



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

A report on
Summergil House School

Date of inspection: February 2018

by

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

About Summergil House School

Summergil House is an independent special school situated near the Powys and Herefordshire border in Presteigne. The school opened in March 2017 and is part of the Orbis Education and Care group.

The school provides education for pupils aged 5 to 19 years who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder. Nearly all pupils have a statement of educational needs.

Currently, there are nine pupils attending the school, seven boys and two girls. Many pupils are placed by local authorities in England and the remainder from Wales. Nearly all pupils have English as their first language.

Many pupils reside at the registered on-site children's home.

The head of education was appointed in May 2017. The school has two class teachers and three learning support assistants. A clinical team, including a speech and language therapist, behaviour specialist and occupational therapist, supports the education team.

The school's aim is to 'provide a safe and secure school environment that encourages individuality, confidence and self-esteem'.

Main findings

Strengths

Since opening, the school has taken great care to plan the individual transition of each pupil. As a result, this has helped reduce pupil anxiety in settling into their new school. Pupils have positive attitudes to their learning, enjoy their lessons and engage positively with learning activities.

The school benefits from a rural location and provides a stimulating learning environment. An extensive outdoor area provides good opportunities for pupils to gain an appreciation of nature and the environment in which they live.

Pupils benefit from a broad range of therapeutic inputs provided by the school. Specialist staff work well with school staff, and as a result pupils have a strong sense of wellbeing.

The school has appropriate systems in place to track both the academic and social needs of all pupils. As a result, staff know their pupils very well, and respond swiftly to both their wellbeing and learning needs.

The school has appropriate policies in place to guide the work of the school, including useful pupil friendly versions, where appropriate. Leaders at the school are enthusiastic and have a clear sense of purpose.

The school meets all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Recommended areas for action

Strengthen policies to ensure that they reflect the latest Welsh Government guidance and are appropriate to the context of the school.

Improve reports to parents to include more detail about what pupils have achieved and how they can move their learning on.

Ensure quality assurance processes focus on the standards achieved and the progress made by pupils.

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 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 continued 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)

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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