



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

Date of inspection: April 2024

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

Overview

St Winefride's Catholic Primary School is caring, nurturing and highly inclusive. Leaders and staff work tirelessly to create a warm and welcoming environment for pupils and their families, where they can 'learn and grow together in the love of Christ'. Leaders have established excellent relationships with parents and carers and over time the school has become the heart of the community.

Pupils enjoy coming to school and although many start with literacy and numeracy skills below those expected for their age, most make good progress and become confident and capable learners by the time they leave. Overall, most pupils develop literacy, numeracy and digital skills successfully. Across the school, pupils develop their physical skills well, for example through participating in daily exercise and in the numerous after-school clubs. Many pupils develop their expressive skills successfully during music sessions where they learn to play the violin and when they create their own dances based on a sea shanty.

Leaders and staff have developed a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all learners successfully. Teachers have a sound knowledge of Curriculum for Wales and use it well to plan exciting learning experiences that systematically build on prior learning. They ask appropriate questions to check pupils' understanding and move learning forward. Pupils contribute their ideas to their learning at the start of every topic. However, on occasion pupils do not have opportunities to make decisions about how they organise and present their work.

Nearly all pupils behave well and show consideration for others. They engage enthusiastically in their learning. Teachers use verbal feedback and pit stop plenaries appropriately to support learning.

The positive working relationships between pupils and staff ensure that pupils are comfortable in seeking help with their learning and well-being. The support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and those eligible for free school meals is provided by highly skilled staff and is a strength of the school. The school provides a wealth of support to help pupils manage their well-being successfully. Overall, the attendance of pupils shows an improving trend across the school. However, despite the processes in place, attendance for a few pupils remains too low.

The headteacher provides strong and effective leadership and is supported well by a dedicated team of staff and governors, who share her passion for the school and community. Leaders and governors reflect appropriately on what is going well in the school and what they need to do to continue to improve. They use financial resources well to secure improvements in the most important areas.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that pupils have regular opportunities to make decisions about and be creative in their learning

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	St Winefride's R.C. School
Local authority	Flintshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Catholic
Number of pupils on roll	179
Pupils of statutory school age	142
Number in nursery classes	18
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 23.7%)	35.9%
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 13.2%)	8.9%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8.4%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2013
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/03/2016
Start date of inspection	13/05/2024

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