



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

A report on

Oaklea Grange

Date of inspection: November 2023

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

This report is also available in Welsh

About Oaklea Grange

Oaklea Grange entered the register for independent schools in Wales in January 2023. The school is part of Young Foundations limited, a group which currently owns schools and children's homes in England and Scotland. The group is part of the portfolio of MRA UK investments limited.

Oaklea Grange School is the company's first school in Wales. The school can educate a maximum of eight pupils between the ages of 11 and 18 years. There are currently five pupils on the school's roll. All pupils are resident in the on-site children's home.

The school admits pupils with difficulties relating to their: social emotional and mental health; trauma and attachment and, behaviour.

The school is set in a rural location. The accommodation is across two floors and comprises three classrooms, an office and a garden.

The headteacher has been in post since the school was established.

Main findings

Strengths

Pupils are fully engaged in their learning often after having experienced significant gaps in their education.

Pupils are welcoming to visitors and engage positively with staff. They concentrate well when working independently, for example when considering how games help toddlers develop their fine and gross motor skills. They also work well with their peers in small groups.

Pupils are developing their confidence. They clearly articulate their opinions, for example when debating the relevance of the main themes of a 'Christmas Carol' in today's society.

Pupils hold positions of responsibility within the school including the mental health advocate, reading champion and the health and safety officer. Pupils value these authentic leadership opportunities.

All staff are highly effective at meeting the well-being and learning needs of pupils. They have strong professional working relationships, leading to a calm and nurturing learning environment.

There is a strong culture of safeguarding and pupils feel happy and safe.

The school provides a highly bespoke curriculum for each pupil. Teachers plan interesting lessons that develop pupils' skills and understanding of new concepts, for example making sushi when learning about the culture of Japan. They use stimulating resources and build on pupils' prior experiences effectively.

The school provides relevant and interesting opportunities for pupils to engage with the local community. For example, the school choir performs in the local village and pupils contribute to the local food bank.

The headteacher is passionate about the successful development of the school and has high expectations of staff and pupils alike. She has a strong vision for the school, which is well understood and implemented by the whole school community.

The school meets all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 inspected during this visit.

Recommended areas for action

- Embed the effective practice seen during this visit
- Ensure consistency in the quality of written feedback

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 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

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This document has been translated by Trosol (English to Welsh).