



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

A report on

Ysgol Tŷ Monmouth

Date of inspection: January 2023

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Ysgol Ty Monmouth

Ysgol Tŷ Monmouth is an independent special day school, which is located in a large, detached building, in a suburban area of Newport.

Ysgol Tŷ Monmouth is administered by the Phoenix Learning and Care group, and this is the company's first school in Wales. It is part of the portfolio of Ashridge capital, a private equity investment company. The school is registered to educate a maximum of 20 pupils aged between seven and sixteen years of age. Currently there are 14 pupils on the school roll aged between 10 and 15 years. The school provides a tailored curriculum for pupils who have specific needs relating to autistic spectrum condition. The pupils are placed by local authorities in Wales and England. All pupils have a statement, IDP or an EHCP.

The five classes at the school are structured into three stages, rather than year groups, to ensure personal and developmental compatibility between pupils. Class sizes are small, with a maximum of four pupils supported by a minimum of one teacher and one teaching assistant.

The headteacher has been in post since the school was established in February 2022. The school also has a deputy headteacher, an ALNCo, four teachers, eight teaching assistants and three therapists.

Main findings

Strengths

The school provides a calm, welcoming and nurturing learning environment, which supports pupils' learning and well-being needs well. Staff have established clear routines, which pupils respond to well.

School staff know the pupils well and build trusting working relationships with them. They make effective use of this knowledge to provide learning opportunities that are tailored appropriately to pupils' age and needs. These activities interest pupils and ensure that they are engaged in their learning and make sound progress.

The curriculum has a clear emphasis on improving pupils' core literacy and numeracy skills and provides a secure foundation for future learning. There are regular opportunities for pupils to access beneficial community resources to enhance their learning. These experiences include shopping locally for cookery sessions, which develop pupils' independent living skills well.

Pupils are courteous to staff, one another, and visitors. They work diligently and effectively in pairs and groups as well as on individual tasks. They listen carefully to instructions, question appropriately and compliment each other on their work.

Pupil voice is a notable feature at the school. Pupils benefit from valuable opportunities to contribute to improvements at the school. They participate in appropriate decision-making processes such as choosing class activities, reward strategies and their school uniform.

Leaders are enthusiastic and have a clear sense of purpose. They have a good understanding of the strengths and areas of development at the school.

Recommended areas for action

- R1 Refine school policies, procedures, and professional learning to ensure that they reflect latest Welsh Government guidance and are appropriate to the specific context of the school
- R2 Strengthen the writing of pupil targets to enable small steps of progress to be recognised

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.

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