



Report summary for parents and carers on St Clare's School

Date of inspection: November 2022

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

Overview

St Clare's is a welcoming school community that places a strong emphasis on pupil well-being. Pupils are happy to come to school and have positive working relationships with staff.

Across the school, pupils are articulate and confident, and treat each other and visitors with respect. While having strong mathematical and English language skills, pupils do not always apply these skills with equal strength and accuracy in other subjects across the curriculum. Overall, most pupils make strong progress during their time at the school.

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum, showing a strong understanding of child development in the nursery. Practitioners in the nursery have high expectations of their pupils, whilst in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 teachers offer strong support to improve pupils' examination technique. However, in Key Stage 3 learning activities and feedback do not always challenge pupils to make the progress they are capable of.

Across the school, a broad range of co-curricular activities offer pupils the opportunity to extend their learning experiences and develop their creative skills.

Pupils value the leadership opportunities provided by the school, including 'Helpwr Heddiw' in the nursery and take these positions of responsibility seriously. Pupils have influenced the school's decision to introduce gender-neutral toilets and a gender-neutral school uniform.

The proprietor provides strong support to the school via audits and professional learning opportunities. In addition, leaders have a clear vision to develop each individual to achieve their best. However, the extensive range of improvement plans across the school mean that staff have differing priorities. As a result, there is not a clear enough understanding across the school of the most important areas for improvement. In addition, activities do not always focus clearly enough on improving pupil outcomes.

The school meets all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that plans for school improvement are manageable and focus clearly on improving pupil outcomes
- R2 Strengthen arrangements to develop pupils' literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum
- R3 Improve the progress of pupils at Key Stage 3

Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

The quality of education provided by the school

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The provision of information

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

What happens next

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.

School context

Name of provider	St Clare's School
Proprietor	Cognita
Local authority	Bridgend County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent All Age School
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	249
Pupils of statutory school age	216
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	04/01/2015
Start date of inspection	21/11/2022
The local authority fund four children for early education. There is no specific reporting on these pupils' skills as there were fewer than six children present at the time of the inspection.	

© Crown Copyright 2023: This report may be re used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 27/01/2023

Please note that the photographs displayed may not be of the school that is the subject of this report.