

S. Davies
Cathays High School
Crown Way
Cathays
Cardiff
CF14 3XG

19/06/2025

Dear S. Davies

Interim visit: June 2025

Thank you for your support with the interim visit to the school on the 11th and 12th of June 2025. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about how the school has responded to the recommendation made by Estyn during the core inspection in May 2022. It was pleasing to see the way in which your staff embraced the process, and the openness they showed during discussions.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to:

- Meet with leaders to discuss their work on improving provision for Personal and Social Education (PSE) in Year 11.
- Speak with senior and middle leaders about how they evaluate their own work and plan for improvement.
- Talk with pupils and hear their feedback about the school.
- Visit lessons in a variety of subjects to see pupils and staff undertaking their work.
- Scrutinise a sample of pupils' work.
- Undertake joint work scrutiny and lesson observation activities with senior leaders and discuss the main findings from these activities.

Focus of visit

Strengthen the provision for personal and social education in Year 11

During our visit, we heard how the school has strengthened the provision for PSE in Year 11. Pupils now benefit from dedicated curriculum time for PSE. It was interesting to learn how leaders use well-being data and relevant information to tailor the curriculum to the

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specific needs of pupils. In addition, leaders told us how they have audited their PSE curriculum to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Relationships and Sexuality Education Code. Leaders regularly monitor and review PSE provision in Year 11, seeking views from pupils and staff. As a result, pupils benefit from a well-planned curriculum that covers a range of age-appropriate and contemporary topics.

We believe it would be beneficial for you to consider:

- How do leaders ensure that the views of all stakeholders, including those of parents and carers, are considered in the development of its PSE curriculum?
- To what extent are leaders evaluating the impact of PSE teaching on pupils' learning?

To what extent do the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning processes focus on and lead to improvements in pupil outcomes?

During the visit it was helpful to hear how the school has continued to refine its self-evaluation processes, fostering a strong culture of distributed leadership and shared accountability. Senior leaders continue to work closely with middle leaders to identify key priorities for improvement through a comprehensive programme of quality assurance activities. Leaders told us how whole-school priorities are addressed systematically through well-structured strategic development groups, where leaders and staff collaborate effectively with a clear focus on improving pupil outcomes. We also heard how raising standards leaders work purposefully with area leads to undertake quality assurance work, which strengthens their understanding of both strengths and areas for development within their areas of responsibility. Senior leaders provide valuable support to middle leaders through regular one-to-one meetings, targeted coaching, and professional learning opportunities that help build leadership capacity across the school. We believe it would be beneficial for you to consider:


- How do senior leaders ensure that all middle leaders evaluate accurately the impact of their work on pupils' outcomes?

Thank you again for all your help in planning and organising our visit. We wish you well with your future developments.

The school's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/education-providers/cathays-high-school/6814054>

Yours sincerely



Catherine Evans

Assistant Director