

**Report summary for parents
and carers on Bishop
Vaughan R.C. School
Date of inspection: January 2025**

Summary

Strong Catholic values underpin all aspects of the school's work. The culture of Bishop Vaughan Catholic School includes celebrating diversity, ensuring equity and striving for excellence. This fosters a strong sense of belonging where all members of the school community feel safe, valued and supported.

Leaders have high expectations, know the school well and build strong links with the wider community. The school's provision meets the needs of all pupils, including those of its most vulnerable pupils, well. This contributes significantly to pupils' well-being and their enjoyment in learning.

Effective teaching in many lessons helps pupils make at least sound progress in developing their knowledge, understanding and skills. A minority make strong progress. In a very few subject areas, pupils do not make enough progress. The school's creation of a strong reading culture, which celebrates the pleasure of reading, benefits the well-being and academic progress of many pupils. Pupils benefit from a suitable range of opportunities to develop their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum though planning for progression in their digital skills remains at an early stage.

The well-being and personal development of all pupils is a high priority within the school. The school is especially effective at raising the aspirations of pupils from all backgrounds to help them fulfil their potential.

The school is successful in addressing national priorities such as reducing the impact of poverty on attainment. However, opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills are limited and the improvement to the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals, is lower than expected. Leaders have established a strong culture of safeguarding, where staff are clear about their role in keeping pupils safe.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Improve the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals

R2 Improve teaching in the very few subject areas where important shortcomings were identified

R3 Increase the range of opportunities that pupils have to practise their Welsh

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

Full Report

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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