Report summary for parents and carers on St Marks Church in Wales VA School

Date of inspection: 29/06/2026

This report is also available in Welsh

Summary

St Mark's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School provides a caring and inclusive environment where positive relationships are central to its work. Staff know pupils and their families well, and parents value the care, support and commitment shown to their children. Since her appointment, the headteacher has built strong relationships with the school community and established a shared focus on meeting the needs of all pupils. She has a strong vision for pupils to be the best they can be and has identified a clear route for the school to move forward.

Most pupils behave well, enjoy learning and work respectfully with staff and each other. The challenging behaviour of a few pupils is generally managed well by staff. Pupils benefit from a broad range of experiences that help them develop confidence, creativity and an understanding of their local community and Wales. Opportunities for pupils to learn about diversity and healthy relationships are limited. Many pupils make good progress in speaking, reading, mathematics, digital skills and Welsh. Staff support pupils with additional learning needs well, helping them make good progress towards their individual targets.

Overall, teachers meet pupils' needs successfully and use questioning and feedback effectively to help pupils improve their learning. However, learning is sometimes directed too much by adults and does not always move at a brisk enough pace. This limits opportunities for pupils to develop their independence, think for themselves and apply their skills confidently in new situations.

The school has spacious buildings and extensive grounds, but staff do not always make the best use of the indoor and outdoor learning environments to support learning, particularly for younger pupils.

Leaders have introduced effective systems to track pupils' progress and provide additional support where needed. They work closely with governors, who know the school well and provide appropriate support and challenge. Although attendance has improved slightly, too many pupils still miss school or arrive late.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Improve attendance and punctuality

R2 Ensure that teaching consistently promotes pupils' independent learning and thinking.

R3 Improve learning experiences and the use of the indoor and outdoor learning environments for younger pupils

R4 Strengthen the curriculum to ensure there are purposeful opportunities for pupils to learn about diversity and relationships

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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Publication date: 01/09/2026