



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

**A report on  
Dan y Coed**

**Date of inspection: April 2018**

**by**

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

## About Dan y Coed

Dan y Coed is an independent special school situated in the West Cross area of Swansea. The school opened in November 2017 and is part of the Orbis Education and Care group.

The school is housed in a large detached property with easy access to the Mumbles coastline and the city of Swansea. The school is currently undertaking significant building work to extend the school buildings. This work includes the development of residential provision.

Dan y Coed provides education for pupils aged 5 to 19 years who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder. Currently, there are three pupils attending the school. All pupils have a statement of special educational needs. All pupils have English as their first language.

The head of education was appointed in September 2017.

The school's aim is to 'provide a safe and secure school environment that encourages individuality, confidence and self-esteem'.

## **Main findings**

### **Strengths**

The school has robust processes to assess pupils' specialist and educational needs when they join the school. This provides staff with valuable information, which they use well to plan a relevant and stimulating curriculum. Learning experiences are closely matched to individual pupil needs.

The school benefits from the input of a clinical team that includes a speech and language therapist, behaviour specialist and occupational therapist. They provide staff with helpful strategies and guidance to support pupils successfully. As a result, where pupils present challenging behaviours, staff manage these calmly and with confidence.

Staff monitor and track pupils' learning and behaviour thoroughly. They use this information well to set clear lesson objectives for pupils' learning, which build progressively on their prior achievements.

The refurbished school building provides a stimulating learning environment that meets the needs of pupils very well. Classrooms are spacious and well resourced. Staff make thoughtful use of the school's location to plan purposeful opportunities for pupils to access places of interest in the community to support their learning.

Senior leaders communicate a clear vision for the school that focuses well on providing an individualised approach to meeting pupils' needs. The school places a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for pupils to develop their independence and the skills they will need in their future lives.

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

### **Recommended areas for action**

Strengthen policies to ensure that they reflect the latest Welsh Government guidance and are appropriate to the context of the school.

Review the curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of pupils as the number of pupils at the school increases.

Ensure that there are opportunities for staff in the school to share good practice and develop consistent approaches with other schools within the organisation.

## **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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