

Angela Heald  
St Joseph's Cathedral Primary School  
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Dear Angela Heald

**Interim visit: December 2024**

A team of inspectors recently visited St Joseph's Cathedral Primary School to consider how the school has progressed in addressing its recommendations from the most recent core inspection in February 2022. Below is a summary of progress against those recommendations.

During the visit, the team had the opportunity to:

- Observe learning in all classes
- Talk to pupils about their learning
- Meet with teachers and leaders
- Scrutinise documentation

**Focus of visit**

**Secure teachers' understanding of effective classroom assessment so that they can evaluate teaching and learning in their classes and identify how to help pupils move on in their learning**

- Leaders have provided a wide range of professional learning focussed appropriately on improving the provision of effective formative assessment. Most staff have a clear and shared understanding of assessment and progression and apply this in their planning for pupils' skills development. In many lessons, teachers ensure that pupils are challenged to make the progress they are capable of.
- Staff know pupils well and respond to their learning needs effectively. Following research into early language acquisition, staff in the nursery classes observe pupils at play with focus, identifying the best opportunities to introduce, model and reinforce new vocabulary. This has made a significant

contribution to the development of individual pupils' early communication skills.

- Teachers provide pupils with a learning intention in nearly all lessons. However, they do not always communicate these clearly enough to enable pupils to develop and extend their own learning. Many teachers share success criteria with pupils, but these are often a checklist of tasks and do not always enable pupils to reflect on their learning sharply enough.
- Many teachers provide appropriate verbal feedback during lessons, and this enables pupils to identify misconceptions, or aspects of their work they need to improve. Many older pupils appreciate the opportunity to reflect on their own work and the work of their peers and in a few cases, reflections focus upon desired outcomes well.

### **Identify and share the strong practice that exists in the school**

- Senior Leaders monitor teaching and learning rigorously, identifying effective practice worthy of sharing across the school. They facilitate regular professional learning opportunities including research opportunities, that improve provision to support the needs of pupils at the school well. Middle leaders carry out a range of useful monitoring activities across the school and this enables them to clearly highlight areas of strength and areas for further improvement. They share these promptly through staff meetings which in turn enables strong provision to be shared where required.
- Leaders take careful account of the experience, expertise and development needs of all staff. They consider carefully how best to create teams with the aim of sharing best practice, providing consistent approaches to provision and supporting less experienced staff in their roles. Leaders ensure that staff have time to reflect on their experiences to further strengthen school improvement.
- Staff make effective use of designated time to develop their understanding of whole school priorities such as assessment for learning.
- Senior leaders benefit from a range of useful partnerships with local schools and wider organisations. These relationships help to widen experiences and to provide opportunities to learn from and share effective practice. The school provides a useful range effective support to other providers.

Leaders and staff have worked well to address these recommendations and acknowledge the aspects that need to develop further.

The school's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6703309>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**  
Assistant Director