

St Therese's Catholic Primary School
Southdown Road
Sandfields
Port Talbot
SA12 7HL

25/11/2025

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: November 2025

A team of inspectors visited St Therese's R.C. 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

Improve pupils' spoken Welsh around the school

- Since the core inspection, there has been an increased emphasis on developing pupils' Welsh language skills and raising the profile of the language across the school. Leaders and staff have put in place useful strategies to help pupils understand the benefits of speaking Welsh in their everyday lives. For example, pupils lead Welsh assemblies and run a 'Caffi Cymraeg' (Welsh café), which allows them to appreciate the usefulness of what they learn in class.
- The school works with a broad range of external agencies, such as the Urdd, to develop resources and games that staff can use with pupils to enhance their Welsh language skills. Many pupils enjoy these purposeful and engaging experiences.
- Leaders have provided suitable professional learning for staff to help them develop their confidence and use of everyday Welsh. As a result, many adults at the school are beginning to model spoken Welsh more frequently and purposefully. In a few cases, staff encourage pupils to use Welsh outside of lessons effectively, for instance supporting them to play games in Welsh at break times.
- The school has strengthened opportunities for pupils to improve their Welsh speaking and listening skills within the curriculum. Daily language sessions engage

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many pupils well and focus suitably on developing their understanding of common language patterns.

- Overall, a majority of pupils' Welsh language skills develop appropriately as they move through the school. They use a few words and phrases independently and confidently around the school, such as greeting visitors and asking how they are.

Ensure that pupils make decisions about how and what they learn in lessons

- Leaders continue to work to develop a range of appropriate approaches that teachers can use to support pupils in making informed choices about what and how they learn. Teachers are starting to collaborate and try out these approaches which, although at an early stage, are beginning to improve the consistency and effectiveness of these opportunities. Leaders provide teachers with useful professional learning to support these strategies.
- Leaders and teachers understand the need to build pupils' knowledge and skills before asking them to apply them independently. They are beginning to design a curriculum that supports this process and develops pupils' independence and thinking skills purposefully.
- Teachers offer pupils helpful ways to contribute to what they want to learn in their class topics. For example, class planning boards offer pupils the opportunity to share their ideas with the class. When used effectively, these contributions inform teachers' planning and promote pupils' engagement positively.
- Increasingly, teachers offer pupils choices about how they present their work, such as using digital tools, scrapbooks or different written formats. This is helping pupils to become more independent and think more carefully about their learning.
- Teachers have reduced their reliance on worksheets, particularly in mathematics. They often encourage pupils to use practical resources and record their work independently. These changes help many pupils strengthen their understanding and gain confidence in applying learning. In a few instances, learning tasks do not challenge pupils effectively or support pupils to achieve the intended learning outcome well enough.

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/6713314>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director