



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

A report on
Westward House School

Date of inspection: September 2021

by

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

About Westward House School

Westward House is an independent special school located in St Clears, Carmarthenshire.

The school provides education for children and young people between the ages of seven to sixteen years who have specific learning difficulties including; dyslexia, dyspraxia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, as well as learning difficulties associated with autistic spectrum condition (ASC), and attention deficit disorder. In addition, the school provides education for pupils who have no specific learning need but whose parents wish to enrol their child as an alternative to local state schools, for example as part-time provision where parents have elected to educate their child at home.

There are currently twelve pupils on roll. No pupils have statements of special educational needs, however, a minority are undergoing statutory assessment. No pupils are placed by a local authority.

The lead teacher has been in post since the school was established in February 2021 and is supported by a team of two teachers and two learning support assistants.

Main findings

Strengths

Over a relatively short period of time most pupils make noteworthy progress in all of their skills including literacy, numeracy and, social and communication skills. In addition most pupils attend the school regularly and clearly enjoy their time at school.

Staff have established positive and trusting relationships with pupils. They understand the needs of pupils well and are empathetic. They provide pupils with valuable support in lessons and throughout the day.

The school has developed appropriate assessments and tracks pupils' progress effectively.

The collaborative approach to planning the curriculum has engaged pupils well. As a result, pupils have increased ownership over what they learn and are developing very useful research and enquiry skills.

The school's restorative and reflective approach helps pupils to develop positive relationships with their peers and staff.

Recommended areas for action

Ensure that there is a regular cycle to review all school policies and that these align with the Independent School Standards [Wales] Regulations 2003.

Continue to adapt the curriculum, resources and opportunities for accreditation to meet the changing needs of pupils.

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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