



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

**A report on**

**The Haven**

**Date of inspection: September 2019**

**by**

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

## About The Haven

The Haven is an independent day school registered to provide education for up to eight pupils aged 11-19 years who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). It is owned and managed by the charity Autism Initiatives.

The school is situated on the outskirts of Mold in North Wales. The accommodation includes three learning areas that are comfortable and well resourced to meet the learning and social needs of the pupils. There are extensive grounds that include a greenhouse, sheds and vegetable gardens.

There are currently a very few number of day pupils on roll, all with a statement of special educational needs. Each pupil has a diagnosis of autism. Flintshire is the placing authority for the pupils.

The headteacher has been in post since January 2019.

## Main findings

### ***Strengths***

Since the last monitoring visit, the company has taken suitable steps to strengthen provision at the school. For example, it has ensured a staffing structure that allows continuity in the delivery of the curriculum and effective management of pupil behaviour. This is helping the school to provide a nurturing environment where pupils respond positively. The teacher and learning support assistant work well with the headteacher to reflect carefully on the school's priorities for improvement. They have identified suitable priorities for improvement and have strengthened self-evaluation processes.

The school is beginning to make effective use of a recently introduced system to track the progress of pupils and has introduced baseline assessments and relevant targets for pupils.

Overall, the school has made suitable progress in addressing the recommendations from the previous monitoring visit. The school complies fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 inspected during this visit. As a result, the Welsh Government may wish to reconsider the current limit on the recruitment of new pupils.

### ***Areas for development***

The current personal and social education policy and schemes of work are underdeveloped.

The school has taken suitable steps to address areas for improvement identified at the last monitoring visit. However, many of these initiatives are at an early stage of development.

### **Recommendations**

**The school should:**

**R1. Finalise the personal social health and education policy and amend the scheme of work in line with the amendments to the policy**

**R2. Monitor the impact of new initiatives.**

## **Progress in addressing recommendations from previous note of visit or inspection report**

### **Recommendation 1: Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003**

The school complied fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 inspected during this visit.

### **Recommendation 2: Secure leadership and staff structure arrangements for the school from January 2019**

The school has made suitable arrangements to support the number of pupils currently at the school. The present headteacher was in post as acting headteacher from January 2019 to March 2019, when she became the permanent post-holder. In addition, the school has one class teacher and one learning support assistant, who are both permanent members of staff.

### **Recommendation 3: Produce a baseline of pupils' skills from which to track and monitor pupil progress**

Since January 2019, the school has reviewed the very limited arrangements for the assessment of pupils previously available at the school. Consequently, the school has introduced English and mathematics assessments to establish pupils' starting points in these areas. Baseline information is beginning to inform the teacher's curriculum planning for autumn term 2019. It is too early to evaluate the impact of this recent change.

### **Recommendation 4: Improve arrangements to improve the attendance of pupils who are persistently absent**

The school has suitable systems in place to track and monitor attendance and as a result attendance has improved. The pupils currently on roll improved their attendance by at least 10 percentage points in 2018-2019 compared to 2017-2018. The school communicates well with parents and carers to make sure they are able to respond to any potential barriers to attendance.

### **Recommendation 5: Increase the range of accreditation available to pupils**

Since the last visit, the school has extended the range of accreditation opportunities available to pupils. There is an appropriate focus on preparation for life and personal development.

### **Recommendation 6: Improve self-evaluation to have a tighter focus on pupils' standards**

Since the previous monitoring visit, the school has made substantial efforts to improve policy and practice in all aspects of its work. The headteacher now makes use of an appropriate range of information about pupil progress to evaluate provision. However, the evaluation of impact to inform planning is at an early stage of development.

## **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, and cultural development of pupils***

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 2.

### ***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 this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 4.

### ***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 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 Welsh Government 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 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 going to press. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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