



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

**Annual monitoring inspection report on
Priority Childcare**

Date of inspection: May 2017

by

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

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Context

Priority Childcare is registered as an independent school to provide in-house education for children aged 8 to 18 years resident in the company's children's homes who are not able to access mainstream education. The school opened in 2015 and operates in classrooms at three of the company's five children's homes: Trafle Lodge, Ty George and Craig Y Bedw.

There are currently five pupils on roll at the school. All pupils are looked after by their local authorities.

The head of education has been in post since September 2016 and oversees the education across the three sites. A teacher was appointed in April 2016. The teacher and teaching assistants meet weekly to plan learning experiences for each pupil. The sites share common documents that include school policies, an improvement plan and arrangements for the planning and delivery of lessons.

The school offers full-time education and follows local authority term times.

Main findings

Strengths

The head of education provides effective leadership for the day to day running of the school. He has established a clear strategic vision for the school that has an appropriate focus on providing a curriculum that is tailored to the individual needs and interests of each pupil. There are new procedures to quality assure important aspects of the school's work, including the quality of teaching and standards pupils achieve. The school has a useful improvement plan that identifies clear targets and allocates appropriate timescales and resources. The improvement plan provides effective direction for the work of the school.

The school has introduced useful baseline assessments to identify the literacy, numeracy and wellbeing needs of pupils. Teachers have started to use this information in their short term planning. As a result, the school provides learning experiences that meet the individual needs of the pupils well. Teaching has a strong focus on developing pupils' self-esteem, confidence and literacy skills.

The school has established effective partnerships with specialist agencies who provide therapies that support pupils' identified wellbeing needs.

Relationships between the staff and pupils are generally positive and nearly all pupils respond well to the staff requests, behave well in lessons and are welcoming to visitors.

Areas for development

The school does not meet fully the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

The school has adopted a commercially available curriculum plan for pupils at key stages 2 and 3 that promotes a topic based approach to learning. Pupils at key stage 4 and post-16 follow Agored Cymru units of work. Staff have included aspects of most areas of learning in topics planned for each pupil. However, curriculum plans and schemes of work do not cover the development of numeracy skills in enough detail. Generally, planning for subjects and individual pupils does not identify how pupils will build systematically on existing skills and knowledge as they move through the school.

Although the school has introduced useful baseline assessments for pupils on entry, there is no assessment framework in place to track the progress that pupils make.

Recommendations

R1 Ensure compliance with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003

R2 Ensure that staff planning identifies how pupils will build systematically on existing skills and knowledge as they move through the school

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:

- Develop detailed schemes of work to support the curriculum policy [1(2)]
- Develop a framework by which pupil performance can be evaluated by reference to either the school's own aims, as provided to parents, and/or by national norms [1(4)]

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 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 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	Priority Childcare
School number	6706026
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	08/05/2017
Proprietor	Priority Childcare .
Staff	1 head of education, 1 teacher, 3 teaching assistants
Number of pupils	5
Provision	Day provision for pupils placed in company's children's homes
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school	Social emotional and behavioural difficulties
Last Section 163 inspection	N/A
Last annual monitoring inspection	N/A
Last CSSIW inspection	

Team information

Mr Anthony Mulcahy	Reporting Inspector
Miss Jassa Scott	Team Inspector