



## Report summary for parents and carers on St Helen's Catholic Primary School

**Date of inspection: March 2023**

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

# Overview

Pupils enjoy attending St Helen's Roman Catholic Primary School. All staff have created a warm, caring and inclusive ethos that comes from their focus on the importance of everyone's well-being and their Christian faith. Staff know the pupils well and support their well-being needs effectively. Pupils know whom to ask if they need help and there is a strong relationship of trust and respect between them and the staff. Pupils' behaviour is very good and they have positive attitudes towards their learning.

During their time at the school most pupils make strong progress in all aspects of their work. Teachers plan engaging and exiting activities that inspire pupils to learn and develop their skills. They make very good use of the extensive outdoor areas to enhance the provision for all learners. Most pupils further develop their sense of safety and well-being through regular activities in the school's forest area. All staff encourage pupils to become independent, to work hard and to persevere on their tasks. However, there are limited opportunities for pupils to make decisions about how they organise and present their work.

Pupils contribute well to a variety of groups and committees. The recently convened Senedd that includes all older pupils is divided into six cabinets. Pupils that are voted as 'First Ministers' in these cabinets can articulate well how they have already made a positive contribution and are making a difference within the school and further afield.

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and places well-being and faith at the heart of all decisions. Leaders have a thorough system for evaluating the school's strengths and they set realistic targets for improvement in conjunction with the well-informed governing body. They make sure that they listen carefully and consider the views of others. As a result, pupils, parents and school staff feel well supported and included in the decision-making process and that their contributions are valued.

# Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that teachers' feedback targets the next steps in pupils' learning effectively
- R2 Provide more opportunities for pupils to make decisions about how they organise and present their work

## What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.



# School context

Name of provider	St Helen's Catholic Primary School
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	251
Pupils of statutory school age	183
Number in nursery classes	43
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Primary is 23.0%)	10.0%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Primary is 16.1%)	13.1%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	n/a
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	21.3%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2020
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	30/09/2014
Start date of inspection	06/03/2023

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