



St Mary's RC High School

Self-Evaluation Statement –

Autumn 2025

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 59.3% 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.

	No.'s	Male	Female	SEN Status	SEN Support	EHCP	EAL	Catholic	PP	Disadv
Year 7	148	79	69	23	19	4	50	95	24	15
Year 8	150	71	79	39	34	5	44	96	26	18
Year 9	149	73	76	42	30	12	40	83	24	18
Year 10	150	73	77	30	23	7	37	89	23	15
Year 11	150	76	74	29	22	7	37	80	29	22
Grand Total	747	372	375	163	128	35	208	443	126	88

	No.'s	Male	Female	SEN All (K & EHCP)	SEN Support (K)	EHCP	EAL	Catholic	PP	Disadv
Year 7	148	53.4%	46.6%	15.5%	12.8%	2.7%	33.8%	64.2%	16.2%	10.1%
Year 8	150	47.3%	52.7%	26.0%	22.7%	3.3%	29.3%	64.0%	17.3%	12.0%
Year 9	149	49.0%	51.0%	28.2%	20.1%	8.1%	26.8%	55.7%	16.1%	12.1%
Year 10	150	48.7%	51.3%	20.0%	15.3%	4.7%	24.7%	59.3%	15.3%	10.0%
Year 11	150	50.7%	49.3%	19.3%	14.7%	4.7%	24.7%	53.3%	19.3%	14.7%
Grand Total	747	49.8%	50.2%	21.8%	17.1%	4.7%	27.8%	59.3%	16.9%	11.8%

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 2025:

Measure	Outcomes
Average Total Attainment 8	52.24
Average Attainment 8 Grade	5.22
Average Total Progress 8*	0.86 (<i>not being published in 2025</i>)
Students Achieving 9-7 in English & Maths	16.1%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English & Maths	59.7%
Students Achieving 9-4 in English & Maths	79.9%
9-7 in Maths	30.2%
9-5 in Maths	67.1%
9-4 in Maths	83.9%
9-7 in English	24.2%
9-5 in English	72.5%
9-4 in English	88.6%
Average EBacc A8	15.32

The outcomes above ensured that St Mary's was the highest performing secondary school in the county of Herefordshire in 2025 for A8 and 4+ in English and Maths and 5+ in English and Maths. St Mary's was also the top performer in the LA for 4+ and 5+ in English and 4+ and 5+ in Maths.

For the national picture in 2025 (FFt Early Results Service), performance at St Mary's in the following measures was statistically, significantly higher than NA in:

- Attainment 8
- Attainment 8 English
- Attainment 8 Maths
- Attainment 8 Ebacc
- Attainment 8 Open
- Progress 8 Overall
- % 4+ English & Maths
- % 5+ English & Maths
- % 5+ GCSE 7-9
- *Full exam analysis available for all subjects and pupil groups 2025.*

Strongest Performing Subjects (SPI) in 2025 at St Mary's
PE: 1.53
Music: 1.49
Art: 0.78
H&C: 0.68
History: 0.64

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

Attendance: This is a strength of the school. St Mary's routinely achieves attendance in the top 25% of secondary schools nationally (FFt). Overall attendance is characteristically above both local and national averages. As of 14th October 2025, our attendance is as follows:

Group	% Attend	PAN
Whole School	95.7	747
Year 7	97.1	148
Year 8	95.0	150
Year 9	95.4	149
Year 10	95.1	150
Year 11	96.1	150

School Development Priorities 2025-26:

- Addressing in-year deficit budget and forecast overall deficit (next 3 years) to achieve a sustainable financial position
- Growth Plan
- Recruitment, Retention & Succession Planning
- Infrastructure & Resources
- Staff well-being, morale and workload

- Engagement with stakeholders and the wider community
- Governor development and succession planning
- Catholic ethos and Spirituality
- Assessment – one year after implementation of new policy
- Developing PSHRE Provision
- Extra-curricular and enrichment offer
- Developing Teaching
- Achievement (including boys, disadvantaged pupils and underperforming subjects)
- Behaviour & Attitudes
- Attendance
- Inclusion
- Safeguarding

Please see SDP 2025-26 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 2025)
- Department Reviews (2025-2026)
- Department Development Plans (DDPs)
- Performance Management 2025-26 (including interim reviews in March 2026)
- Section 48 CSI