

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

5 SEPTEMBER 2017

### REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

#### ST MARY'S PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL ESTYN PROGRESS REPORT

##### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the progress against the post-inspection action plan (PIAP) drawn up in response to the Estyn inspection of St Mary's Primary Catholic School, undertaken in June 2016, and the outcome of the recent Estyn review of progress.

##### 2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 The information in this report relates to the following strategic priority in the Corporate Plan:

- Supporting a successful economy

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 St Mary's Primary Catholic School was inspected by Estyn in June 2016 and the report was published in August 2016. The full text of the report is available on the Estyn website: [www.estyn.gov.uk](http://www.estyn.gov.uk)

- 3.2 In 2016, inspectors reached the following judgements:

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>Current Performance</b>       | Good |
| <b>Prospects for Improvement</b> | Good |

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| <b>How good are outcomes?</b> | Good     |
| Standards                     | Good     |
| Wellbeing                     | Adequate |

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>How good is provision?</b> | <b>Good</b> |
| Learning experiences          | Good        |
| Teaching                      | Good        |
| Care, support and guidance    | Adequate    |
| Learning environment          | Good        |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>How good are leadership and management?</b> | <b>Good</b> |
| Leadership                                     | Good        |
| Improving quality                              | Good        |
| Partnership working                            | Excellent   |
| Resource management                            | Good        |

3.3. The inspection team reported that, while the school is generally good with some excellent practice identified, there were a small number of specific areas that required monitoring by the local authority to ensure improvement. In its report, published on 9 August 2016, the inspection team recommended that 'the local authority will monitor the school's progress'.

3.4 A PIAP was drawn up to address the recommendations made by Estyn in order to improve services as follows:

R1 Raise the standard of most pupils' extended and creative writing

R2 Improve pupils' skills in Welsh

R3 Raise pupils' attendance

R4 Ensure a better balance of leadership responsibility across the leadership team

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

4.1 These recommendations provide the structure for the PIAP.

4.2 Progress against the PIAP has been monitored by the challenge adviser from Central South Consortium (CSC) and regular progress reports have been made to the local authority.

4.3 In spring term 2017, it was reported that the school had made good progress towards the priorities in the PIAP.

4.4 A range of interventions have been implemented in order to bring about improvement. The challenge adviser has visited the school to support and challenge school leaders and governors to set high expectations for improvement and to monitor progress against each of the recommendations. The CSC Strategic Teams for Science and Welsh in Education have also provided support and challenge. This has involved consideration of first-hand evidence alongside the school's leaders including work scrutiny, lesson observations, learning walks, listening to learners, scrutiny of data and discussions with staff and governors.

4.5 Regular monitoring, evaluation and observations of lessons have occurred. Pupils have been provided with a range of experiences to enhance their writing skills and increased opportunities to orally rehearse their work and to redraft to refine the quality. The subject leader for Welsh language has visited classrooms to model best practice in relation to short burst language development and everyday Welsh.

4.6 Staff are now more confident in this area. In addition to continuing to implement the thorough processes that it had in place to monitor attendance, the school has also implemented a first-day absence call on a threshold of 9.30am, regular meetings with parents and introducing incentives and rewards for good attendance. The headteacher, staff and governing body have reviewed their shared vision for the school's future development. Roles and responsibilities are now more well defined and communicated clearly and professional standards are being met successfully. The headteacher, senior leaders, governors and staff demonstrate the knowledge, experience and skills needed to continue the effective implementation of their strong systems and processes that have evidenced the improvement secured in their recommendations to date.

- 4.7 The school has addressed all recommendations effectively with a clear impact on pupils' outcomes. The school's capacity to improve further is very good.
- 4.8 In summary, it is judged that strong or very good progress has been made towards each of the recommendations, as follows:
- R1 Raise the standard of most pupils' extended and creative writing – **very good progress**
  - R2 Improve pupils' skills in Welsh – **very good progress**
  - R3 Raise pupils' attendance – **strong progress**
  - R4 Ensure a better balance of leadership responsibility across the leadership team – **very good progress**
- 4.9 Based on the local authority monitoring report Estyn has judged the school to have made good progress in respect of the key issues for action following the Section 28 inspection in June 2016. Estyn will now remove the school from the list of schools requiring local authority monitoring.
- 5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**
- 5.1 There is no impact on the Council's policy framework or procedure rules.
- 6. Equality Impact Assessment**
- 6.1 There are no equality impact implications arising from this report.
- 7. Financial implications**
- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this information report.
- 8. Recommendation**
- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the content of this report and the very good progress made by St Mary's Primary Catholic School which has been recognised by Estyn.

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**Background documents** Letter from Estyn confirming removal of local authority monitoring