



Report summary for parents and carers on St Mary's C.I.W. Aided School

Date of inspection: March 2023

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Overview

St Mary's Church in Wales School is an inclusive and caring community where pupils work and play together confidently. Staff focus well on pupils' well-being, and this allows pupils to thrive in the school's inclusive environment. Pupils say that they feel safe, secure, and happy in school. They know that adults in the school care for them and that they can turn to them when they face challenges or have difficulties.

Staff have worked hard to create a calm and nurturing ethos, which contributes to effective learning. Most pupils behave well and show very positive attitudes to learning. They form strong relationships with adults and one another and show respect and courtesy for all members of the school community. Most pupils focus well in lessons and demonstrate interest in their learning. As a result, most pupils make good progress as they move through the school and achieve well.

Pupils enjoy their time at St Mary's very much. This is because their teachers plan interesting activities for them, which makes learning exciting and fun. They listen carefully to what pupils want to learn and weave their ideas into well-planned sequences of lessons that build systematically on pupils' knowledge and understanding. This ensures that most pupils display high levels of interest and engagement in their work. Classrooms and outdoor spaces are productive, active learning environments where pupils enjoy plenty of opportunities to work collaboratively in pairs and small groups. Pupils receive purposeful opportunities to practise their literacy, numeracy, and digital skills well through rich tasks and learning experiences. The provision for Welsh is less well developed. In addition, pupils' ability to recognise what they are doing well and what they need to do to improve their work is limited.

The acting headteacher and governors provide efficient and supportive leadership. Staff work well together and as a team they share responsibilities sensibly. As a result, there is an effective whole-school ethos and sense of teamwork where staff feel valued for their contribution. The school is good at identifying the areas of its work that are most effective and those aspects that need to be improved. This enables leaders to set clear ambitions for the direction of the school.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen provision for the development of pupils' Welsh language skills
- R2 Provide opportunities for pupils to make decisions about how they organise and present their work, and to decide for themselves how they respond to learning tasks
- R3 Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback is focused on the next steps in pupils' learning effectively

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	St Mary's C.I.W. Aided School
Local authority	Wrexham County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Church in Wales Aided
Number of pupils on roll	162
Pupils of statutory school age	135
Number in nursery classes	14
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Primary is 23.0%)	6.9%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Primary is 16.1%)	23.7%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	20/03/2023
The school was led by the Deputy Headteacher during the inspection.	

© Crown Copyright 2023: 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: 25/05/2023

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.