



Report summary for parents and carers on Monmouth School for Boys

Date of inspection: December 2023

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

Overview

Pupils at Monmouth School for Boys, because of the clear supportive ethos and the breadth of opportunity offered, feel a strong sense of belonging. It is a kind and caring community. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are committed to providing high-quality care and guidance to support pupils. During their time at the school, nearly all pupils make secure progress, develop a wide range of skills, and attainment at both GCSE and A Level are consistently above national averages.

The school makes highly effective use of its facilities and grounds and these enhance the extensive curriculum offer. Coupled with an extremely wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational trips, pupils have regular authentic opportunities to learn and develop new talents and skills.

At Key Stage 4 and in the Sixth Form, the school's curriculum is tailored to meet the interests, needs and future aspirations of pupils highly successfully.

Teachers apply their expert knowledge of public examination requirements highly effectively. In the best lessons, teachers entice pupils into learning and use a range of approaches to continually evaluate and develop their pupils' knowledge. Where teaching is less effective, lessons are overdirected and constrained. Staff know their pupils extremely well and, where appropriate, support pupils beyond lessons pastorally and academically, for example through 'subject surgeries', the Chaplain, Medical Centre and Library. This holistic approach supports pupils to engage positively with learning and benefit from all the experiences the school offers. It is a particular strength of the school.

Leaders at the school are reflective and have a broad range of skills and experience. Together, the leadership team are working constructively with staff as the school moves towards its impending restructure. However, the usual arrangements for quality assurance have, in part, been suspended. As a result, leaders do not currently have a complete overview of the quality of teaching and learning across the school and a secure understanding of the progress that groups of pupils make from their individual starting points.

The school complies with all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Recommendations

- R1 Resume and refine quality assurance processes to include a clear focus on the quality of teaching and its impact upon pupils' progress**
- R2 Build upon the existing effective practice across the school to improve the consistency of classroom practice**
- R3 Make the best use of assessment data to inform and enhance individuals' and groups' progress**

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 2003. 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.

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on how it has developed its Library to support pupils pastorally as well as academically, for dissemination on Estyn's website.

School context

Name of provider	Monmouth School for Boys
Proprietor	The Haberdashers' Company and the Governing Body
Local authority	Monmouthshire County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent
Residential provision?	Yes
Number of pupils on roll	475
Pupils of statutory school age	314
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	24/03/2014
Start date of inspection	04/12/2023
In September 2024 Monmouth School for Boys plans to merge with Monmouth School for Girls and Monmouth Preparatory School. The resulting school proposes to educate boys and girls from the age of three to eighteen. At the time of inspection, because of the intended merger, the school is in a period of strategic change.	

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