



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

A report on
Cardiff Sixth Form College
Date of inspection: December 2019

by

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

About Cardiff Sixth Form College

Cardiff Sixth Form College was founded in 2004, as a small, private tutorial college and, in 2009, accepted its first international students. The College is now a multi-cultural teaching environment, with pupils from over 30 different nationalities studying there. The College is situated near Cardiff city centre in leased premises.

In May 2016, the College's proprietor contacted the Welsh Government to apply for registration as an independent boarding school. This application did not proceed.

In January 2017, the College's new proprietor contacted the Welsh Government to apply for registration as an independent school.

HMI and CIW visited the College on 15 February and 23 March 2017 to consider the documents and planned arrangements for registration as an independent school. An AI inspected the premise on 7 March 2017. The provision for boarding accommodation for pupils under 16 was not yet in place and therefore was not inspected. Registration was granted as a day school for pupils aged 14-18 years, with boarding provision for post-16 pupils only.

Cardiff Sixth Form College planned to operate as an independent boarding school for pupils from the age of 14 from September 2018.

On 20 August 2018, CIW accompanied Estyn and carried out a joint inspection visit to consider the documents and planned arrangements for registration as an independent boarding school, for pupils aged 14-18 years. This material change request was granted.

The College intended to enact provision for pupils aged 14-16 years of age from September 2018. In the interim when there are no publically funded pupils at the school or five or more pupils of compulsory school age, Estyn has not been involved in inspection activities at the College.

In May 2019, the proprietor of Cardiff Sixth Form College contacted Welsh Government to request that the College increase its roll to 380 and accept pupils up to the age of 19 years.

On 29 May 2019, HMI contacted the principal of the College to discuss the proposed material change. The principal confirmed that the requested increase in roll is due to an increase in demand from Welsh pupils to study two year GCSE courses at the College. The request to increase the age range to include pupils aged 19 is to allow mainly pupils from overseas to complete two year A level courses starting at the age of 17 years. The College has both the accommodation and the staffing in place to allow for these proposed changes.

On 5 June 2019, the College confirmed that they had 19 pupils of compulsory school age on roll.

On 4 and 5 December 2019, HMI visited the College to complete a follow up to registration visit. The College has 346 pupils on roll.

During the visit HMI collected evidence from the following sources:

- meetings with the principal and staff with a range of responsibilities
- scrutiny of documents including a range of policies
- scrutiny of pupils' work
- learning walks
- meeting with pupils

Main findings

Strengths

- The standards achieved by pupils at Cardiff Sixth Form College are extremely high. Most pupils recall previous learning exceptionally well and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills successfully to new contexts.
- Throughout the college, pupils are highly motivated and have particularly positive attitudes to their learning. The behaviour of nearly all pupils is exemplary. Pupils arrive at lessons promptly and work purposefully throughout. They approach tasks enthusiastically and maintain excellent focus. Nearly all pupils interact with their teachers maturely and listen respectfully to staff and their peers.
- Teachers have secure up-to-date subject knowledge and they share their expertise well. Lessons have clear learning objectives and success criteria, which teachers and pupils use effectively to evaluate learning. Teachers use questioning well to consolidate and extend pupils' learning. Lessons move at a good pace and build successfully on previous learning. Teachers use an appropriate range of teaching methods and provide helpful resources that engage pupils and provide suitable opportunities to challenge pupils of differing abilities.
- The quality of teachers' feedback to pupils is very good. Teachers provide effective feedback, with clear comments and advice on how pupils can improve their work.
- The care, support and guidance provided by the school is strong. All staff know pupils very well and offer a close network of support that nurtures trusting working relationships.
- Senior leaders provide firm direction and set out high expectations for all aspects of the school's work. They communicate expectations well, for example through a range of useful policy documents.

Recommended areas for action

- Review the curriculum offer at GCSE to ensure that it provides pupils with a suitable range of experiences in technological, aesthetic and physical areas of learning.

Compliance with the standards for registration

Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

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

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Standard 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

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 the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

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

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Recommendation regarding continued registration

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

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

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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