



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

**A report on**

**Tarren school**

**Date of inspection: June 2021**

**by**

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

## About Tarren school

Tarren School is an independent special school for children and young people between the ages of eight and eighteen years who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder.

The school is situated in a semi-rural area in Neath Port Talbot. It is administered by Val's Place, a specialist children's services agency that has another independent special school in England.

Pupils who attend Tarren School are either residents in the linked children's home or live locally. There are currently seven pupils at the school. Most of these pupils are placed by local authorities in Wales.

The headteacher has been in post since the school was established in 2020.

## Main findings

### Strengths

Staff at the school know and understand their pupils well and provide them with valuable support during lessons. They have positive working relationships with pupils, which helps pupils to behave well and apply themselves to their work. Overall, pupils engage enthusiastically and enjoy their learning experiences. Over time, they develop trust in staff and show perseverance in their learning.

The school is developing a valuable culture of professional learning, which is helping staff to understand and support pupils' needs. For example, staff have visited practitioners in similar contexts to observe and discuss best practice, as well as participated in courses and worked collaboratively with external specialists.

Since the school opened, senior leaders and staff have responded positively to the recommendation for action from the initial registration visit to further develop the curriculum and assessment planning for secondary age pupils. The curriculum is tailored well to meet the needs and interests of these pupils, and helps them to plan for their future.

### Recommended areas for action

The school should:

- ensure that pupils' targets from specialist therapeutic interventions are integrated appropriately in plans for teaching and learning
- further develop the outdoor area to provide a stronger focus on developing and supporting pupils' wellbeing and learning needs
- provide sufficient spaces for pupils to self-regulate away from other pupils
- further develop professional learning opportunities for all staff, including care staff from the home who provide additional support for pupils in education, to understand and provide for learners' specialist needs better

## **Compliance with the standards for registration**

### **Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school**

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 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:

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.

## Copies of the report

Copies of this report are available from the school and from the Estyn website ([www.estyn.gov.wales](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 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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Publication date: 23/07/2021