



Report summary for parents and carers on Glanynant Learning Centre (PRU)

Date of inspection: December 2022

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

Overview

Pupils placed at Glanynant PRU have a range of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Many pupils have missed a considerable amount of education, have significant gaps in their learning and have developed poor attitudes to their learning.

Staff support pupils well to encourage them to re-engage with their education and learning and, as a result, most pupils are beginning to make appropriate progress from their starting points. Nearly all pupils develop valuable working relationships with staff during their time at the PRU, and this helps them to feel safe and secure.

Around half the pupils are on part-time bespoke timetables and this limits the progress they make in their learning. When pupils are able to attend, many improve their levels of attendance compared to that in their previous schools. The PRU aims to reintegrate pupils into mainstream education, but only few pupils are successfully supported to do so.

The PRU provides a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the wide and diverse needs of the learners well. The worthwhile range of learning experiences build well on pupils' interests and includes valuable opportunities for outdoor activities, which support well the development of pupils' self-esteem and resilience.

However, the planning for the progressive development of literacy, numeracy, digital competence and Welsh is underdeveloped. As a result, pupils do not develop these skills well enough or have enough opportunities to use them confidently across different curriculum subjects and areas of learning experiences.

Teachers have a clear understanding of the range of abilities of their pupils and provide suitably varied learning activities. Support staff are used effectively and make a beneficial contribution to pupils' learning. Although teachers provide pupils with positive feedback on what they have done well, few give pupils effective guidance on how they can improve their work. As a result, feedback does not help pupils to improve the standard of their work.

Leaders do not use the results of self-evaluation activities well enough to identify shortcomings in pupils' progress and attendance and make continuous improvements. Leadership roles at all levels are not clear enough and the management committee does not provide the PRU with an appropriate level of scrutiny and challenge.

The current building is not big enough to be able to use the space flexibly to meet the needs of the pupils and staff, although plans are in place to add additional classrooms.

Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen improvement planning by ensuring self-evaluation activities focus on pupil progress and the standards they achieve**
- R2 Ensure that all members of the management committee and the local authority have a good understanding of the PRU's strengths and areas for development**
- R3 Improve attendance and pupils' engagement in full-time education**
- R4 Improve pupils' literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills**
- R5 Ensure that teachers' feedback enables pupils to know what they are doing well and what they need to do to improve**

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this PRU is in need of significant improvement. The PRU will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the PRU to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report

PRU context

Name of provider	Glanynant Learning Centre (PRU)
Local authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Pupil referral unit
Residential provision?	No
Multi-site provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	18
Pupils of statutory school age	18
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	13/05/2014
Start date of inspection	12/05/2022

Glanynant pupil referral unit (PRU), also known as Glanynant Learning Centre, has been registered as the Caerphilly local authority PRU since 2007. It currently supports pupils aged 5 to 13 years old. The local authority's Education other than at school (EOTAS) strategy clearly sets out that the PRU is part of a developing portfolio approach to provision for vulnerable learners in the authority. This strategy envisages that Glanynant PRU will become more closely integrated with a range of pathways and settings to meet the broad range of learners' needs which cannot be met at a mainstream school. Since September 2021, the PRU management committee has taken on responsibility for overseeing this overarching set of provision is known as Cwmpawd.

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