



Report summary for parents and carers on St Thomas Community Primary School

Date of inspection: March 2023

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

Overview

St Thomas Community Primary School is warm and welcoming. The senior leadership team, staff and governors share a clear vision and work well together to ensure that the school is an inclusive learning community that promotes positive opportunities for pupils.

The headteacher is a strong role model and provides effective and purposeful leadership. They are highly committed to the well-being of their pupils and the wider community. They work alongside the leadership team to carefully consider ways to combat disadvantage and to provide outstanding support for pupils and for families in the local community. The headteacher effectively leads a team of dedicated staff who work hard to ensure that the needs of pupils are met. As a result, pupils demonstrate a strong readiness to learn and a desire to achieve the best they can.

Pupils enjoy coming to school and are proud to be a part of such a reassuring learning community. They feel safe and listened to, and nearly all show a positive attitude towards their learning. They develop high levels of respect for the staff that take care of them and trust that they will always act in their best interests. They behave well and engage positively with the varied range of learning experiences and opportunities that the school provides. Many pupils make good progress and achieve well across all curriculum areas.

Provision for pupils with additional needs is well planned. The school involves parents, staff and outside agencies to ensure that planning for individual needs is effective. Many pupils with additional needs make good progress in their learning and improving their well-being.

Teachers plan literacy, numeracy and other skills through well-established routines and structured sessions to support pupils to make progress. However, these sessions can sometimes be over-directed and a greater emphasis on the provision for purposeful independent learning and more meaningful teacher feedback would further challenge pupils of all abilities.

Overall, leaders keep the work of the school under review appropriately. They evaluate lessons and the pupils' learning in books. However, self-evaluation does not always identify areas that need improving, for instance on the way teachers support pupils to improve their work or how their planning might improve pupils' numeracy skills.

Recommendations

- R1 Sharpen self-evaluation to focus more clearly on improving teaching and pupils' learning
- R2 Ensure that feedback and assessment support pupils to make meaningful improvements to their work
- R3 Refine the provision for independent learning across the school to challenge pupils suitably

What happens next

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

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to building a culture of well-being within the whole school community.



School context

Name of provider	St Thomas Community Primary School
Local authority	City and County of Swansea
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Number of pupils on roll	435
Pupils of statutory school age	307
Number in nursery classes	78
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%)	29.0%
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%)	12.4%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	10.7%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2013
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/09/2014
Start date of inspection	27/03/2023

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