St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Newcastle

DE Ref No 403-6635

Inspection Summary Report - September 2026

- The school's values of **faith**, **fairness**, **excellence**, **inspiring**, **nurturing** and **togetherness** are deeply embedded in its culture and are reflected in the highly positive relationships, inclusive ethos and strong sense of community.
- The priorities identified in the school development plan are appropriate; self-evaluation has identified accurately the need to develop further the capacity of middle leaders to evaluate impact rigorously and lead improvement more effectively.
- The children demonstrate exemplary behaviour and respect, and most achieve good standards in literacy and numeracy. The staff have identified appropriately the need to increase opportunities for challenge, particularly in literacy and numeracy, in order to improve outcomes further.
- The children in the nursery unit are settled, confident and increasingly independent learners who benefit from high-quality learning experiences.
- Most lessons meet the children's needs effectively; the most effective practice is characterised by high-quality questioning, active learning approaches and purposeful opportunities for the children to explain and deepen their thinking.
- The children benefit from a cohesive curriculum that makes meaningful connections across learning which supports high levels of engagement and enjoyment.
- The provision for digital learning is highly effective, with the children applying technology confidently and effectively across their learning.
- A caring and inclusive ethos is evident across the school. The children are known and supported very well within calm, consistent learning environments that contribute positively to their wellbeing and readiness to learn.
- The school promotes a positive culture in which academic, personal, social and spiritual achievements are recognised and celebrated.
- Well-established partnerships with parents and the wider community enrich the children's learning and experiences.
- The arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance.

Education and Training Inspectorate
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE CSE

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Next steps

- St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit is realising its vision, mission and values through the inclusive, nurturing and collaborative culture that permeates all aspects of school life. Guided by its core values, the school has created a vibrant learning community in which high-quality relationships, effective learning experiences and strong community partnerships support the children to flourish, achieve and make a positive contribution to the school and wider community.

- As set out within the school's current development priorities, the next steps for the school are to take forward the following area for action: to develop further the capacity of middle leaders to evaluate rigorously the impact of improvement work on the quality of teaching and the outcomes for the children.

- Inspectors identified an aspect of highly effective practice from which others may learn, namely:

    - the planning and provision for the development of the children's digital skills.

- The District Inspector will monitor the school's progress in addressing the area for action, as part of ETI's routine monitoring processes.