

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

Date of inspection: November 2025

Summary

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school based on creating a nurturing and inclusive environment where all pupils are able to progress. A strong sense of mutual respect and trust exists between staff and pupils, creating a positive atmosphere throughout the school. The school has a strong partnership with parents, supported by effective communication and regular updates on pupil progress. This helps to ensure a supportive learning community that strengthens pupils' confidence and eagerness to learn. Most pupils make good progress from their individual starting points, including those with additional learning needs (ALN) or those acquiring English as an additional language.

Most pupils are polite and respectful and show enjoyment in their learning. They know how to keep themselves safe and healthy, and nearly all benefit from the learning support they receive. Although most pupils enjoy coming to school, the levels of persistent absence remain too high.

The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides a range of meaningful learning experiences. Teachers use a range of strategies to successfully engage the interest of pupils, and learning activities provide appropriate challenge for most pupils. Most pupils are enthusiastic about their education. However, in older classes, over-direction, at times, limits their opportunities to make choices about how to present their learning. Teachers and support staff provide effective support for the development of pupils' speaking and listening, reading and writing skills. Digital and spoken Welsh skills are developed effectively. Number skills are secure, though opportunities to apply numeracy across the curriculum are less frequent.

Governors are well-informed about the school's strengths and areas to develop, and they provide effective challenge and support for school leaders. Staff benefit from a range of professional learning activities that have a positive effect on the standards of teaching and learning and the progress pupils make.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Increase the opportunities for older pupils to make choices about how to present their learning
- R2 Improve opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum
- R3 Improve rates of persistent absence

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

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 2026: 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: 29/01/2026