



# Report summary for parents and carers on Brynmorgan Villa

**Date of inspection: May 2024**

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

# Overview

Brynmorgan Villa is a nurturing and caring school. Leaders have successfully established a well-qualified and experienced team of education staff who collaborate well with each other. Staff develop effective working relationships with pupils and know how to support their emotional needs well.

The school is supported by an external therapeutic team. The therapeutic team provides training to all staff on how to understand and support pupils additional learning needs. In addition, pupils receive input from the therapists to aid them with managing their emotions.

The school's holistic approach to supporting the needs of pupils is a notable strength. As a result, over time pupils demonstrate improvements in their behaviour, engagement, and concentration.

The school has developed opportunities for tailored educational experiences for pupils through beneficial links with a local secondary school. The school provides a wide range of learning experiences for pupils including off-site activities, which enhance their learning. For example, pupils have the opportunity to attend rugby, cadets and fishing activities. However, the provision to support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, is underdeveloped, and the strategic planning of careers advice and preparing pupils for adulthood, is in the very early stages of development.

The proprietor holds the role as headteacher and head of education. They have an active role in the school and understand the strengths and areas of development clearly. The proprietor is supported in the day to day running of the school by the passionate unit lead and complex needs manager. However, the wide ranging and extensive responsibilities of these leaders limits their ability to keep up to date with national developments in education or to embed effective systems to track and monitor pupil progress.

The promotion of safeguarding is a high priority at the school. The school places a strong emphasis on ensuring that pupils are safe. Leaders have strong links with the local authority safeguarding boards. However, a lack of formality in the implementation of the school's policies and procedures, weaken the provision at the school.

The school is not fully compliant with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

# Recommendations

- R1 Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024**
- R2 Review and clarify staff roles and responsibilities**
- R3 Sharpen processes for recording and monitoring information across the school**
- R4 Strengthen the curriculum provision for careers, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (SMSC) and personal social education (PSE)**

## Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

### **The quality of education provided by the school**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Although the school meets almost all of the regulatory requirements for this standard, in order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024 the school should:

- Ensure a written policy to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils is drawn up and effectively implemented (6b)
- Ensure all staff, supply staff, volunteers and pupils receive appropriate training in the independent school's safeguarding policy in accordance with any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers in relation to safeguarding (10a)

### **The suitability of proprietors and staff**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The provision of information**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

## **The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

## **What happens next**

**Since the school does not meet the standards required for registration, the Welsh Parliament will require the proprietor to submit an action plan within a specified period of time. This plan will set out the steps that the school will take to meet the standards, and the timescale within which it will complete each step.**

**Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.**

## School context

Name of provider	Brynmorgan Villa
Proprietor	Springboard Education and Care
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent special
Residential provision?	Yes
Number of pupils on roll	2
Pupils of statutory school age	2
Start date of inspection	20/05/2024
<p>Brynmorgan Villa is an independent special school for children and young people between the ages of 11 to 18 years. The school caters for pupils who have complex needs and learning difficulties consistent with social, emotional, and mental health difficulties.</p> <p>Pupils that attend the school are resident in the children's home that shares the school site. The school is situated in a semi-rural area in Neath Port Talbot. It is administered by Springboard Education and Care.</p> <p>There are currently two pupils at the school. These pupils are placed by local authorities in Wales.</p>	

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