

St Brides Major C.I.W. Primary School
Heol yr Ysgol
St Brides Major
Vale of Glamorgan
CF32 0TB

02/06/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim visit: May 2026

A team of inspectors visited St Brides Major C.I.W. Primary School recently to consider progress in relation to the 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

Focus improvement precisely on the aspects of teaching and learning that are most in need of improvement

- The school's approach to self-evaluation is purposeful and inclusive. Leaders, staff and governors draw on a wide range of useful information to support and shape their evaluations of the school's work. They carry out a beneficial range of monitoring activities that help them to establish a solid, first-hand understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement.
- Improvement planning is relevant and links appropriately to self-evaluation findings. Key priorities are increasing in their precision, helping the school to focus more sharply on aspects of teaching and learning most in need of improvement. This has helped to begin to develop the resilience of older pupils and pupils of all ages' ability to talk about their learning with clarity and understanding.

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

- The school makes effective use of professional learning, research and staff expertise to improve teaching and learning. This is having a developing, but notable, impact on a majority of older pupils' independence, with sensible plans in place to share and refine this practice more widely across the school over time.

Ensure that older pupils take more responsibility for their learning and develop their independent learning skills

- Leaders and staff have made purposeful progress in addressing this recommendation by beginning to develop a shared understanding of what effective independent skills look like in older pupils.
- The recent, small-scale adoption of an interesting research-based approach is helping older pupils to speak confidently about their understanding of their learning and show resilience. They are not afraid of making mistakes and are developing increased confidence in taking responsibility for their own learning.
- The school has taken a measured approach to developing and reviewing new approaches to promoting independence. Leaders have appropriate plans in place to ensure that effective practice is shared with all staff to ensure that it begins to meet the needs of pupils across the school.
- In general, older pupils are beginning to show greater ownership of their learning, particularly when explaining strategies that have helped them to solve mathematical problems. This supports the development of their confidence and resilience as learners and provides teachers with valuable assessment opportunities.
- There are useful opportunities for teachers to work with other schools to enhance their pedagogy through collaboration, professional learning and research. This has had a positive impact on teachers' ability to reflect on their practice and make meaningful changes that support pupils to develop independence.
- Across the school, staff have developed the classroom environments thoughtfully, ensuring that resources are accessible and well organised. This enables pupils to select what they need independently and reduces their reliance on adults.
- Nearly all pupils in the school demonstrate very positive attitudes to learning and many speak confidently about how they make choices in their learning, such as how to approach tasks and present their learning. Overall, staff provide well thought-out, meaningful learning opportunities that allow pupils to use their skills across the curriculum effectively, without over-reliance on teacher direction.

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/6733320>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director