



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

A report on

**Cardiff Academy
40 - 41 The Parade
Roath
Cardiff
CF24 3AB**

Date of inspection: January 2020

by

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

About Cardiff Academy

Cardiff Academy was established in 1999 as an independent sixth form college. The college is located in rented premises in a residential area of Cardiff, close to the city centre. In June 2002, the college applied to the Welsh Government for registration as an independent school. Following a visit by Estyn, the college was granted provisional registration as an independent school. Full registration was not considered because the college reported that provision for pupils of compulsory school age was temporary.

In July 2006, Estyn visited the college at the request of the Welsh Government to establish if it was educating five or more pupils of compulsory school age. On the basis of this visit it was found that Cardiff Academy was not operating as an independent school.

In June 2018, a new proprietor took over the running of Cardiff Academy. The new proprietor contacted the Welsh Government as he wished to educate up to 100 pupils, including around 10 pupils of compulsory school age at the college from September 2019.

On 20 November 2018, HMI visited the college to complete an initial registration visit. At the time of this visit the college met nearly all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) regulations 2003. Cardiff Academy entered the register of independent schools in December 2018 on condition it satisfied the Welsh Government that it met fully all the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, before any pupils of statutory school age were admitted. The college then formally changed its status to an independent school.

On 21 and 22 January 2020, HMI visited the school to complete a follow up to registration visit. During this visit, evidence was gathered from learning walks, meeting with pupils, scrutiny of pupils' work and school policies and meetings with the proprietor and senior leaders.

Main findings

Strengths

The outcomes achieved in public examinations by pupils at Cardiff Academy are extremely high. Nearly all pupils have a very positive attitude towards their studies. Pupils behave in a mature manner, which is conducive to learning and maintain a strong focus throughout lessons.

Teachers have strong subject knowledge and share the passion for their discipline with pupils. They use a variety of teaching styles effectively to meet the needs of pupils. Most teachers use questioning well to extend and consolidate pupils' understanding.

Teachers provide frequent feedback to pupils, which includes advice about how to improve the quality of their work and enhance their learning. They know individual pupils well and accurately identify their strengths and areas to improve. Teachers provide pupils and their parents informative and highly personalised termly progress reports.

Senior leaders are committed to establishing a high quality independent school. They have high expectations of staff and pupils and are developing a useful range of policies to support the work of the school.

Recommended areas for action

- Review the curriculum offer to ensure that it provides pupils with a suitable range of opportunities to engage in physical activities
- Strengthen provision for personal, social and health education to ensure that the school delivers the goals identified in planning documents
- Review the wider curriculum offer to ensure that it provides pupils with a breadth of experiences

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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