Estyn | Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru
For learners, for Wales

St Andrews Major C.I.W. Primary School
St Andrew's Road
Dinas Powys
CF64 4HB

02/11/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: October 2026

A team of inspectors visited St Andrews Major C.I.W. Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from the previous core inspection. The inspection team took the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk with pupils and staff, consider documentation, and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

Focus of visit

Provide pupils with opportunities to develop their skills as independent learners

- Leaders use professional learning and action research to strengthen staff's understanding of independent learning. Opportunities to trial different approaches and reflect on their impact help teachers refine their practice effectively.
- Through collaboration and professional discussion, leaders and staff have established a shared vision for developing independent learners. This provides clear expectations for teaching and helps staff promote pupils' independence more consistently.
- Staff encourage pupils to use self-help strategies, such as working walls and learning prompts, to support their independence. Pupils refer to these prompts to revisit previous learning and overcome difficulties without relying too heavily on adults.
- Teachers create stimulating and imaginative learning spaces that promote curiosity. They ensure that high-quality, practical resources are readily accessible to pupils. This supports pupils to investigate and solve problems independently. Purposeful activities encourage pupils to learn from their mistakes and become more confident learners.
- By maintaining an effective balance of guidance and support, teachers encourage pupils to take greater responsibility for their learning. Across the school, pupils respond enthusiastically to opportunities to work independently and often take great pride in their achievements.

- In the younger classes, staff provide worthwhile opportunities for pupils to develop independence through purposeful play. Pupils tackle problems linked to familiar stories, which encourage pupils to think creatively and apply their early problem-solving skills.
- As they move through the school, pupils evaluate their learning critically. They identify what they do well and where they can improve, helping them to take greater responsibility for the quality of their work.

Provide opportunities for pupils to make choices in their learning to develop a more engaging curriculum

- Leaders have developed a clear approach to strengthening pupil voice and choice through purposeful self-evaluation and improvement planning. This helps staff involve pupils more fully in devising their own learning experiences.
- Staff draw on their specialist knowledge and interests effectively to enrich the curriculum. They work collaboratively to plan engaging experiences that encourage pupils to pursue their own interests and make meaningful choices about their learning.
- Leaders and staff have reviewed and refined the curriculum to provide a rich and varied range of authentic learning experiences. These enable pupils to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital skills effectively. In the older classes, pupils have well-planned opportunities to make valuable connections across areas of learning and experience.
- Across the school, staff make effective use of dedicated spaces to broaden pupils' learning experiences and encourage them to pursue their interests. For example, the 'Stiwdio', a specialist space for science and technology projects, provides valuable opportunities for pupils to use resources creatively and develop their own ideas.
- Teachers plan regular open-ended challenges that encourage pupils to make increasingly independent choices about what and how they learn. Older pupils make thoughtful decisions about how to approach tasks, drawing on prior learning to develop their ideas effectively.
- Well-established pupil leadership groups provide valuable opportunities for pupils to explore important issues within their local community and the wider world, such as climate change and social justice. Members of these groups are also beginning to

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contribute to the school's self-evaluation and improvement work alongside leaders and governors.

The school's/PRU'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/6733364

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles
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