



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

A report on

Oakmont School

Date of inspection: February 2024

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Oakmont School

Oakmont School is an independent day school located in a large, detached building, close to a retail park near Cardiff Bay in a suburban area of Cardiff. The school is part of the portfolio of Oakmont Services Group and a subsidiary of Audere Holdings Limited which are both private limited companies.

The school is registered for 16 pupils, aged 11 to 16 years old, who are facing challenges relating to social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Currently there are five pupils on the school roll aged between 11 and 14 years. All pupils are placed by local authorities in Wales and have an individual development plan (IDP) or statement of special educational need (SEN).

The headteacher has been in post since the school was established in September 2023. They are supported by the Director of Education for Oakmont Services. The school also has two qualified class teachers and four teaching assistants.

Main findings

Strengths

Leaders have a clear vision for the school and are in the early stages of establishing a curriculum that appropriately matches this vision of 'learn, grow, lead'.

Staff are thoughtful in their approach and are in the process of building positive and trusting relationships with pupils. They are beginning to understand the needs of pupils well. They provide pupils with valuable support throughout the day and act as positive role models.

Nearly all pupils attend school very well. This represents strong progress from previous education placements.

The strategic management of the school is sound. Leaders have highlighted appropriate priorities for improvement within their school development plan. This includes the need to widen the staff skillset and the use of new resources to support pupils' literacy, numeracy, and well-being. In addition, appropriate resources have been identified to support staff with tracking and monitoring pupils' progress in a range of areas.

The new school site is bright and welcoming, and the proprietor has made significant investment in ensuring that the building is fit for purpose.

Recommended areas for action

Ensure that the proprietor pays appropriate regard to the registration and operational guidance for independent schools in Wales.

Continue to adapt the curriculum, resources, and opportunities for accreditation to meet the needs of pupils as the school cohort continues to grow.

Develop community partnerships to allow pupils to widen their learning experiences, particularly in aspects of spiritual, moral, social, and cultural education.

Continue to develop professional learning opportunities for staff to develop further their skills to support pupils with complex additional learning needs.

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 the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

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)

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 publication. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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