



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

Annual monitoring inspection report on

Ynystawe Lodge

Date of inspection: April 2016

by

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

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Context

Ynystawe Lodge is an independent special school with an attached children's home situated in the village of Ynystawe, on the outskirts of the city of Swansea. It provides education for young people who are diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum, or who are undergoing assessment.

There are currently four pupils between 11 and 16 years of age educated at the school. Two pupils are day learners and two pupils are resident at the on-site children's home.

All pupils are on the autistic spectrum and have statements of special educational needs (SEN).

Since the last visit, the school has constructed a new sensory room. The school has an appropriate outside space that is currently under development to provide pupils with a stimulating external environment.

Main findings

Strengths

The acting teacher in charge has a clear understanding of how to take the school forward and a clear vision of where the school needs to be in the future. For example, leaders are reviewing the curriculum in line with the recommendations made in the independent review of curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales: Successful Futures.

The school has incorporated the Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) into its curriculum planning.

The school has established a secure baseline assessment of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills. This has allowed the school to develop appropriate individual learning targets for all pupils.

There are strong links between the education staff and the care staff. The acting teacher in charge actively promotes a consistent approach between care and education and has identified relevant areas for staff development.

Lessons are well planned and activities are selected to provide motivation and interest. All pupils engage well with their lessons.

Areas for development

The outside area does not currently provide a safe and useful external space that is fully accessible to the pupils.

The school does not have a permanent staffing structure. For example, the teacher in charge is currently employed on a temporary basis.

Although the school attendance register is up-to-date it does not fully meet the regulatory requirements. For example, there is no record of whether a pupil's absence is 'authorised', 'unauthorised' or as a result of 'attending an authorised educational activity'.

The school has appropriate links with health partners and agencies. However, it does not consistently make best use of the advice and guidance they provide. In a few cases the school has not made effective use of these links to establish secure advice on the use of specialist equipment.

All staff at the school apply the behaviour management procedures consistently. However, the behaviour management process does not include a sufficient focus on the causes of inappropriate behaviour. A few incidents continue for too long before closure.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure compliance with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations
- R2 Develop the outside area to make it appropriate to the needs of the pupils and a safe space for activities
- R3 Establish a permanent staffing structure
- R4 Seek relevant advice from health care professionals for the use of specialist equipment
- R5 Review the school's behaviour management policy and practice

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

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:

- **3(9)** ensure the attendance register is maintained in accordance with The Education (Pupil Registration) (Wales) Regulations 2010.

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 the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Standard 6: The provision of information

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 6.

Standard 7: The manner in which complaints are to be handled

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 7.

Recommendation regarding registration

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

School information

School	Ynystawe Lodge
School number	6706025
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	18/04/2016
Proprietor	Horizons Educare Richard Byng – Director Head of Education Gerald Williams – Director Alison Williams - Director
Staff	1.6 teachers 2 learning support assistants Care staff
Number of pupils	4
Provision	Residential/Respite & Day
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school	Autistic spectrum disorders
Last Section 163 inspection	N/A
Last annual monitoring inspection	N/A
Last CSSIW inspection	01/10/2015

Team information

Mrs Gill Sims	Reporting Inspector
Mrs Sw Roberts	Team Inspector