



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

**A report on**

**Wadham College of Science**

**Date of inspection: October 2023**

**by**

**Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education**

**and Training in Wales**

## About Wadham College of Science

Wadham College of Science was formed as the proprietor wished to offer an education specialising in mathematics and the sciences to overseas pupils, as well as offering support in these subjects to pupils from local maintained schools.

In March 2020, the school's proprietor contacted the Welsh Government to apply for registration as an independent school. The school entered the register of independent schools in Wales, on 29 January 2021. The school is registered for up to 60 pupils aged from 15 to 18 years.

The school is not registered with the Welsh Government to admit students with additional learning needs, other than to discharge its obligations under the Equal Opportunities Act 2010.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the school was unable to recruit pupils immediately after registration. Between October 2022 and September 2023, 15 international pupils aged 16 years or older, have attended the school. Fourteen pupils studied at pre-GCSE level and one at pre-A level. These pupils were taught a curriculum focusing exclusively on the teaching of mathematics over two days each week. No pupils sat any formal qualifications and all pupils have returned to their home country.

On 5 October 2023, two HMI visited the school to conduct a follow up to registration visit. Inspectors gathered evidence from the following sources:

- discussions with the acting headteacher and proprietor
- scrutiny of relevant documents, including school policies

On 11 October 2023, an additional inspector visited to inspect the school premises, however he was unable to gain access.

At the time of the inspection, no pupils were being educated at Wadham College. Estyn was unable to evaluate the quality of teaching and assessment and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. In addition, whilst confirming that the school has a range of suitable policies in place, we were unable to confirm whether the school successfully implements these policies.

## Main findings

### ***Recommended areas for action***

Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, specifically relating to Standard 1 'The Quality of Education' and Standard 3 'The welfare, health and safety of pupils'.

## 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:

- Ensure the school curriculum is supported by appropriate schemes of work and implemented effectively 1(2)
- Ensure there is full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age 1[2(a)(i)]
- Ensure the curriculum gives pupils of compulsory school age experience in the following areas of learning linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative 1[2(a)(ii)]
- Ensure the curriculum enables pupils to acquire skills in speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy 1 [2(c)]
- Provide personal, social and health education which reflects its aims and ethos 1[2(f)]
- Ensure there is adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life 1[2(j)]

### ***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:

Ensure there is a written policy on First Aid and it is implemented 3(6).

### ***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:

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](http://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 publication. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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