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Dear Joanne Hinds

Interim visit: March 2025

A team of inspectors recently visited the federation of St Teilo's VRC School and St Mary Immaculate VRC School to consider how the federation has progressed in addressing the recommendations from the most recent core inspection. Below is a summary of progress against two of the recommendations for St Teilo's VRC School.

During the visit, the team had the opportunity to:

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

Focus of visit

Improve the quality of monitoring procedures in order to focus more clearly on pupil outcomes

- Leaders ensure that plans for improvement are appropriately focussed on pupils' outcomes. Leaders use monitoring processes purposefully to identify where teaching can improve to better support pupils to make progress. They invest heavily in professional learning to strive for a more consistent approach to teaching across the federation.

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

- Staff and pupils contribute to worthwhile and comprehensive pupil progress meetings. These meetings focus accurately on pupils' needs, the progress they are making and their next steps for development. These insights lead to purposeful planning for learning that support pupils' with their well-being and progress. As a result, nearly all pupils engage well with their learning and participate enthusiastically. As they move through the school, they develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of what, how and why they learn.
- The oldest pupils set themselves high expectations and have a sound understanding of when to ask for help or when they need additional challenge. This involvement in their learning, coupled with the intuitive support of staff, enables pupils, including those with additional learning needs to make good progress in many areas of the curriculum. However, a few pupils feel that they do not have enough opportunities for a more balanced learning experience, for example to develop their expressive arts and their knowledge of local history.
- Leaders have identified where the school's curriculum could be further developed and recognise where staff could enable the youngest pupils to follow their interests more readily.

Improve pupils' Welsh language skills

- School leaders place a high priority on the development of the Welsh language and allocate resources well to support this aspect of learning. The Welsh language coordinators for both schools work together effectively. They make good use of external partnerships and disseminate training and new ideas effectively across the federation.
- Leaders monitor provision for Welsh comprehensively. They consider consistency in teaching, pupils' progress and standards, and their attitudes to Welsh when identifying strengths and areas for further development. Leaders provide ongoing Welsh drop-in sessions for staff that ensure that they remain confident when teaching Welsh.
- Staff plan for progression in Welsh effectively. They ensure that most pupils develop a wide range of vocabulary and sentence patterns as they progress through the school. Staff also provide regular opportunities for pupils to revisit familiar sentence patterns which in turn has a positive impact on pupils' sound ability to recall learnt Welsh in conversation. As a result, many pupils apply their Welsh to a progressively high standard for a range of purposes, including the development of a published Welsh language podcast about the local area.

- The school's Criw Cymraeg play an active role in promoting Welsh across the school. They successfully lead weekly Welsh assemblies, Welsh playground games and a 'Siop Ffrwythau'. The Criw's members carry out learning walks that provide useful observations for staff regarding strengths and areas for development in Welsh.

The school's latest core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website: <https://estyn.gov.wales/>

Yours sincerely



Liz Miles

Assistant Director