

Report summary for parents and carers on Padre Pio RC Primary

Date of inspection: February 2025

Summary

Leaders and staff prioritise pupils' happiness and well-being at Padre Pio R.C. Primary School. Pupils feel safe and are polite and respectful to others, and their behaviour is exemplary. Staff develop positive working relationships with pupils, and most pupils engage enthusiastically with their learning.

The school has a thoughtful approach to professional learning, and this has supported staff to improve their practice, for instance in the provision for younger pupils. Staff provide valuable opportunities for younger pupils to explore their interests and develop a sense of curiosity. However, in the older classes there is a tendency for teachers to over-direct learning, which limits pupils' ability to develop their independence. Across the school, staff use questioning and feedback effectively and provide a good level of challenge for pupils. Nearly all pupils, including those eligible for free school meals, make at least good progress in their literacy, mathematics and digital skills.

School leaders provide strong, considerate leadership and they establish effective links with families. This supports parents to understand the progress their child is making and to play a part in the school's direction. Leaders have implemented national priorities successfully, such as additional learning needs (ALN) reform. However, there has been an insufficient focus on the Welsh language, and most pupils do not develop their skills well enough. Staff develop pupils' physical and creative skills well. Pupils benefit from a range of sporting activities and enjoy learning to play musical instruments.

Governors have a suitable understanding of the school's priorities and have a sound understanding of keeping pupils safe. However, they have limited involvement in gathering first-hand evidence to evaluate the work of the school, such as the quality of teaching and learning.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Develop the independent learning skills of older pupils
- R2 Ensure that the curriculum develops pupils' Welsh skills progressively
- R3 Strengthen the role of governors in self-evaluation and improvement planning to ensure that they provide suitable challenge to the school

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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