



School Development Plan Summary 2025-2026

We celebrate ...

Following a positive Estyn Inspection, we had the confirmation that our self-evaluation processes were accurate and as a result we were working on the right priorities. We are working hard to enable all pupils including those from disadvantaged backgrounds to make rapid progress in our school. Our curriculum wants to raise aspirations!

We know our curriculum promotes a broad range of knowledge, skills and experiences and this also supports pupils' wellbeing.

We celebrate our hard-working staff who are ambitious for the pupils. As a result, staff welcome high quality training so they can continue to have high expectations of themselves as well as the pupils.

Estyn recognised the vital role we play as part of our community and asked us to write a case study on our role as a school of sanctuary. Our parents tell us that we are doing a good job in providing excellent Catholic education to the children in St Joseph's.

We are pleased with the specialist provision we have established in providing for our pupils with more complex needs.

An overview of the conclusions or findings of the school's self-evaluation

Estyn stated:

St Joseph's Cathedral Primary School is a safe, nurturing and vibrant place for pupils, staff and visitors to be. Pupils love coming to school and are proud to be a part of such an inclusive and supportive learning community. The headteacher and team of teachers and support staff take exceptional care of their pupils and want the best for all of them. As a school that welcomes refugees and people seeking asylum, all pupils and their families can be sure of a warm welcome, whatever their family background, religion or home language and whether they have lived locally for many years or are new to the area.

Pupils know that adults in the school expect them to behave well and work hard. They also understand why education is important and do their very best to succeed. Teachers and support staff are always there to help when needed, but they encourage pupils to develop independence and try to solve problems for themselves wherever possible. They offer pupils an impressive, often practical range of experiences in school and in the local area, all of which help to keep pupils interested and make learning exciting. Most are making very good progress and are achieving well.

The headteacher provides strong, purposeful leadership. She values the opinions of staff, pupils, parents and governors and makes sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities. The current leadership team is relatively new, but members already work well together, trust one another and provide good support for colleagues. Leaders know the school well overall and have identified important areas of the school's work that they want to improve.

We know this is a strong starting point for our continued journey of excellence and we want to ensure this drives our excellent provision for meeting the needs of all our children driven from our school mission to:

"Follow Jesus as we live and learn together."

What we need to work on this year ...

Our School Priorities – At a Glance Science & Technology Focus

We are strengthening our teaching in science and technology, with a special focus on ICT and Digital Competence (DCF).

Improving Learning Behaviours

We aim to help pupils become more:

- Ready to learn
- Respectful to others
- Safe in the learning environment

Developing Oracy Skills

We are committed to improving pupils' speaking and listening abilities through:

- Deliberate, explicit, and systematic teaching of oracy
- Support across all phases and curriculum areas
- Focusing on the four strands of the Oracy Framework

Last year we achieved ...



Reading:

Children made great progress in their reading, and many are now more confident and really enjoying books.



Reasoning and Problem Solving:

We taught problem-solving in a clearer and more consistent way, helping children to become better thinkers and explain their ideas.



Teaching and Learning:

Teachers took time to think about what makes great teaching, which has led to better learning experiences for all pupils.



Oracy (Speaking and Listening):

We began focusing on oracy, and already see how important it is for helping children express themselves clearly and confidently

This year we aim to...

At St Joseph's, we are always seeking ways to improve outcomes for all our learners. These three key priorities guide our development this year, based on what our pupils need most and where we can make the biggest difference.

Priority 1: Embedding a Whole-School Approach to Oracy

Why this matters:

Speaking and listening are essential for learning, confidence, and relationships.

We've seen that many children need more support to express themselves clearly, reason out ideas, and listen actively.

The new curriculum for Wales places oracy at the heart of learning across all areas.

What we aim to do:

Give pupils regular, purposeful opportunities to talk, debate, present, and reflect.

Support all staff to teach oracy skills explicitly in every classroom.

Priority 2: Developing a Whole-School Approach to Positive Behaviour for Learning

Why this matters:

Positive behaviour helps every child feel safe, respected, and ready to learn.

We've identified a need to build more consistency and clarity in how we support behaviour and learning habits.

Children thrive when expectations are clear and they feel encouraged and supported.

What we aim to do:

Use shared strategies across the school to promote respect, responsibility, and resilience.

Involve pupils in understanding expectations and celebrating positive choices.

Priority 3: Strengthening Digital Competence and ICT Skills

Why this matters:

Digital skills are vital for today's world—both in school and beyond.

Our pupils need further opportunities to apply the Digital Competence Framework (DCF) in meaningful ways.

We want every child to be confident, safe, and creative when using technology.

What we aim to do:

Integrate ICT across the curriculum, not just in computing lessons.

Support staff and pupils to develop digital skills in problem-solving, communication, and creativity.

This is how we'll achieve our aims and who will help us

At St Joseph's, we are always looking for ways to help every child thrive. This year, we are focusing on three key areas that will make a big difference to your child's learning and wellbeing.

Priority 1: Helping Children Become Confident Speakers and Listeners

What we're doing:

We'll be giving children more chances to talk, share ideas, present to others, and build strong speaking and listening skills across all subjects. Teachers will be trained to support this in every class.

Priority 2: Building Positive Behaviour and Good Learning Habits

What we're doing:

We'll use the same clear strategies across the school to support positive behaviour. Children will understand the rules, take part in celebrating good choices, and learn habits like resilience and responsibility.

Priority 3: Strengthening Digital Skills for Life and Learning

What we're doing:

We'll be using technology across all subjects to help children learn, create, and solve problems. We're also helping pupils and staff grow in confidence when using digital tools.