
ESTYN Inspection Report – St Peters R.C. Primary School

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a verbal briefing on the actions being undertaken to address the recommendations and comments included in the inspection report, copy attached at **Appendix A**, following the Estyn Inspection monitoring visit carried out in October 2018.

Background

2. As reported to Committee on 11th December 2018, “the following item was certified by the Chair as an Urgent Item to enable the Committee to be notified of the publication of the Estyn Inspectors report dated October 2018 in respect of St Peter’s Roman Catholic Primary School and agreed a process for future consideration of the report by the Committee”.
3. The Estyn Inspection report, published on 10 December 2018, states that nearly all pupils enjoy school. They are polite and well behaved. However, the school’s arrangements to ensure pupils’ safety are not robust enough. By the end of key stage 2, many pupils achieve appropriate standards in English and mathematics. However, pupils’ progress varies too much from class to class as they move through the school. In particular, most pupils’ standards in Welsh and information and communication technology (ICT) are poor.
4. Nearly all adults have strong working relationships with pupils and make good use of visits and visitors to enhance learning experiences for them.

However, the quality of teaching is too inconsistent. The design of the curriculum and the school's provision for skills is weak.

5. Senior leaders and the governing body have not demonstrated the capacity to bring about sustained improvement over time. Consequently, too many areas of the school's work are unacceptable. Communication from governors and senior leaders to parents and staff during a period of instability in leadership has been poor. Since his appointment, the acting head teacher has taken swift action to ensure that all teachers, including the newly formed leadership team, understand their roles and responsibilities. However, these changes are too recent to have had any impact on improving outcomes for pupils.

Inspection area	Judgement
Standards	Adequate and needs improvement
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Adequate and needs improvement
Teaching and learning experiences	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement
Care, support and guidance	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement
Leadership and management	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent imp

6. The inspection report listed seven specific recommendations:

R1 Address the shortcomings in safeguarding and health and safety identified during the inspection

R2 Establish stable and effective leadership and improve communication with all stakeholders

R3 Improve governors' ability to evaluate the school's work accurately and hold leaders to account

R4 Improve strategic planning and self-evaluation processes to enable the school to make and sustain necessary improvements

R5 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment across the school

R6 Raise standards of pupils' Welsh and ICT

R7 Improve teachers' planning to ensure pupils develop their literacy and numeracy skills systematically and apply them in their work across the curriculum.

7. In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school. The school will draw up an action plan, which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis.

Way Forward

8. This report will enable Members to receive a copy of the Estyn Inspection report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with an explanation on the approach and timescales being taken by the Council to address the recommendations.
9. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Education Employment and Skills) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), will provide the briefing on the actions being undertaken.

Legal Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All

decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the Estyn Inspection report attached at **Appendix A**,
2. Provide any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning on the actions being undertaken to address the Estyn Inspection Report.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

8 January 2019