



St Mary's RC High School Self-Evaluation Statement – Autumn 2026

Background & Context: St Mary's RC High School Hereford, is a Voluntary Aided 11-16 secondary school within the Archdiocese of Cardiff & Menevia, and serving the Catholic communities of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury, Leominster and surrounding areas.

St Mary's is a popular school. We have a PAN of 750, and the school is typically oversubscribed with a waiting list across the various year groups. The proportion of Baptised Catholics in attendance varies year on year but currently equates to **59.7%** of the school population. Please see the breakdown below for the proportions of pupils with SEND in attendance at St Mary's and other groups e.g. disadvantaged and EAL pupils.

Year Group or Class	No. of pupils	No. Catholic pupils	% FSM eligible (Targeted & Expanded)	% SEND (inc. EHCP)	% EHCP	% Significant ethnic groups (i.e. >5% of cohort)	% EAL
7	150	86	18.0	24.7	4.0	88.0	34.0
8	150	94	12.0	15.3	2.0	89.3	35.3
9	150	94	16.7	28.7	2.7	90.0	28.0
10	150	83	14.0	30.0	8.7	91.3	28.0
11	147	89	10.2	21.8	4.1	86.4	24.5
Total	747	446 (59.7%)	14.2%	24.1	4.3%	89.0%	30.0
Compared to national averages		45.3% *** (Cardiff-M Archdiocese)	26.5% *	20.8% **	6.0% **	72.1% *	21.6% *

*Schools, Pupils & Their Characteristics January 2026

** Special Educational Needs in England June 2026

*** Cardiff Archdiocese – Digest of 2024 Census Data for Schools & Colleges in Wales



Date and outcome of most recent Ofsted inspection: 10 and 11 December 2024. **Outstanding.**

‘St Mary’s RC High School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.’

Some Key Strengths:

- Pupils are very proud of their school and attend regularly.
- Pupils achieve well across the curriculum. This is a result of high expectations which leaders set for them.
- The school provides many opportunities for pupils to develop their spiritual, moral, emotional, social, physical and intellectual development.
- The strong behaviour of pupils is rooted in the school’s values.
- The school has developed an ambitious and well sequenced curriculum to enable pupils to learn and remember more.
- Achievement by the end of Y11 is very high for pupils overall.
- Leaders have adapted the curriculum suitably for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

What does the school need to do to improve?

- Disadvantaged pupils have not achieved as well as other pupils nationally. As a result, they are not as well prepared for the next stage in their education or training as other pupils. Leaders and governors should ensure that the steps they are taking lead to disadvantaged pupils making rapid gains in their learning in order to close the gap with their peers.

Date and outcome of most recent Section 48 CSI: 8-10th April 2019. **Excellent.**

Exam Outcomes 2026:

Measure	Outcomes
Average Total Attainment 8	53.52
Average Attainment 8 Grade	5.35
Average Total Progress 8*	(not being published in 2026)
Students Achieving 9-7 in English & Maths	13.5%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English & Maths	64.2%
Students Achieving 9-4 in English & Maths	82.4%
9-7 in Maths	21.6%
9-5 in Maths	69.6%
9-4 in Maths	85.1%
9-7 in English	26.4%
9-5 in English	76.4%
9-4 in English	89.9%
Average EBacc A8	15.85



The outcomes above ensured that St Mary's was the highest performing secondary school in the county of Herefordshire in 2026 across all key attainment measures and benchmarks.

For the national picture in 2026 ***The Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) published 23.10.2026***, highlights performance at St Mary's in the following measures was statistically, significantly higher than NA in:

- Overall Attainment 8 (sig+)
- English and maths grade 4 plus (sig+)
- English and maths grade 5 plus (sig+)
- English A8 (sig+)
- English grade 4 plus (sig+)
- English grade 5 plus (sig+)
- Maths A8 (sig+)
- Maths grade 4 plus (sig+)
- Maths grade 5 plus (sig+)
- Science grade 4 plus (sig+)
- Science grade 5 plus (sig+)
- Humanities grade 4 plus (sig+)
- Humanities grade 5 plus (sig+)
- EBacc A8 (sig+)
- Open A8 (sig+)
- *Full exam analysis available for all subjects and pupil groups 2026.*

Top Performing Subjects at St Mary's 2026 (SPI)

Subject	Number of Entries	SPI
Music	15	1.17
PE	45	0.86
Hospitality & Catering	14	0.75
History	75	0.48
French	28	0.47
Drama	9	0.47
Business Studies	50	0.45
English Literature	147	0.33
D&T	8	0.31
Art	32	0.31



By way of illustration, the above highlights that for example, pupils at St Mary's achieved on average more than a grade higher in GCSE Music at St Mary's, than pupils with the same prior attainment taking GCSE Music nationally.

Attendance: This is a strength of the school. St Mary's routinely achieves attendance in the top 10% of secondary schools nationally (FFt). Overall attendance is characteristically above both local and national averages. As of 19th October 2026, our attendance is as follows:

Group	% Attend	PAN
Whole School	95.8	746
Year 7	97.9	150
Year 8	95.5	150
Year 9	94.6	149
Year 10	96.9	150
Year 11	93.8	147

School Development Priorities 2026-27:

Safeguarding: Maintaining an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Inclusion: Leaders and staff establish strategies that consistently enhance the opportunities and experiences of disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or wellbeing.

Curriculum & Teaching: To ensure that our curriculum and teaching for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to social care, is implemented consistently well to remove barriers to achievement for these pupils.

Achievement: Outcomes in national tests and exams are above average, including for disadvantaged pupils.

Attendance & Behaviour: Ensuring a culture that is highly conducive to learning and where pupils show high levels of respect for others and rarely need to be reminded about positive behaviour.

Attendance:

Sustain overall (all pupils) school attendance which significantly exceeds national averages (FFT)

Improve attendance of FSM6 pupils in Y8 for 2026/27

Reduce severe absenteeism for FSM6 from 10.5% to be at least in line with NA

Personal Development & Wellbeing: Pupils benefit from a comprehensive personal development curriculum that teaches them age-appropriate knowledge to keep themselves healthy and safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Leadership & Governance: Ensure that there is a professional learning and expertise curriculum that is informed by the best available evidence, including research, and is precisely matched to priorities for whole-school improvement.



Staff wellbeing & workload

Infrastructure & Resources: Develop the School's IT Infrastructure to ensure that it is safe, reliable and supports staff with the delivery of effective provision, and pupils with their digital learning needs.

Greater income generation to improve the school's financial sustainability

Improve and develop physical school environment to better support staff teaching conditions and the learning environment for pupils

Develop systems and processes for more effective promotion of St Mary's, and its achievements both locally and nationally.

CSI Preparation for Inspection in 2026-27

NB: Please see SDP 2026-27 for full information on priorities, actions, KPIs and costings

Monitoring & Quality Assurance:

Progress against the above will be monitored and evaluated via:

- Exam Analysis Meetings (Autumn Term 2026)
- Mock Exam Analysis Meetings (January 2027)
- Department Reviews (2026-2027)
- Department Development Plans (DDPs 2026-27)
- Performance Management 2026-27 (including interim reviews in March 2027)
- Headteacher Performance Management (including interim reviews in March 2027)
- Standards & Curriculum Committee Meetings (x3) & Governor Link Visits
- Section 48 CSI