

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School was inspected by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales in April 2024. The report has now been published and the school has been placed in the category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement'. The judgement comes with disappointment and frustration for all stakeholders, but the Governing Body will act on the specific recommendations to move the school forward.

The report also highlights many positive aspects of the school's provision and the work of the staff who 'foster a nurturing, inclusive environment'. The report identified that "St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is a welcoming and inclusive community where most pupils settle well, whether they join the school at the start of Year 7 or at a later point. Senior leaders have created a strong culture of mutual respect across the school resulting in most pupils being courteous..... Many pupils are proud of the welcoming and inclusive nature of their school, which is underpinned by respect. They embrace fully the core values and appreciate the way they are reflected within the daily life of the school. Most pupils display confidence and warmth in their interactions with others, including visitors. In lessons and around the school, most pupils behave well. They are friendly, courteous and respectful, entering classrooms punctually and settling quickly."

Students are also praised for their learning noting that "Many pupils make at least suitable progress in developing their knowledge and understanding. A majority of pupils recall prior learning appropriately and apply it in new contexts."

Our commitment to safeguarding is recognised. "The school has a positive ethos based on its core values with safeguarding at its heart. The safeguarding team is highly committed and ensures that processes to keep pupils safe are robust and consistent. Leaders have developed a strong culture of safeguarding throughout the school and, as a result, most pupils feel safe." We are pleased that overall, the quality of care, support and guidance provided to pupils and the care for their wellbeing is acknowledged.

We are reassured that the leadership of the school and its governors are praised, with inspectors reporting that "the headteacher is a passionate and assured leader. She promotes strongly a welcoming and inclusive ethos, based on the school's Catholic values. Her vision and sense of moral purpose is shared by leaders and staff who work together to provide opportunities for all pupils to 'Dysgu â'n Gilydd yng Nghrist' / Learn together in Christ'." Similarly, the inspection team recognised that "Governors have a sound understanding of their responsibilities and support and challenge senior leaders suitably."

We are already working hard with staff alongside the Local Authority and its school improvement partner, GwE in developing our post inspection action plan. This will give the school the clear direction needed to continue its improvement journey. However, we would also like to take this opportunity to reassure parents and students that our outcomes remain above modelled expectations. Our GCSE and A level performance remains strong and our attendance is above the local and national average.

Our commitment to deliver an excellent education for all our young people remains strong and we are indebted to the local authority, governors, the Diocese of Wrexham, our families and the wider community for the unwavering support which they provide to the school. We would encourage people to read the report for themselves.