

A report on
St John's College

**College Green
William Nicholls Drive
Old St Mellons
Cardiff
CF3 5YX**

Date of inspection: July 2026

by

**Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education
and Training in Wales**

About St John's College

Name of provider	St John's College
Proprietor status	Charity and limited company
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent all age
Residential provision	No
Number of pupils on roll	491
Pupils of statutory school age	377
Date of previous Estyn visit	02/03/2026
Start date of visit	03/07/2026

School context

St John's College is an independent day school for boys and girls aged 3 to 18, situated in the village of Old St Mellons on the eastern edge of Cardiff. It is the choir school for the Metropolitan Cathedral of Cardiff, with choristers drawn from Years 3 to 13. It has a Catholic ethos and welcomes pupils of all faiths, or none.

At the time of the core inspection in March 2026, the school did not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. The Welsh Government asked the school to produce a post-inspection action plan to address the areas of non-compliance. To comply fully with these requirements, the school was required to address the issues identified below:

The suitability of proprietors and staff

The proprietor should ensure that:

- all staff have a DBS check within the last three years [23(a)]

A team of HMI visited the school in June 2026 to discuss the school's progress against their action plan.

Main findings

Since the core inspection in March 2026, the school has taken purposeful steps to strengthen processes at both governance and administrative levels to ensure that DBS checks are updated every three years. These processes include the development of robust systems supported by regular checking by staff, leaders and governors. As a result, the school has implemented and embedded the actions detailed in their post-inspection action plan successfully.

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to suggest that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for Standard 4 (The suitability of proprietors and staff).

Compliance with the standards for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

The quality of education provided by the school

This standard was not considered on this visit

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

This standard was not considered on this visit

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

This standard was not considered on this visit

The suitability of proprietors and staff

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

This standard was not considered on this visit

The provision of information

This standard was not considered on this visit

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

This standard was not considered on this visit

Recommendation regarding continued registration

When considering this school's registration, the Welsh Government may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

Inspectors' judgements on this limited inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

Copies of the report

Copies of this report are available from the school and from the Estyn website (<http://www.estyn.gov.wales>)

The report was produced in accordance with section 163 of the Education Act 2002. The main purpose of inspection under this section is to report on compliance with the Independent Schools Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. In schools that provide non-maintained nursery education, this report also satisfies the requirements of Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

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