

# **Report summary for parents and carers on St John's College**

Date of inspection: 02/03/2026

# Summary

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St John's College is a welcoming, ambitious and caring community where nearly all pupils make strong progress. A shared culture of high expectations underpins exemplary behaviour, strong work ethics and highly positive attitudes to learning. Professional relationships between staff and pupils are warm, respectful and trusting, fostering an inclusive atmosphere where pupils feel valued, safe and happy.

Well-being is prioritised alongside academic success. The school provides a wide range of highly effective well-being support across phases and promotes pupils' moral and social development through charitable work, cultural celebrations and a vibrant recognition of Welsh culture.

The curriculum is broad, balanced and enriched by extensive extracurricular opportunities. The majority of teaching in the early years and juniors is strong, promoting a love of both reading and practical learning, and leading to rapid development of pupils' literacy, numeracy and oracy skills. In the senior school and sixth form, flexible timetabling enables personalised programmes through which nearly all pupils develop strong subject knowledge. As a result, pupils' performance in public examinations is consistently significantly above national averages. Where teaching is most effective, adaptive questioning and teachers' subject expertise combine to drive strong progress. However, in a minority of lessons, levels of challenge are inconsistent.

Leadership is ambitious, energetic and highly collaborative. Leaders evaluate the school's work accurately and identify appropriate priorities for improvement. Trustees are committed and knowledgeable and provide suitable oversight and valuable expertise regarding the school's business operations. However, their role as a critical friend, providing robust challenge and ensuring rigorous policy oversight, is less well developed.

In a few instances, checks to establish the continued suitability of staff have not kept pace with recent changes to legislation and, as a result, the school does not comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. Copy summary section of main report

# Recommendations and next steps

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## **We have made three recommendation to help the school continue to improve:**

R1. Meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024

R2. Build on best practice to ensure that teaching provides consistent levels of stretch and challenge for all pupils

R3. Strengthen the trustees' role as a critical friend to the school in recommendations

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](#)

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