

H. Powell
Mary Immaculate R.C. High School
Caerau Lane
Wenvoe
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08/07/2025

Dear H. Powell

Interim visit: June 2025

Thank you for your support with the interim visit to the school on the 24th and 25th of June 2025. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work that the school has carried out since the core inspection in October 2023.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to:

- hold discussions with leaders and staff about your work to improve the quality and consistency in assessment as well as your approaches to self-evaluation and school improvement
- talk with pupils and hear their feedback about the school
- visit a small sample of lessons to see pupils and staff undertaking their work
- scrutinise a sample of pupils' work
- scrutinise a small sample of relevant school documentation
- undertake joint work scrutiny and lesson observation activities with leaders and discuss the main findings from these activities

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

Focus of visit

How successful is the school's work to improve the quality and consistency of assessment?

During the visit, it was helpful to learn how the school has introduced a new whole-school assessment policy. The approach clearly outlines the expectations of staff, including useful non-negotiable features, and sensibly puts pupils' learning at the centre of teacher feedback. Teachers are asked to provide precise advice on how pupils can improve their work and then plan dedicated opportunities for them to act on this feedback. It was interesting to hear how each faculty is able to choose the mode of delivery of feedback that best suits their subject area and that leaders have considered pupils' views when deciding on the strategies they would implement. In the meetings we held, both staff and pupils spoke positively about the new arrangements. Staff especially appreciate the regular opportunities to share good practice in this area. Leaders recognise that while these arrangements are beginning to have a positive impact on pupils' learning, there is still too much variation in the effectiveness of feedback.

It may be beneficial for leaders to consider:

- How will they ensure that all staff provide feedback that is consistently of good quality and leads to pupils improving their work?

How robustly do the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning processes, focus on the impact of the school's work on pupils' learning?

Since the core inspection, the school has continued to review its self-evaluation systems, particularly those related to teaching and learning. During our discussions, we heard how leaders have worked together to streamline these processes so that they are beginning to focus more precisely on pupils' progress. Leaders shared with us that there is now a clear calendar of self-evaluation activities and schedule of common line management meetings. These are designed to help leaders access more first-hand evidence and help them evaluate the work of their areas of responsibility more precisely. From the activities we undertook, we noted that leaders at all levels are beginning to bring together and compare the first-hand evidence they collect to refine their curriculum and teaching. Staff told us how they use these findings to inform the programme of professional learning as required. Moving forward, leaders recognise the need to focus more precisely on the impact provision has on pupils' learning and the progressive development of specific aspects of their skills during their self-evaluation activities.

It may be beneficial for leaders to consider:

- How will leaders ensure that self-evaluation processes focus precisely on the impact teaching has on pupils' learning and the progressive development of specific aspects of their skills?
- How will senior leaders further develop middle leaders to independently evaluate the impact of teaching on learning in their areas of responsibility?

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.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Evans
Assistant Director