



Report summary for parents and carers on Christ College

Date of inspection: November 2024

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

Summary

The headteacher drives a strong moral ethos that unites all members of the school community. Leaders at all levels across the school, work very effectively with one another. They have a determined focus on promoting well-being and academic achievement. As a result, there is a well-understood collective purpose amongst staff to act in the best interests of every pupil.

Pupils demonstrate exemplary manners and celebrate each other's achievements with sincerity and enthusiasm. They welcome the inclusivity of the school and display a high level of trust in their teachers. Pupils and staff have a shared ambition for learning that is a hallmark of lessons across the school. Pupils value the distinct academic and pastoral support they receive. As a result, older pupils leave the school as well rounded individuals, with strong public examination results and a clear understanding of how to identify and follow their future pathway.

Across the school, pupils are confident and communicate clearly when speaking and writing for a variety of purposes. The strong foundational literacy and numeracy skills laid in St. Nicholas House continue to develop as pupils move through the school. Senior school pupils develop strong subject-specific skills and continue to display high levels of engagement, and sixth form pupils in particular connect their learning in different subjects effectively.

Leaders' planning for strategic and operational improvement is a strength of the school. The governing body is highly effective in the oversight it has of the work of the school. This helps to ensure that improvement priorities are evidence based. However, this work is not yet driving improvements in the consistency of teaching.

Across the school, the most effective learning experiences are those that respond to pupils' questions and work. In these lessons, teachers use their exceptional subject knowledge, provide interesting and adapted learning experiences, and through, for example, careful probing questioning and timely effective verbal feedback, deepen pupils' understanding. However, across the school, a few learning activities are overly directed, which limits pupils' opportunities to direct, own and improve their learning.

The school complies fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made two recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1 Continue to embed and refine quality assurance activities to ensure that leaders and staff have a clear understanding of the impact of teaching upon pupils' progress**
- R2 Establish and embed the school's new '5 aspirations' for learning into activities to provide pupils with more authentic opportunities to direct, own and improve their learning**

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.

Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

The quality of education provided by the school

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The provision of information

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).

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