



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

A report on

United World College of the Atlantic Ltd

Date of inspection: October 2022

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About United World College of the Atlantic Ltd

UWC Atlantic College was established in 1962. The college is the founding member of the United World Colleges, a group of 18 independent international schools and colleges around the world. It is a residential co-educational college for pupils from across the world that is situated on the south coast of Wales at St Donat's Castle.

UWC Atlantic College was registered by the Welsh Government as an independent school in April 2014. It offers a range of academic and activity-based opportunities for pupils aged 16 to 19 years of age.

There are currently 352 pupils at the college. All the pupils are boarders.

Pupils join the college from around 82 different nationalities and come from a diverse range of cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Around 68% of pupils do not speak English as their first language. There is a wide range of around 79 different languages spoken by pupils. Only a very few pupils speak Welsh as their first language.

UWC Atlantic College has specific criteria for entry that consider a pupil's ability and attitude. Approximately half of the pupils are offered scholarship places that are awarded by the college or by international selection committees. Around 13% of pupils are on the college's special educational needs (SEN) register and receive support from the college. There are no pupils with a statement of special educational needs.

The school was last inspected in September 2016. The current principal was appointed in August 2021.

In January 2022, the Welsh Government requested that Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) undertake a focused inspection of the college, with a particular focus on standard 3 of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

HMI inspected the college on 18 and 19 January 2022. At this time, the college did not meet the requirements for this standard. The college submitted a post inspection action plan to the Welsh Government to indicate how it would address the shortcomings identified and this was accepted.

In October 2022, the Welsh Government requested Estyn and CIW undertake a follow up focused inspection, with a focus on the shortcomings identified in January 2022 and to consider whether the college now meets standard 3 of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, 'The welfare, health and safety of the pupils'.

HMI gathered evidence from the following range of activities:

- scrutiny of policies and questionnaire results
- meetings with the principal, staff and members of the governing body
- meetings with the designated safeguarding person and her deputies
- meetings with pupils

Main findings

Strengths

The principal and governing body have taken swift action to address the shortcomings identified at the time of the last inspection.

The college has strengthened a range of policies including the safeguarding policy, anti-bullying policy and safer recruitment policy to ensure they are fully compliant with the latest Welsh Government guidance and reflect the college's procedures.

The roles and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding person (DSP) and her deputies are clearly defined and understood. The college has appointed additional deputy safeguarding persons, to strengthen the leadership of safeguarding. Minutes of safeguarding meetings and actions are maintained and up to date. Staff record pupil safeguarding concerns swiftly using a single online system. The DSP monitors all concerns and responds appropriately, this includes contacting outside agencies for advice and support and formally referring concerns when appropriate. Most safeguarding records are up to date.

Staff and leaders, including members of the governing body have undertaken relevant training, including child protection and safer recruitment training.

Staff have a sound understanding of the procedures to follow if there is a concern about a pupil or an allegation against a member of staff, including the principal or the designated safeguarding person. The college has introduced a secure online platform for staff to report any concerns about members of staff. This ensures that information is held confidentially in one location and can be accessed by appropriate authorities if needed.

Staff provide an appropriate level of supervision for pupil led activities. There are well-defined boundaries contained within risk assessments. These are shared with and well understood by all participants.

Staff and pupils understand the revised behaviour policy including expected standards of behaviour and the range of sanctions that could be imposed. Staff apply these sanctions consistently.

Pupils feel safe at the college. Pupils are happy to raise any concerns with adults or their peers and feel that they will be listened to and appropriate action will be taken.

Areas for development

Continue to strengthen safeguarding procedures to ensure that all newly introduced policies and processes are fully embedded

Compliance with the standards for registration

Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 1.

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 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 this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 6.

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.

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:

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