



Report summary for parents and carers on Sporting Chance

Date of inspection: October 2023

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

Overview

Sporting Chance is a caring and nurturing school where all staff are committed to the school and their pupils. Leaders are approachable and staff value their openness and understanding.

Over their time at the school, most pupils make good progress in improving their well-being and behaviour. Nearly all pupils improve their social skills and learn to work with peers and staff.

Many pupils make appropriate progress in communication, reading, writing and numeracy skills and they learn to listen suitably to both peers and staff. However, only a very few pupils use extended writing and, for many pupils, spelling, punctuation and grammar are underdeveloped. In addition, there are limited opportunities for pupils to develop and progress their digital, creative and independent living skills.

Nearly all pupils develop beneficial physical skills through the strong focus on sporting activities. Pupils enjoy these sessions and participate enthusiastically. This focus on sport also positively supports the development of pupils' resilience and self-confidence.

Currently, there are very limited opportunities for pupils contribute to decisions that affect the school. In addition, pupils do not develop their leadership skills well enough due to limited opportunities available to them.

Staff across the school know their pupils well and have high expectations for their behaviour. This understanding, their use of consistent routines and the skills they have in managing behaviour result in a generally calm learning environment with many pupils developing positive attitudes to learning over time. However, the school does not adequately track behaviour incidents or record sanctions.

The curriculum at the school is generally broad and balanced. However, the personal, social and health education (PSE) programme does not include thorough enough coverage of important areas. For example, relationships and sex education, careers and preparation for adulthood and the understanding and appreciation of different cultures are underdeveloped.

The quality of teaching across the school is inconsistent. Teaching staff plan experiences which broadly build on pupils' skills as they move through the school. However, planning does not link well enough to the pupils' individual learning needs or evidence from the schools' own assessments. In addition, there are limited opportunities for pupils to achieve accreditation within the school.

Staff and pupils plan targets that support learning in areas identified by pupils. These targets are not linked well enough to the objectives from pupils' individual development plans (IDPs) or equivalent. Further, there are limited procedures in place to track and monitor progress against these targets and, as a result, there is not a clear picture of the progress pupils make over time.

Overall, processes for tracking, monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school's work in relation to the progress pupils are making are in the very early stages of development. As a result, the school has not identified important areas that require improvement and has made limited progress against the recommendations left by inspectors on the last visit. In addition, the school is not fully compliant with the Independent School Standard (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Recommendations

- R1 Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003**
- R2 Improve procedures for quality assurance and improvement planning to focus on pupil progress**
- R3 Improve the quality of pupils' targets and ensure that they inform the planning of teaching activities**
- R4 Ensure that curriculum planning provides worthwhile opportunities for pupils to learn in real life contexts and to follow their desired learning pathways**
- R5 Reduce the variability in the quality of teaching across the school and strengthen the planning and provision for skills**

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 met 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 where pupils have a statement, the education fulfils its requirements [1(2)(e)]
- Ensure the school provides 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)]
- Ensure teachers show a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons [1(3)d]
- Ensure there is a framework in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and information from such assessment is utilised to plan teaching so that pupils can make progress [1(3)(g)]
- 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 does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

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

- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services [2(d)]
- Assist pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures, in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions [2(e)]

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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

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

- Keep written records of sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious disciplinary offences [3(8)]

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	Sporting Chance
Proprietor	Sporting Chance, Newport
Local authority	Newport City Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	11
Pupils of statutory school age	11
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	16/10/2023
<p>Sporting Chance opened in summer 2021 as an independent day school providing additional learning provision for pupils with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties.</p> <p>The school is located close to the centre of the city of Newport and is administered by Sporting Chance Newport, a community interest company.</p> <p>The school is registered for up to 16 pupils aged 11 to 16 years. There are currently 11 pupils on roll at the school, all of whom have a statement of special educational needs or equivalent. A few pupils are looked after by local authorities in Wales. The school has two classes.</p> <p>The headteacher has been in post since September 2021. They are supported by an additional class teacher, head of sport, head of well-being, and a team of teaching and learning assistants.</p>	

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