



# Report summary for parents and carers on Craig y Parc School

**Date of inspection: March 2023**

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

# Overview

Craig Y Parc provides a calm and nurturing environment that generally meets pupils' physical, medical and care needs well. Teaching and support staff build positive working relationships with pupils and, as a result, many pupils are happy and settled.

Many pupils enjoy their lessons and engage positively with their learning. In relation to their complex needs, they make appropriate progress in a range of areas that support their learning and personal development well. Teachers work closely with the school's therapy team to plan learning that takes appropriate account of pupils' specific and individual needs. This close team-working means that pupils make particularly beneficial progress in the development of their communication, physical and independence skills. However, shortcomings in teachers' planning, assessment and the quality of learning support mean that pupils do not make as much progress as they could during their time at the school.

Since the last core inspection, there have been six changes to the leadership of the school, as well as a change in the ownership of the school. These changes mean that over this period there has been significant disruption to the strategic oversight of the school and the capital investment in it.

The current leadership team has brought stability to the school and has started to implement beneficial changes to the school's curriculum, approaches to teaching and assessment, and the model of therapeutic support. Leaders have a suitable understanding of the school's strengths and its priorities for improvement. However, much of this work is at an early stage. In addition, the school has faced challenges to the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified and experienced staff. This has hindered the school's progress against its improvement priorities.

The school does not comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

# Recommendations

- R1 Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, specifically relating to Standard 1 ‘The Quality of Education’**
- R2 Ensure that professional learning addresses the professional development needs of teachers and learning support staff**
- R3 Ensure that the learning environment and resources meet pupils’ complex needs**
- R4 Improve relationships with parents**

## Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

### **The quality of education provided by the school**

The school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Although the school meets most of the regulatory requirements for this standard, in order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 the school should:

- Ensure that where pupils have a statement, the education provided fulfils its requirements [1(2)(e)]
- Provide a programme of activities appropriate to the needs of pupils above statutory school age [1(2)(h)(i)]
- Ensure the curriculum provides the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress [1(2)(i)]
- Ensure lessons are well planned, teaching methods effective and suitable activities used; ensure class time is managed wisely [1(3)(c)]
- Ensure teachers 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)]

### **The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The suitability of proprietors and staff**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The provision of information**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

## What happens next

Since the school does not meet the standards required for registration, the Welsh Government will require the proprietor to submit an action plan within a specified period of time. This plan will set out the steps that the school will take to meet the standards, and the timescale within which it will complete each step.

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.

## School context

Name of provider	Craig Y Parc School
Proprietor	Ambito Care and Education which is a division of Saludem Healthcare
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent special
Residential provision?	Yes
Number of pupils on roll	24
Pupils of statutory school age	16
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/02/2015
Start date of inspection	27/03/2023
<p>Craig Y Parc is an independent day school for pupils from age 3 to 19 years. Currently, the age range of pupils at the school is from age 6 to 19 years. The school is situated alongside Ty Cwtch registered children's home, which provides residential care for eight young people. Currently, there are 24 pupils on roll at the school, which includes seven pupils from the children's home and 17 who are day pupils. All pupils have statements of special educational need (SEN) or education, health and care plans (EHCP). A few pupils have looked-after children status (LAC).</p> <p>The school provides education for pupils with a wide range of complex physical needs and associated learning difficulties. These include cerebral palsy, dysphagia, autistic spectrum condition and epilepsy.</p> <p>The school's proprietor is Ambito Care and Education operating under the parent company Saludem Healthcare, which provides services for young people and adults with complex support needs. Many pupils at the school are placed by authorities in South Wales. A few pupils are placed by authorities in England.</p> <p>The current headteacher took up her post in November 2020, having previously been employed as the head of education from January 2020. The deputy headteacher joined the school in April 2021. The leadership team are supported by a team of four teachers, 15 learning support assistants and a therapy team.</p> <p>The school's last core inspection was in February 2015. Its most recent monitoring visit took place in January 2022.</p>	

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