

St Mary's & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Monica Street
Maesteg
CF34 9AY

29/09/2025

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: September 2025

A team of inspectors visited St Mary's & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing two of the recommendations from the core inspection that took place in January 2023. Below is a summary of progress against these focus areas.

Focus of visit

Ensure that the new leadership practices improve the consistency and effectiveness of teaching across the school.

- Leaders have recently reviewed the school's monitoring activities and their impact on improving teaching quality. Using this insight, they developed a clear and manageable monitoring schedule that involves all teaching staff. As a result, staff and senior leaders now have a more accurate understanding of the quality and consistency of teaching across the school.
- Senior leaders recognise the need to make their evaluations of teaching and learning more precise. This includes identifying strengths, assessing the impact of actions on learning, and clarifying next steps.
- Leaders have recently distributed roles and responsibilities across the school to enhance curriculum planning and development. Teachers carefully consider the future direction of their learning areas and work with senior leaders to ensure clear links between individual action plans and whole-school improvement priorities.

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- Senior leaders collaborate with staff to improve teaching practice through regular, purposeful performance management. They are beginning to ensure that performance targets align closely with whole-school improvement planning.
- Overall, the school's strengthened monitoring processes are having a positive impact, helping to establish greater consistency in teaching quality, feedback, and pupil progress across the school.

Ensure that the quality of teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning effectively.

- Leaders and staff have worked collaboratively to design and implement a revised policy that sets out clear guidance on using feedback and marking to move learning forward. Staff have engaged in professional learning to establish a consistent approach, ensuring quality feedback supports improved outcomes for pupils.
- Where feedback is most effective, verbal guidance deepens pupils' thinking and challenges them to extend their learning. In the strongest practice, teachers design open-ended tasks and use skilful questioning to address misconceptions and accelerate progress.
- Many pupils across the school respond positively to feedback and give examples of how it has helped them improve their work. As they move into the older classes, pupils increasingly take responsibility for evaluating both their own work and that of others.
- Leaders are developing and refining their monitoring processes to ensure teachers' feedback has a consistent impact and helps pupils gain a deeper understanding of their learning. As a result, leaders are successfully shaping a more purposeful approach to feedback, supporting all pupils to recognise their next steps in learning

The school's/PRU'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/6723311>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director