



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

A report on

The Haven

Date of inspection: December 2018

by

**Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education
and Training in Wales**

About The Haven

The Haven is an independent day school providing education for up to eight pupils aged 11-19 years with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). The charity Autism Initiatives owns and manages the school.

There are currently six male pupils on roll, all with a statement of special educational needs. All pupils are placed by Flintshire local authority.

There have been significant staffing challenges since January 2018. All the staff team are new, apart from the headteacher, who has been in post since September 2014 and retired in December 2018.

The school was last inspected in November 2017.

Main findings

Strengths

Nearly all pupils improve their behaviour during their time at the school. They build valuable skills working in small groups and develop positive interactions with their peers and staff. Nearly all pupils develop positive attitudes to learning and demonstrate confidence with visitors.

The previous headteacher has provided a positive role model for staff during her period of tenure. She has successfully developed staff's skills in managing the challenging needs of the pupils who attend the school.

The school provides a suitable learning environment for pupils. Staff use the extensive grounds surrounding the school well to support pupils' learning effectively.

Areas for development

The school does not meet the Independent Schools Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

The headteacher took early retirement in December 2018 and, at the time of this visit, arrangements for the future leadership of the school were unclear.

Overall, the school has made slow progress in addressing the recommendations from the last core inspection. Therefore the previous recommendations from November 2017 remain.

Given the slow rate of progress and an increase in the areas of non-compliance with the Independent Schools Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Welsh Government may wish to consider that the school should not increase the number of pupils above the six currently on roll.

Recommendations

The school should:

R1 Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003

R2 Secure leadership and staff structure arrangements for the school from January 2019

R3 Produce a baseline of pupils' skills from which to track and monitor pupil progress

R4 Improve arrangements to improve the attendance of pupils who are persistently absent

R5 Increase the range of accreditation available to pupils

R6 Improve self-evaluation to have a tighter focus on pupils' standards

Progress in addressing recommendations from previous note of visit or inspection report

Recommendation 1: Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003

The school has taken suitable steps to address a few areas of non-compliance with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 identified during the core inspection of November 2017.

Overall however, the school has made slow progress in addressing areas of non-compliance, particularly those relating to the quality of education provided by the school. In addition, further areas of non-compliance in relation to this standard and with the welfare, health and safety of pupils have been identified during this monitoring visit.

Recommendation 2: Produce a baseline of pupils' skills from which to track and monitor pupil progress

Due to the ongoing and significant staffing issues at the school since January 2018, the school has not addressed this recommendation.

Recommendation 3: Improve arrangements to improve the attendance of pupils who are persistently absent

Overall, the school has made slow progress in addressing this recommendation.

Recommendation 4: Increase the range of accreditation available to pupils

The school has recently begun to broaden the range of relevant qualifications available for pupils attending the school. From September 2018, the current staff team extended the range of appropriate accredited courses available to pupils.

Since September 2018, good working relationships established with another independent school have helped broaden pupils' access to suitable courses. For example, one pupil now accesses GCSE English and mathematics at this school.

It is too early to evaluate the impact of the additional accreditation for the current pupils.

Recommendation 5: Improve self evaluation to have a tighter focus on pupils' standards

Since the core inspection in November 2017, the headteacher's focus has been on supporting the appointment and induction of a new staff team. The current priority for the school is to improve the quality of teaching. As a result, the school has not addressed this recommendation.

Compliance with the standards for registration

Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

- Draw up and implement effectively a written policy on the curriculum supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work which it implements effectively (1.2)
- Provide subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with a statement. (1.2.(b))
- Have a policy which enables pupils to acquire skills in speaking/listening/literacy/numeracy (1.2 (c))
- Provide personal, social and health education which reflects its aims and ethos (1.2(f))
- Pupils above statutory school age, school to provide a programme of activities appropriate to their needs (1.2.(h)i)
- Provide a curriculum giving the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress (1.2(i))
- Provide adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life (1.2(j))
- Teaching should enable pupils to acquire new knowledge, and make progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught (1.3(a))
- Demonstrate that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from such assessments to plan teaching so that pupils can progress (1.3(g))
- Have a framework in place by which pupil performance can be evaluated by reference to either the school's own aims, as provided by parents and/or, by national norms (1.4)
- Teachers to provide education which enables all pupils within a class to make progress including pupils with statements and those for whom Welsh or English is an additional language.(1.5)

Standard 2: The spiritual, moral, and cultural development of pupils

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 2.

Standard 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

- have a satisfactory level of fire safety, identified by its risk assessment under Part II Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997, as amended 1999, and by any report from the Fire Authority 3(5)

Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 4.

Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 5.

Standard 6: The provision of information

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 6.

Standard 7: The manner in which complaints are to be handled

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 7.

Recommendation regarding registration

When considering this school's registration the Welsh Government may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

The school does not currently meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. To comply fully with these requirements, the school should address the issues identified above for each standard.

Inspectors' judgements on this limited inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

Copies of the report

Copies of this report are available from the school and from the Estyn website (www.estyn.gov.wales)

The report was produced in accordance with section 163 of the Education Act 2002. The main purpose of inspection under this section is to report on compliance with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations 2003. In schools that provide non-maintained nursery education, this report also satisfies the requirements of Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Every possible care has been taken to ensure that the information in this document is accurate at the time of going to press. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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