

A report on
Westbourne School

**4 Hickman Road
Penarth
CF64 2AJ**

Date of inspection: September 2026

by

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

About Westbourne School

Name of provider	Westbourne School
Proprietor status	Private Limited Company
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent all age
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	256
Pupils of statutory school age	180
Date of previous Estyn visit	12/05/2026
Start date of visit	15/09/2026

School context

Westbourne School is a co-educational, independent school for pupils from 3 to 18 years of age. Located in Penarth in the Vale of Glamorgan, the school is part of an international group of schools with campuses in Sydney and Singapore.

The school is organised into two sections: the prep school, for pupils from nursery through to Year 5, and the senior school for pupils from Year 6 to Year 13. There are currently 256 pupils on roll. There are 107 pupils in the prep school and 149 in the senior school. There are 42 pupils boarding at the school.

Most pupils live in the Vale of Glamorgan or Cardiff, complemented by a British and International boarding community. The school currently has 23 nationalities within its community. Almost all day pupils have English as their first language with a very few pupils receiving support in learning English as an additional language.

Pupils may join the school at any stage. Prior to entry, prospective pupils are assessed on their non-verbal reasoning, English and mathematics ability.

The school's last inspection was in May 2026. At the time of the inspection, the school did not meet the requirements for the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. To comply fully with these requirements, the school was required to address the issues identified below:

ISS(W)R 2024, Part 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils [3.6(a)(b)(c)]
- Ensure that relevant health and safety laws are complied with [3.13]
- Ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 [3.14]

The Welsh Government asked the school to produce a post-inspection action plan to address the areas of non-compliance. The school submitted a plan in August 2026, and this was accepted by the Welsh Government during the same month.

In September 2026, an HMI conducted desk-based inspection activity to evaluate the school's compliance with the previously non-compliant Standards.

Main findings

Since the core inspection in May 2026, the school has taken purposeful steps to strengthen policies and practice relating to broader aspects of safeguarding practice and health and safety.

As a result, the school has implemented and embedded the actions detailed in their post-inspection action plan successfully.

On the basis of this inspection activity, there is no evidence to suggest that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements of Part 3 of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024: Welfare, health and safety of pupils.

Compliance with the standards 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

This Standard was not considered during this inspection.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

This Standard was not considered during this inspection.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

This Standard was not considered during this inspection.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

This Standard was not considered during this inspection.

The provision of information

This Standard was not considered during this inspection.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

This Standard was not considered during this inspection.

Recommendation regarding continued registration

When considering this school's registration, the Welsh Government may wish to have regard to the following:

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

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 (<http://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 (Wales) Regulations 2024. 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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