



## Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron

**Date of inspection: March 2023**

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

# Overview

Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron is a close-knit, inclusive and bilingual community. Through the sensitive leadership of the headteacher and his senior team, a completely clear direction is set that places the pupil at the heart of all the school's work. The headteacher provides passionate and supportive leadership for the future of the school to all stakeholders. Leaders have nurtured a team of staff who are proud to be a part of an organisation that develops and improves regularly.

Pupils' well-being is a very high priority and a strong emphasis is placed on supporting pupils to ensure that they are happy and thrive academically. Most of the school's pupils are considerate and friendly young people who treat each other with care and treat staff and visitors with respect. They promote the school's values of empathy, ambition, creativity, resilience and pride through their good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning.

As a result of cohesive provision across the subjects, pupils develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills well. They benefit from appropriate opportunities to read aloud to grow as confident readers and develop a range of digital skills in different subjects.

In key stage 4 and the sixth form, there is a range of interesting courses for pupils to choose from, including some that are relevant to the local area. There is a very wide range of valuable extra-curricular experiences available to pupils to enrich their learning experiences further.

While there are strengths in the quality of teaching across the school, where there is careful planning that engages pupils' interest and provides them with an appropriate level of challenge, there are common shortcomings in the expectations, planning and questioning of a minority of teachers. As a result, their lessons do not provide enough opportunities for pupils to be active in the lesson.

Provision for care, support and guidance is broad and cohesive and staff have a clear understanding of their role in keeping pupils safe. Overall, pupils are clear about whom to approach when they need help and support and appreciate the strong support they receive. Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is a notable element of the school's work. As a result of a wide and comprehensive range of interventions, pupils with ALN make very strong progress. The school provides valuable opportunities for pupils to express an opinion on its work and play an important part in developments. The contribution of sixth-form pupils is key to many of the school's cultural and social activities.

Self-evaluation and improvement planning have led to improvements over time. Leaders usually evaluate the school's work in detail and identify specific strengths and areas for improvement. In a few quality assurance activities, leaders do not consider the effect of teaching on pupils' progress incisively enough.

# Recommendations

R1 Improve the shortcomings identified in the report in relation to teaching

R2 Strengthen evaluations in a few quality assurance activities to consider the effect of teaching on pupils' progress more closely

## What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study, to be disseminated on Estyn's website, on its work in relation to (i) the effect of the wide provision of interventions to support the development of pupils' literacy, numeracy, motor, personal, emotional and behavioural skills and (ii) a whole school programme to raise reading standards.



# School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron
Local authority	Ceredigion County Council
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	581
Pupils of statutory school age	489
Number in sixth form	92
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Secondary is 20.2%)	15.0%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Secondary is 17.8%)	27.6%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	30.5%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2015
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	10/11/2014
Start date of inspection	06/03/2023

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