



Report summary for parents and carers on Our Lady & St Michael's School

Date of inspection: June 2024

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

Overview

Pupils at Our Lady and St Michael's Roman Catholic Primary thoroughly enjoy coming to school. The ethos is calm, caring and highly inclusive and the pupils have a deep sense of belonging. 'We live, we love, we learn, we grow in Jesus' clearly reflects the aims of the school and underpins its values. Pupils and staff feel safe and appreciated in the happy and homely environment.

Pupils' attitudes to learning and their behaviour are exemplary. Nearly all engage immediately at the beginning of each lesson and show perseverance and resilience in what they achieve. They are considerate and show high levels of respect to their friends, staff and visitors. All pupils embrace the opportunities to be involved in aspects of school life and impact positively on issues that are important to them.

Pupils' oracy skills in English across the school are exceptional. Most pupils make strong progress in developing their reading and writing skills and become highly competent writers. Most pupils develop effective discrete maths skills and, overall, the older pupils' digital skills are developing well. There is an enthusiasm across the school to learn Welsh and most pupils apply their skills confidently in their lessons.

The school is developing a purposeful curriculum for its pupils. Staff provide them with interesting opportunities to build on their knowledge and to strengthen their understanding in a range of interesting lessons. However, the provision for younger pupils to develop their independent skills, in class and in the outdoor environment, is underdeveloped.

The headteacher provides compassionate leadership that helps staff, pupils and their families to succeed. Governors show a good awareness of their roles and responsibilities and provide strong support for the school. The school has a wide range of processes to monitor the school's provision and, overall, accurately identifies key areas for improvement. However, as a result of developing roles within the leadership structure, the pace of improvement in key areas is slow.

The headteacher, with the support of staff and governors, promotes a robust culture of safeguarding. The links with parents and the local community are strong.

Recommendations

- R1 Embed leadership at all levels to address the school's priorities for improvement successfully
- R2 Provide opportunities for younger pupils to develop their independent skills in the classroom and outdoor area

What happens next

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



School context

Name of provider	Our Lady and St Michael's School
Local authority	Monmouthshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Primary
Religious character	Roman Catholic
Number of pupils on roll	212
Pupils of statutory school age	182
Number in nursery classes	0
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 23.7%)	25.2%
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 13.2%)	16.5%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	18.7%
Date of headteacher appointment	15/06/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	14/03/2016
Start date of inspection	01/07/2024

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