



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

A report on
Ysgol Y Rhos

Date of inspection: February 2020

by

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

About Ysgol Y Rhos

Ysgol y Rhos is located in the grounds of two former holiday lodges in a rural area between Wrexham and Mold.

The proprietor, Unique Care Homes Ltd., runs three children's homes in Wrexham and Denbighshire. The homes provide residential care and therapy for children aged 8 to 16 years with a history of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Many of the children have a history of placement breakdowns and exclusion from mainstream schools. Currently, eight pupils are educated on-site. A further four pupils are educated in mainstream schools.

Many of the children are placed by local authorities in North Wales, including Gwynedd, Ynys Môn, Conwy and Denbighshire. A few children are placed by local authorities in England. A few pupils are from Welsh-speaking backgrounds and have previously attended Welsh-medium schools.

The current headteacher was appointed in April 2019.

Main findings

Strengths

The company has appointed suitably qualified and experienced staff who have created a warm, nurturing culture at the school. They have high expectations for pupils' progress, communicate enthusiasm for learning, are flexible in approach and responsive to pupils' needs.

Nearly all pupils engage purposefully in their learning. They respond well to the relaxed, supportive environment. Over time, they develop positive attitudes about themselves and others.

The curriculum is broad and balanced. The school makes effective use of the local environment to support the delivery of the curriculum. For example, staff use the extensive grounds creatively to teach about bush craft and to build shelters.

The strategic management of the school is effective. Development planning highlights appropriate priorities for improvement. This includes the need to improve interventions and the trialling of new resources to support pupils' literacy.

Recommended areas for action

Make sure that support staff is consistent and has suitable skills, training and expertise to meet pupils' learning needs.

Improve the provision for the delivery of information communication technology curriculum (ICT). Ensure resources enable pupils to develop their skills in ICT and to use their learning to support other areas of the curriculum.

Embed the use of data as a tool for recording, evaluating and planning for pupils' progress.

Review procedures to involve the headteacher in planning for the admission of new pupils so that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the smooth transition in and induction of new pupils to the school.

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 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 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 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.

Copies of the report

Copies of this report are available from the school and from the Estyn website (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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