

Report summary for parents and carers on Gelliswick Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Date of inspection: 01/06/2026

Summary

Gelliswick Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a caring, inclusive school where pupils and their families are at the heart of school life. The headteacher provides strong leadership and, together with staff and governors, has established a clear vision based on high aspirations and inclusion. Leaders and governors work effectively together to improve the school and support pupils' learning and well-being. Because of this, most pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN) and those adversely affected by poverty, make strong progress from their starting points. Pupils behave well, show positive attitudes to learning and are polite and respectful towards others.

In the youngest classes, stimulating indoor and outdoor environments provide valuable opportunities for exploration and purposeful play. As pupils move through the younger classes across the school, these opportunities are less well developed. Teachers use questioning skilfully to encourage pupils to explain their thinking and contribute confidently to discussions. Feedback from staff helps most pupils understand how to improve their work and make progress. In a few lessons, older pupils do not have enough opportunities to develop their own ideas and think more deeply about their learning.

The school places a strong emphasis on developing speaking and listening skills. As a result, most pupils become confident communicators. Reading is a strength, and most pupils develop into fluent readers who enjoy books and read with good understanding. Writing develops well through use of a consistent approach that enables pupils to build their skills progressively across the curriculum. Most pupils develop positive attitudes towards learning Welsh; however older pupils do not make enough progress in developing their speaking skills.

The school provides a broad and engaging curriculum that helps pupils develop a strong understanding of their local area, Pembrokeshire and Wales. Effective provision for pupils with ALN, including the specialist resource classes, enables nearly all pupils to make very good progress. Strong partnerships with families and external agencies support pupils' well-being, engagement and attendance successfully.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Strengthen opportunities for pupils to explore and develop their ideas and make purposeful decisions about their learning

R2 Improve pupils' speaking skills in Welsh

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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