

Sophie Sanchez  
St Helen's Catholic Primary School  
Lansbury Park  
Caerphilly  
CF83 1QH

24/07/2025

Dear Sophie Sanchez

**Interim visit:** July 2025

A team of inspectors visited St. Helen's Catholic Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from the previous core inspection. The inspection team took the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk with pupils and staff, consider documentation, and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

**Focus of visit**

**Ensure that teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning effectively**

- Since the core inspection, leaders and staff have developed and implemented a revised assessment policy that provides clear guidance on the use of feedback as a tool to move learning forward.
- In many lessons, pupils use clear success criteria to discuss and understand what makes a piece of work successful.
- A majority of teachers use verbal feedback well to help pupils improve their work and to extend their learning in lessons. This supports these pupils to address misconceptions and moves their learning on.
- When given the opportunity, pupils generally respond well to feedback and many older pupils provide examples of where this has helped them to improve their work. As they progress through the school, pupils take greater responsibility for evaluating their own work and the work of others.

Estyn, Llys Angor, Heol Keen, Caerdydd,  
CF24 5JW Ffôn: 02920 446446  
[ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru](mailto:ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru)  
[www.estyn.llyw.cymru](http://www.estyn.llyw.cymru)

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn, Anchor Court, Keen Road,  
Cardiff, CF24 5JW Telephone: 02920  
446446 [enquiries@estyn.gov.wales](mailto:enquiries@estyn.gov.wales)  
[www.estyn.gov.wales](http://www.estyn.gov.wales)

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

- Leaders monitor the impact of teachers' feedback regularly and this is helping to establish a more consistent approach across the school. They evaluate how well feedback meets the needs of pupils, identify where practice is effective, and have highlighted areas that need to be refined so that feedback becomes more purposeful for all pupils in the future.

**Provide more opportunities for pupils to make decisions about how they organise and present their work.**

- To encourage staff to appreciate the benefits of involving pupils in planning what and how they learn, leaders have introduced collaborative, whole-school projects that enable pupils to increase their confidence in leading their learning.
- During these rich projects, pupils of all ages have valuable opportunities to develop their independent learning skills, including decision-making, cooperation and perseverance.
- Pupils decide how to work on and present the outcomes of their projects to parents and members of the school community. Examples have included writing, recording and performing a school song and hosting the grand opening of a school garden, multi-media forest trail and community café. Pupils are beginning to understand that there are often several ways to achieve the same result and are respectful of the choices that others make.
- These projects have provided considerable professional learning for leaders and staff. They have identified that they now need to incorporate this learning into their day-to-day teaching so that leading learning, making decisions, and choosing how to organise and present their work are part of the daily experience of all pupils. This is beginning to develop gradually, but practice is not yet consistently good across the school.
- The pupil-led groups that form the Senedd encourage pupils to express their ideas and contribute to aspects of school improvement. These pupils lead acts of worship and share useful information with the school community.

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

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6763310>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director