



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

**Report following monitoring  
Level of follow-up: significant improvement**

**Wrexham Pupil Referral Services  
82 Rhosddu Road  
Wrexham  
LL11 2NP**

**Date of visit: September 2017**

**by**

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

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## **Outcome of monitoring**

Wrexham Pupil Referral Unit is judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection in May 2016.

As a result, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the PRU from the list of PRUs requiring significant improvement.

## **Progress since the last inspection**

### **Recommendation 1: Improve pupils' attendance**

Since the time of the core inspection, the PRU has improved the overall attendance of pupils by around 13 percentage points from 67.29% to 80.10%. The number of authorised and unauthorised absences have reduced and nearly all pupils at the PRU improve their attendance rate over time. Ninety-three percent of pupils have a better level of attendance at the PRU than at their previous schools.

Pastoral managers work well with individual pupils to address issues with attendance and to identify barriers to education. The PRU monitors and tracks pupils' daily attendance well and carries out a regular analysis of trends and data. The PRU has set relevant and appropriate attendance targets. The management committee reviews attendance at every meeting and provides the leadership team with effective support and challenge to meet the attendance targets.

### **Recommendation 2: Improve pupil behaviour and ensure that all staff manage pupil behaviour effectively**

Overall, and at the Dodd's Lane provision in particular, the behaviour of pupils at the PRU has improved over the last eighteen months. The number of pupils who leave classes during lessons are very few and most of those who do leave return very promptly. Those who do not return continue their learning in an alternative setting. Nearly all pupils are respectful of one another, their teachers and visitors.

All staff have engaged well in a consultation process around the PRU's behaviour policies. As a result, staff have a better understanding of the PRU's behaviour and discipline policies and practices and apply these consistently across the PRU. Most teachers have attended training in basic behaviour management and a few have attended advanced training. Staff are now confident in the ability of the PRU to maintain discipline and address issues appropriately and quickly.

The number of fixed-term exclusions has decreased over the last three years.

### **Recommendation 3: Ensure that the PRU, management committee and local authority work together effectively to raise standards**

Since the core inspection, the management committee has strengthened its arrangements to provide support and challenge to the leadership team. There are now regular meetings of sub-committees with a focus on areas for development in the postinspection action plan. The leadership team provides detailed reports to

these meetings. The meetings result in clear actions that staff address swiftly and progress is reported in follow-up meetings. There is clear evidence of the management committee providing effective challenge to the leadership team. For example, they have helped the PRU to improve the analysis of pupil performance data to include contextual information drawn from baseline assessments. They have also challenged the PRU to set ambitious targets for pupil attendance.

Following the core inspection of May 2016, the local authority and regional consortium have increased their level of support for the headteacher. The regional consortium has identified a challenge advisor to work with the PRU on raising standards and improving provision. This has assisted the PRU to carry out new and improved processes to quality assure its work.

The headteacher has formed effective strategic partnerships with senior leaders and headteachers from local secondary schools. This has helped the PRU to develop robust systems for data analysis.

#### **Recommendation 4: Improve the process and quality of self-evaluation**

Leaders have improved the PRU's processes for self-evaluation significantly. There is now a well-planned cycle of quality assurance activities to monitor and review all aspects of the PRU's work. These activities take good account of the views of pupils, parents and staff and have an appropriate emphasis on standards of teaching and pupil progress across both sites.

Leaders use the information gathered from lesson observations and the scrutiny of pupils' work to set individual and whole PRU priorities to improve teaching and learning.

As a result, the PRU's self-evaluation processes now provide an accurate and detailed evaluation of the PRU's strengths and areas for improvement.

#### **Recommendation 5: Ensure that improvement planning identifies priorities for development with suitable resources, timescales and actions**

Following the core inspection of May 2016, senior leaders from the local authority, the management committee and the PRU put in place a comprehensive and detailed postinspection service development plan. The plan gives a strong strategic direction for the PRU's work over a two-year period from 2017 to 2019.

The service development plan links very well with the self-evaluation report. It sets clear targets, allocates resources and sets measurable success criteria. All members of the wider leadership team have undertaken responsibility for leading on specific areas for development across the whole PRU. This has strengthened the capacity and accountability of the leadership team. Senior leaders, including members of the management committee, regularly review the PRU's progress in addressing the priorities in the service development plan.

**Recommendation 6: Address the shortcomings in safeguarding identified during the inspection**

The PRU has addressed appropriately all of the shortcomings in safeguarding identified during the core inspection in 2016. The management committee now review and adopt all policies at regular intervals. This includes the policies for child protection and safeguarding.

<b>Recommendations</b>
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In order to maintain and improve on this progress, the PRU should continue to sustain the level of progress it has already made.