



## Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol John Bright

**Date of inspection: November 2023**

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

# Evaluation

Ysgol John Bright is a supportive community of learning where leaders and staff encourage all learners to reach both their academic potential and personal goals. The school provides a safe, nurturing and encouraging environment alongside high levels of care that enables pupils to learn, grow and develop into mature and responsible individuals.

A notable strength of the school is the extensive range of curricular choices for pupils. These include relevant vocational, practical and academic subjects, which reflect pupils' aspirations and the employment needs of the local area. In addition, the school provides a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and sporting clubs for all its pupils including an annual musical production, which is staged in the town's theatre. Overall, many pupils seize the valuable learning and social opportunities offered to them and make considerable progress in their personal development by the time they leave school.

In many lessons, teachers plan a broad range of learning activities to enable pupils to develop their subject knowledge and understanding. In a few lessons, teachers' planning is particularly successful in securing strong, sustained pupil progress. In these cases, teachers have high expectations and ask challenging and probing questions to stimulate pupils' thinking and ideas. However, teachers do not maximise opportunities to develop pupils' literacy skills within their subject area. In addition, in relevant subjects, teachers do not plan numeracy tasks carefully enough to ensure pupils make consistent progress. Overall, planning for the progressive development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills is underdeveloped.

The headteacher is a thoughtful and considerate leader who provides support and robust challenge to his staff. He has high aspirations for the school as a community of learning. Together with the senior leadership team and staff, he has forged a productive partnership with other education providers, external organisations and local charities such as Tŷ Hapus to ensure that pupils, including those from low-income households, obtain valuable academic and social learning opportunities.

Leaders at all levels use a broad range of evidence to consider the quality and effectiveness of their work. They are developing well their ability to identify strengths and weaknesses in their practice. However, overall, evaluations are not precise enough to enable leaders to pinpoint specific areas to improve.

Whole-school attendance has not improved as well as that in similar schools since the time of the pandemic. The attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals is notably lower than the national rate.

# Recommendations and next steps

We have made three recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1 Strengthen the provision for the progressive development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills so that pupils have meaningful and challenging opportunities to develop these skills and make sufficient progress across the curriculum**
- R2 Improve attendance and strengthen processes for monitoring whole-school attendance, including that of specific groups of learners**
- R3 Refine self-evaluation and improvement planning processes so that they focus more precisely on securing improvements in specific areas**

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 on its work in relation to the broad and purposeful curriculum which meets the needs of all learners for dissemination on Estyn's website.

## Statutory compliance

### **Safeguarding arrangements**

The school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils do not give any cause for concern.

### **Healthy eating and drinking**

The school has appropriate arrangements for promoting healthy eating and drinking.

### **School finances**

Leaders and governors manage the school's finances appropriately, including use of the pupil development grant.

### **Health and safety (site security)**

The school's arrangements for site security do not give any cause for concern.

# School context

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Name of provider   | Ysgol John Bright            |
| Local authority  | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Language of the provider   | English                      |
| Number of pupils on roll   | 1147                         |
| Pupils of statutory school age   | 934                          |
| Number in sixth form   | 213                          |
| 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%) | 18.1%                        |
| 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%)               | 17.9%                        |
| Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home   | 7.9%                         |
| Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language  | 12.2%                        |
| Date of headteacher appointment  | 01/09/2022                   |
| Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)  | 01/10/2015                   |
| Start date of inspection   | 13/11/2023                   |

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Publication date: 18/01/2024

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