



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

**A report on**

**United World College of the Atlantic Ltd**

**Date of inspection: January 2022**

**by**

**Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education**

**and Training in Wales**

## About United World College of the Atlantic Ltd

UWC Atlantic College was established in 1962. The college is the founding member of United World Colleges, a group of 18 independent international schools and colleges from around the world. It is a residential co-educational college for pupils from across the world that is situated on the south coast of Wales at St Donat's Castle.

UWC Atlantic College was registered by the Welsh Government as an independent school in April 2014. It offers a range of academic and activity-based opportunities for pupils aged 16 to 19 years.

There are currently 350 pupils at the college. Around 64% of pupils in the college are girls. All of the pupils are boarders.

Pupils join the college from around 82 different nationalities and come from a diverse range of cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Around 68% of pupils do not speak English as their first language. There is a wide range of around 79 different languages spoken by pupils. Only a very few pupils speak Welsh as their first language.

UWC Atlantic College has specific criteria for entry that take into account a pupil's ability and attitude. Approximately half of the pupils are offered scholarship places that are awarded by the college or by international selection committees. Around 13% of pupils are on the college's special educational needs (SEN) register and receive support from the college. There are no pupils with a statement of special educational needs.

The school was last inspected in September 2016. The current principal (headteacher) was appointed in August 2021.

In January 2022 the Welsh Government requested Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to undertake a focused inspection of the college, with a particular focus on standard 3 of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. Inspectors inspected the college on 18 and 19 January 2022.

## Main findings

### Strengths

- The principal and governing body are developing a suitable oversight of safeguarding arrangements within the college.
- Nearly all staff have received suitable generic safeguarding training.
- The college uses a suitable online system to record safeguarding concerns regarding pupils.
- The system of counsellors and trained peer listeners support pupils' wellbeing effectively.
- The college provides pupils with an inclusive, respectful community where pupils feel safe.
- Most pupils are happy to raise concerns with adults and their peers and have confidence that they will be listened to.
- The college organises regular, beneficial training and workshops for pupils on a range of relevant wellbeing topics.

### Areas for development

Overall, the school does not meet standards 3 or 4 of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 and needs to:

- Review and strengthen the safeguarding policy to ensure that it is fully compliant with regulations and reflects the college's policy and procedures for dealing with allegations against members of staff
- Ensure that appropriate action is taken quickly to protect pupils when the college needs to investigate serious safeguarding allegations
- Ensure that all online safeguarding records are up to date with the latest actions taken
- Ensure that safeguarding incidents and complaints are recorded and monitored to identify patterns of concerns
- Ensure that staff follow school policies and procedures when making safeguarding referrals or when seeking advice from outside agencies, such as social services or the police
- Strengthen record keeping procedures to ensure that all safeguarding information about a member of staff is recorded securely and easily accessible to appropriate professionals and organisations when required
- Maintain a confidential list of recent safeguarding allegations raised against any member of staff
- Ensure that minutes and actions from all safeguarding meetings are maintained and up-to-date
- Strengthen the role of the deputy safeguarding officer, including their attendance at key meetings
- Ensure that all staff are aware of procedures to follow if there is an allegation against a member of staff including the principal or the designated safeguarding person

- Ensure that staff risk assess all student led activities in advance and that they establish appropriate boundaries and share guidance with students
- Strengthen the behaviour policy by providing more details on sanctions, including for incidents of bullying, and guidance on how staff are to use them consistently
- Ensure bullying incidents are recorded, monitored and reviewed regularly to support pupils and identify areas of professional learning for staff
- Inform Welsh Government of the current responsible individual at the college and ensure that they have the appropriate disclosure and barring service certificate.

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

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

On this inspection, we did not inspect Standard 1.

### **Standard 2: The spiritual, moral, and cultural development of pupils**

On this inspection, we did not inspect Standard 2.

### **Standard 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

3(2)(b) Prepare and implement written policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school in compliance with Welsh Assembly Government Circular 005/2008, Keeping Learners Safe 275/2021

3(2)(d) Prepare and implement a written policy to promote good behaviour amongst pupils which sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupils misbehaving

3(7) Deploy staff in such a way as to ensure the proper supervision of pupils

### **Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff**

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

4(a) Ensure that the proprietor has applied for an appropriate disclosure and barring certificate and that application has been countersigned by the National Assembly for the purposes of Part V of the Police Act 1997

### **Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

On this inspection, we did not inspect Standard 5.

### **Standard 6: The provision of information**

On this inspection, we did not inspect Standard 6.

### **Standard 7: The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

On this inspection, we 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:

The school does not currently meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. To comply fully with these requirements, the school should address the issues identified above for each standard.

Inspectors' judgements on this limited inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

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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