



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

Annual monitoring inspection report on

Gwenllian Education Centre

Date of inspection: January 2016

by

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

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Context

Gwenllian Education Centre was registered as an independent special school in 2012 to provide education for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). The school is currently registered for up to 18 pupils aged 10 to 19. In December 2014, the school accepted its first pupil.

The accommodation provides a good quality, spacious learning environment that is well resourced to meet the individual needs of pupils. This includes two classrooms, a library area, dining area, hall, sensory room and suitable outdoor play space. A day nursery currently uses part of the same building. However, the building and outside areas have been partitioned so that pupils at the school do not come into contact with the younger children.

Main findings

Strengths

The school has made good progress in addressing all of the recommendations from the last registration visit. The policies and procedures meet regulatory requirements.

There are very good relationships between staff and pupils.

The curriculum is broad and provides for a wide range of suitable subjects and activities. These include visits to local shops and to the fire and life boat stations, as part of a project on the local community.

The headteacher has extensive knowledge and expertise in relation to ASD and this is reflected in teaching. Staff plan lessons carefully to include learning activities that focus well on targets in individual education plans (IEPs) and objectives from statements of special educational needs (SEN). As a result, pupil progress in relation to communication skills, behaviour and personal care needs is strong.

Pupils use a picture exchange system very effectively to express their needs. The system is well embedded in the day-to-day work of the school and helps pupils gain independence.

The school provides detailed, informative reports for parents and placing authorities.

Areas for development

Although the proprietor seeks the views of staff and parents, there is no formal process of self-evaluation that draws upon first hand evidence to help the school identify priorities and plan for improvement.

The school improvement plan includes clear priorities and targets for development. However, the plan lacks appropriate detail. For example, it does not include consideration of resources and realistic timescales to achieve the priorities.

School policies are new and there is no formal system of review.

Recommendations

The school should:

- R1 Ensure that self-evaluation processes are thorough and impact on planning for school development
- R2 Ensure that the school improvement plan is more detailed
- R3 Ensure that school policies are kept under regular review
- R4 Apply to the Welsh Government for material change to extend the age range of pupils to include those in key stage 2

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, social 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 registration

When considering this school's registration the National Assembly for Wales 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 annual monitoring inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

School information

School	Gwenllian Education Centre
School number	6696015
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	13/01/2016
Proprietor	Reflect Education
Staff	Headteacher, 1 teaching assistant, 1 admin assistant
Number of pupils	1
Provision	Day
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school	Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
Last Section 163 inspection	N/A
Last annual monitoring inspection	N/A
Last CSSIW inspection	N/A

Team information

Mr Anthony Mulcahy	Reporting Inspector
Mrs Rosemary Lloyd Lait	Team Inspector