



## Report summary for parents and carers on Cardiff Steiner School

**Date of inspection: May 2024**

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

# Overview

Cardiff Steiner School is a happy, close-knit community where adults and pupils care for and respect each other. Pupils' personal development and well-being are at the centre of all the school's work.

The school adheres faithfully to an educational philosophy aimed at developing the whole child, placing equal importance on intellectual, artistic, physical, and practical skills. Creative activities are an essential feature of the school, and the standards achieved by pupils in these areas are extremely high. Across the school, nearly all pupils make strong progress with their sensory and physical development, and are confident, articulate speakers for their age.

Staff know pupils and their families extremely well, have a strong understanding of their needs, and build secure professional relationships with all members of the school community. As a result, nearly all pupils feel safe at the school and appreciate its cohesive family atmosphere.

The school follows a well-established, highly adaptable curriculum focused on engendering a wide-ranging, life-long curiosity and love of learning. Its thematic approach to teaching encourages development of pupils' in-depth understanding of topics. However, in a few areas, particularly in mathematics, a lack of full-time, subject-specialist teachers limits the effectiveness of provision and the progress made by pupils.

Nearly all teachers have established welcoming, purposeful learning environments. However, on a few occasions, the pace of learning and the level of challenge in lessons are too low. For a minority of pupils, strategies to improve attendance are not effective and this is impacting on their progress in learning.

In keeping with Waldorf-Steiner philosophy, leadership of the school is shared through a flat management structure. Leaders know their individual faculties well, have together developed a strong culture of safeguarding, and take care to involve all members of the school community effectively in its working life. Trustees provide appropriate oversight and are fully engaged with the life of the school, acting as effective critical friends to leadership.

The school complies with all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

# Recommendations

- R1 Ensure that the leadership team effectively distil available information to develop a coherent overview of teaching, learning, attendance and the curriculum across the whole school
- R2 Sharpen monitoring and improvement work to focus its impact on pupil outcomes
- R3 Ensure that, across the school, teachers' expectations of pupils' learning and behaviour are appropriately high
- R4 Strengthen the provision for the progressive and systematic teaching of mathematics across the school
- R5 Improve attendance for the minority of pupils who do not attend school regularly enough

## 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 meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **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

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	Cardiff Steiner School
Proprietor	Cardiff Steiner Early Years Centre Ltd
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent all age
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	94
Pupils of statutory school age	69
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/04/2016
Start date of inspection	13/05/2024
<p>The school is a Steiner Waldorf School, basing its educational philosophy on the founding principles of the philosopher and scientist Rudolf Steiner.</p> <p>The school is an accredited, full member school of Waldorf UK, the national representative body for Steiner Waldorf education in the UK – an association of schools and early years settings, with members from across the UK offering Waldorf education.</p> <p>Cardiff Steiner School is a collaboratively led institution with a devolved leadership and flattened hierarchy where the headteacher role is shared by members of the School Management Team.</p> <p>The organisation of the school’s classes follows the established Waldorf Steiner model. Classes are arranged and named as follows.</p> <p>Kindergarten: pupils aged 3-6</p> <p>Lower school:</p> <p>Ty Crisial, Class 1 (Age 5 - 7) Ty Seren, Class 2/3 (Age 7 - 9) Ty Haul, Class 4/5 (Age 9 - 11) Ty Afon, Class 6/7 (Age 11 - 13)</p>	

Upper school:

Ty Tân, Class 8/9 (Age 13 - 15)

Ty Enfys, Class 10/11 (Age 15 - 17)

Ty Coed, Class 12 (Age 17 - 19)

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