



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

A report on

Sporting Chance

Date of inspection: January 2022

by

Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Sporting Chance

Sporting Chance Newport opened in summer 2021 as an independent special day school for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The school is located close to the centre of the city of Newport and administered by Sporting Chance Newport, a community interest company.

The school is registered for up to 12 pupils aged eleven to sixteen years. There are currently 10 pupils at the school, most of whom have a statement of special educational needs. A few pupils are looked after by local authorities in Wales.

The head of education has been in post since September 2021, They are supported by a head of sport, head of wellbeing, a class tutor and team of teaching and learning assistants.

Main findings

Strengths

Since the school was established, senior leaders and staff have been successful in creating a warm, nurturing environment, which most pupils respond to well. This supportive environment is starting to help pupils, particularly those previously hard to engage in education, to develop more positive attitudes about themselves and others.

In lessons observed and wider activities around the school, most pupils behave well, show interest in their learning and foster positive working relationships with their peers and staff. They know and understand classroom routines well and generally settle quickly to tasks to maximise their learning. As a result, in relation to their starting points, many pupils are beginning to build greater confidence in their abilities.

The proprietor and senior leaders have strengthened the school's management structures. Heads of education and wellbeing have been appointed to drive improvements in the quality of provision, and a school management board to oversee all aspects of the school's work. Working together with senior leaders, the management board is beginning to set out clearer strategic goals and identify short-term and medium-term priorities for the school.

Recommended areas for action

The school does not comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Whilst the school has made several improvements in the quality of provision and leadership and management, curriculum and improvement planning remain areas for action.

The school should:

- comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003
- improve curriculum planning and schemes of works to develop pupils' skills in all areas of learning across the curriculum and ensure their individual needs are met
- enhance self-evaluation and improvement planning

Compliance with the standards for registration

Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

- draw up and implement effectively a written policy on the curriculum supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work [1(2)]
- ensure the curriculum gives pupils experience in the following areas: linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education [1(2)(a)(ii)]

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:

The school does not currently meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. To comply fully with these requirements, the school should address the issues identified above for each standard.

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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