



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

A report on

Grace House

Date of inspection: May 2023

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Grace House

Grace House School is an independent special school that provides education and care for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs. The school is administered by Educ8, part of the Your Chapter Ltd Group, a specialist children's services agency that has independent special schools and care homes across England and Wales.

The school provides educational placements for a maximum of five girls aged between 11 and 18 years of age. Currently, there are three pupils on roll. Pupils who attend the school are resident in the linked children's home that shares the site.

The staff team comprises a headteacher supported by an instructor. The headteacher has been in post since August 2021. The work of the school is overseen by an executive regional headteacher and the director of education, both of whom started their roles this academic year.

This is the school's first monitoring visit since its registration.

Main findings

Strengths

The headteacher provides strong and effective leadership of Grace House school. Alongside the instructor, they work successfully to meet the learning and well-being needs of pupils.

Staff at the school have highly effective working relationships with pupils. They know their pupils' academic ability and emotional needs well and use this knowledge effectively to plan a range of interesting learning experiences.

The school provides an engaging and flexible curriculum offer that responds well to pupils' needs and interests. Further, staff make good use of the local areas to enrich learning.

Pupils engage enthusiastically with the range of learning activities. They are able to sustain concentration and work independently. Generally, pupils are respectful of staff and their peers.

Staff have high aspirations and expectations for all pupils. This is a strength of the school. Overall, pupils make strong progress from their individual starting points. Pupils achieve a range of relevant accreditation and qualifications to prepare them for their future lives.

Areas for development

Senior leaders have introduced quality assurance processes to ensure compliance with the standards for registration. However, these processes and linked action plans do not focus sharply enough on the most important areas for improvement.

The headteacher shares nearly all teaching responsibility with one instructor. This restricts the time available for the headteacher to plan strategically to move the school forward.

Recommendations

The school should:

- R1 Ensure that quality assurance processes identify the most important areas for school improvement
- R2 Structure the staff team to ensure that all staff have sufficient time to fulfil their roles

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 this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 2.

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 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 this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 7.

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 (<http://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 publication. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

Publications Section
Estyn
Anchor Court, Keen Road
Cardiff
CF24 5JW or by email to publications@estyn.gov.wales

This and other Estyn publications are available on our website:
<http://www.estyn.gov.wales>