



## Report summary for parents and carers on St Therese's R.C. School

**Date of inspection: June 2023**

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

# Overview

During her first year, the headteacher has established a vision and aims for the school which centre around developing pupils' life skills and positive well-being. All leaders provide strong support to realise the school's aims. There are warm, respectful relationships between staff and pupils. Teachers manage pupils' behaviour well, resulting in a calm, collaborative culture in lessons.

There is a strong focus on everybody's well-being in the school. Teaching assistants provide valuable support for pupils' learning and social development. The Family Engagement Worker (FEW) supports families very effectively to improve attendance and parental engagement in school life. Most pupils are courteous and welcoming and nearly all pupils who are new to the school settle in well. Most pupils feel safe in school, and they know who to go to if they need help.

Staff work together to provide a curriculum that engages pupils successfully and meets their learning needs effectively. Most pupils make good progress during their time at the school. Recent improvements to provision for the teaching of literacy and numeracy have a good impact on the standards pupils achieve. However, the school needs to provide more opportunities for pupils to practise writing at length and in different ways. Teachers enhance the curriculum with interesting trips and visitors to school. There are opportunities for pupils to hear the Welsh language daily. Although most pupils participate in Welsh lessons enthusiastically, their confidence to speak Welsh in simple conversations is underdeveloped.

The school encourages pupils to play an active part in helping others in school and in the local community through the active pupil groups. These groups influence decisions that affect all pupils in the school, but older pupils do not make enough decisions about their own learning in lessons. There is a range of worthwhile extra-curricular opportunities on offer and regular opportunities to take physical exercise and learn about being healthy during the school day.

# Recommendations

R1 Increase pupils' opportunities to write at length across the curriculum

R2 Improve pupils' spoken Welsh around the school

R3 Ensure that pupils make decisions about how and what they learn in lessons

## What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations.



## School context

Name of provider	St Therese's R.C. School
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Roman Catholic
Number of pupils on roll	236
Pupils of statutory school age	165
Number in nursery classes	40
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%)	30.6%
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%)	19.4%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	3.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2022
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/12/2014
Start date of inspection	26/06/2023

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Publication date: 29/08/2023

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