

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRESS (INFORMATION REPORT)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet Members of the outcomes of the recent Estyn inspection of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The information in this report relates to the strategic priority in the Corporate Plan 'supporting a successful economy'.

3. Background

- 3.1 St Mary's Catholic Primary School was inspected by Estyn in June 2016, and the report was published on 9th August 2016. The full text of the report is available on the Estyn website: www.estyn.gov.uk

- 3.2 In June 2016, Inspectors reached the following judgements:

Current Performance	Good
Prospects for Improvement	Good
How good are outcomes?	Good
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Adequate
How good is provision?	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
How good are leadership and management?	Good
Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good

- 3.3. The inspection team reported that, whilst the school is mostly good, there are a small number of specific areas that required monitoring by the local authority to ensure improvement. In its report, published on 9th August 2016, the inspection team recommended that 'The local authority will monitor the school's progress'.

- 3.4 The school's current performance is good because:

- Most pupils make good progress from their starting-points;

- Most pupils' speaking and listening skills are very good;
- Pupils' thinking skills develop exceptionally well;
- Most pupils make good progress in developing their reading skills;
- Nearly all pupils display positive attitudes to learning and are very enthusiastic in lessons;
- All pupils behave extremely well;
- The quality of teaching is good across the school and a few lessons are excellent;
- A strong Catholic ethos supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development very well.

3.5 Prospects for improvement are good because:

- The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and shares this effectively with staff, governors and pupils;
- He is an exemplary role model who actively supports and challenges staff and pupils to do their best;
- There is a good sense of team work across the school and staff embrace new ideas positively;
- Governors undertake their responsibilities conscientiously and have a strong interest in the day-to-day life of the school;
- The school demonstrates a good commitment to addressing national and local priorities; for example, the Foundation Phase has been embedded well;
- There is thorough analysis of all aspects of the school's life and work, including pupils' wellbeing;
- The school has an excellent range of partnerships, which have a significant impact on pupils' achievement and wellbeing; for example, there is a highly effective partnership with the University of Exeter, which has helped to improve pupils' thinking skills.

3.6 Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, Estyn, made the following recommendations:

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

3.7 The school will draw up a post inspection action plan which will show how it will address the recommendations. The Action Plan will set out the work proposed to enable the school to make sufficient improvement to address the recommendations by Estyn as soon as possible. The Local Authority with Central South Consortium will support the school to improve outcomes and address all the recommendations.

3.8 The school has been asked by Estyn to provide a case study about the excellence identified for thinking skills, cognitive development and partnerships.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 These recommendations provide the structure for the Post Inspection Action Plan (the PIAP).

4.2 Progress against the PIAP will be monitored by the Challenge Adviser from Central South Consortium and reports will be made to the Local Authority.

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 note the content of this report, that the school's current performance and prospects for improvement are both judged "good " by Estyn and that at the invitation of Estyn, the school will also prepare a written case study, describing the excellent practice identified during the inspection.

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Background documents

Estyn Inspection Report of St Mary's Catholic Primary School