

Report summary for parents and carers on St Mary's Primary (Ruabon) School

Date of inspection: June 2025

Summary

St Mary's Primary School provides a nurturing and stimulating learning environment that supports pupils' well-being and promotes curiosity and engagement effectively. Strong, respectful relationships between staff and pupils contribute to a calm, purposeful atmosphere where nearly all pupils demonstrate positive attitudes and behave exceptionally well.

The school's curriculum is carefully planned to build pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding over time. It is flexible and engaging, offering relevant and creative learning opportunities. Many teachers encourage pupils to reflect on their learning, and older pupils use success criteria skilfully to identify strengths and areas for improvement. In many lessons, questioning is used effectively to support and challenge pupils. However, in a few lessons, missed opportunities to deepen learning, and overuse of worksheets limit pupils' progress.

Most pupils develop strong speaking and listening skills and communicate confidently. They write effectively across a range of contexts, and by Year 6, most read fluently, using a range of strategies to support their learning. Most pupils make good progress in mathematics and apply numeracy skills well in authentic contexts. Digital skills are developed purposefully, with pupils using a range of software to present and organise their work independently.

Provision for the youngest pupils is a strength, with well-planned environments that promote creativity, cooperation and resilience. Across the school, leadership opportunities such as Criw Cymraeg and digital leaders help pupils develop confidence and a sense of agency. Most pupils show enthusiasm for learning Welsh, and pupils with additional learning needs are supported effectively to achieve their targets.

The headteacher provides strong, strategic leadership and fosters a supportive and inclusive ethos. Staff work well as a team and benefit from professional learning that supports school improvement. Governors and parents are actively involved in school life, and leaders manage resources well to ensure equity and positive outcomes for all pupils including those from low-income households.

Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Address the inconsistency in teaching to ensure that all pupils make the progress they should

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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