



Report summary for parents and carers on St Joseph's R.C. Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2023

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

Overview

St Joseph's R.C. Primary School provides a nurturing environment where pupils feel safe and secure. Ensuring the well-being of pupils is a high priority for all members of the school community. As a result, pupils feel cared for and valued by staff.

The newly appointed acting headteacher has built strong relationships with pupils, parents and staff. She has established a culture of trust and kindness. However, leadership and governance do not show the capacity to identify or address areas in need of improvement. Over time, leaders have not identified weaknesses in the quality of teaching and provision for younger pupils or the need to provide greater challenge for more able pupils. The school has a substantial deficit budget and there is no plan in place to address this.

Leaders and staff are continuing to develop their school curriculum to align with the Curriculum for Wales. Provision to develop pupils' Welsh language skills is appropriate and supports most pupils to make suitable progress. A few pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 make good progress in this aspect of their learning. The school has made positive improvements in the provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) recently. This has resulted in improved progress for these pupils.

Overall, the teaching and the learning experiences provided for pupils do not support them to make enough progress across the full breadth of the curriculum during their time at school. Provision for the school's youngest pupils is particularly weak. Across the school, teachers do not support pupils to use their skills well enough. The range of learning experiences is limited, and pupils have little influence over what or how they learn.

A few safeguarding issues were brought to the attention of the school during the inspection.

Recommendations

- R1 Address the safeguarding and health and safety issues identified during the inspection
- R2 Improve strategic leadership at all levels and implement effective evaluation and improvement processes that focus on improving outcomes for pupils
- R3 Improve teaching and assessment
- R4 Improve the curriculum and provision for pupils' skills including their independent learning skills

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. This is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	St Joseph's R.C. Primary School Neath
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Roman Catholic
Number of pupils on roll	129
Pupils of statutory school age	95
Number in nursery classes	22
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%)	29.4%
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%)	22.5%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/01/2023
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/11/2014
Start date of inspection	20/03/2023

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