



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

**Annual monitoring inspection report on
Tŷ Cariad**

Date of inspection: January 2017

by

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

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Context

Tŷ Cariad is a registered independent school that opened in October 2013. The school operates within a small children's home and provides education for up to three pupils aged 11 to 19 who are resident at the home. The school's accommodation is in a detached house in a rural setting in South Pembrokeshire. The premises are in very good condition throughout. One room in the house is allocated as a classroom.

There are currently three pupils on the school roll. All pupils have a statement of special educational needs and are looked after by their local authority. All pupils are placed by Pembrokeshire local authority.

Since the last annual monitoring visit, the full-time teacher has been appointed as the permanent headteacher of the school.

Main findings

Strengths

All pupils attend school regularly.

Pupils demonstrate very good behaviour in lessons and around the school. They respond well to the support and consistent encouragement offered by staff.

Staff have a thorough understanding of pupils' interests and needs. They set high expectations of attendance, behaviour and engagement in lessons.

The school's individual timetables provide pupils with a range of appropriate learning activities that are well matched to their needs and abilities.

The school has worthwhile links with a few local businesses that provide valuable work experience opportunities for older pupils.

The school has addressed the issues regarding the management of documents, including important policies, appropriately.

Arrangements for self-evaluation and planning for improvements are developing appropriately. The school has recently produced a suitable self-evaluation report based on the Estyn framework. There are clear links developing between the areas for development identified in the self-evaluation report and the school development plan.

Areas for development

Overall, the school offers a very limited range of accreditation opportunities for pupils.

Planning for pupils' information and communication technology (ICT) skills across the curriculum is underdeveloped.

Transition arrangements for older pupils with complex needs are underdeveloped. For example, opportunities to attend taster and induction courses at the local further education institution are insufficient.

The school does not have a formal framework to measure and track the progress the pupils make in subjects across the curriculum. As a result, the school does not make sufficient use of data when analysing pupil progress at the school.

Recommendations

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

R2 Develop opportunities for pupils to gain appropriate accreditation for their learning

R3 Improve the planning for developing pupils ICT skills across the curriculum

R4 Strengthen transition arrangements with local education providers for post-16 pupils

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

Recommendation 1: Ensure compliance with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003

This recommendation has been largely addressed.

The school has addressed most of the compliance issues identified in the previous annual monitoring visit. However, a very few compliance issues remain outstanding. The school is yet to implement a system to track and monitor the progress pupils make across the curriculum

Recommendation 2: Improve the provision for numeracy through increasing opportunities for pupils to develop their data handling skills and learn about shape, space and measure

This recommendation has been largely addressed.

The school has improved the opportunities for pupils to develop their data handling skills and learn about shape and measure across the curriculum. The teacher provides appropriate opportunities for pupils to develop their numeracy skills in lessons and practise them in real life situations. For example, during cooking sessions, pupils use their measuring skills appropriately with support from staff

Recommendation 3: Improve opportunities for pupils to develop their ICT skills across the curriculum

This recommendation has been partly addressed.

The school has recently made a significant investment in updating its ICT equipment. However it is too soon to evaluate its impact on improving pupil standards. Individual education plans and schemes of work do not identify specific areas or targets to develop pupils' ICT skills. As a result, the opportunities for developing these skills in lessons across the curriculum are underdeveloped

Recommendation 4: Devolve a robust system of school self-evaluation that draws on the effective monitoring of all aspects of the school's work

This recommendation has been partly addressed.

The school has recently started to develop appropriate arrangements for self-evaluation, including the use of suitable first hand evidence such as formal lesson observations. Generally, the self-evaluation report is an honest evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for development. However, the school makes limited use of available data such as attendance, behaviour and assessment data to evaluate pupil progress and inform its self-evaluation and school improvement processes

Recommendation 5: Ensure that school policies are reviewed effectively and shared with staff, reflect day-to-day practice and take account of the most recent Welsh Government guidance

This recommendation has been largely addressed.

The newly appointed headteacher has recently updated many of the school's key policies. The updated policies now reflect day-to-day practice at the school and take account of the most recent Welsh Government guidance. Policies are shared with staff during staff meetings

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:

- put in place 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 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:

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	Tŷ Cariad
School number	6686019
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	18/01/2017
Proprietor	United Care Wales
Staff	1 teaching head, 1 full-time and 1 part-time learning support assistant. All care staff, except the registered manager, have a dual role and job description and at least one of them supports in the classroom each day
Number of pupils	3
Provision	Day provision linked to attached children's home
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school	Autistic spectrum disorder and learning difficulties
Last Section 163 inspection	Insert text
Last annual monitoring inspection	04/01/2016
Last CSSIW inspection	Insert text

Team information

Margaret Davies	Reporting Inspector
Susan Roberts	Team Inspector