.

Estyn, Llys Angor, Heol Keen, Caerdydd,
CF24 5JW Ffôn: 02920 446446
ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru
www.estyn.llyw.cymru

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn, Anchor Court, Keen Road,
Cardiff, CF24 5JW Telephone: 02920
446446 enquiries@estyn.gov.wales
www.estyn.gov.wales

Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh.
Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

It was interesting to hear how teachers, as well as middle leaders, evaluate their own work by carrying out a wide range of monitoring activities. This has created a reflective culture where staff are open to refining and improving their practice. It was useful to hear how senior leaders quality assure middle leaders' evaluations and carry out a range of joint activity with them to ensure that expectations are clearly understood and consistent.

Leaders evaluate the quality of provision by its impact on pupils' standards and progress, including examination outcomes. It was noted that they are developing their understanding of how to evaluate the quality of teaching in light of its impact on pupils' learning.

It may be useful for the school to consider:

- How precisely does leaders' evaluation of provision focus on pupils' acquisition of subject knowledge and the development of their skills?
- How can leaders identify and prioritise the key areas requiring the most urgent improvement?

How much progress has been made in improving the quality of teaching and assessment within the school?

It was interesting to learn about the school's recent re-launch of the 'St Illtyd's Six' features of successful lessons in order to improve learning and teaching. We heard how leaders have engaged with teachers in order to agree a consistent approach to applying agreed teaching strategies. We heard how teachers felt that they were involved in this work and were taking more ownership in areas such as assessment and feedback. In addition, it appears that professional learning opportunities are supporting this work well.

It was also interesting to hear about the rotation of professional learning sessions for staff which are supporting your work to improve teaching. These include incorporating more challenging activities for pupils and modelling and sharing effective practice amongst staff.

In the small sample of lessons seen, it was good to see the worthwhile and positive working relationship between teachers and pupils. As a result of this, we noted that pupils were well-behaved and ready to learn. The school's work in promoting the St Illtyd's Six has contributed to creating consistent classroom routines where pupils are engaged in their learning.

It may be useful for the school to consider:

- Do teachers always ensure that questions are challenging enough to enable pupils to further develop their thinking and their understanding of key concepts?
- When planning lessons, do teachers place enough emphasis on developing pupils' oracy skills?
- Do teachers give authentic opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh skills within lessons and outside of the classroom?

Thank you again for all your help in planning and organising our visit. We wish you well with your future developments.

The school's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6814600>

Yours sincerely



Lowri Jones

Acting Assistant Director