



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

A report on

Craig Y Parc School

Date of inspection: July 2024

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Craig Y Parc School

Craig Y Parc is an independent school for pupils from age 3 to 19 years. The school is situated alongside Ty Cwtch registered children's home, which provides residential care for six young people. Currently, there are 18 pupils on roll at the school. All pupils have individual development plans (IDPs), statements of special educational need (SEN) or education, health and care plans (EHCP). A few pupils are care experienced children.

The school provides education for pupils with a wide range of complex physical needs and associated learning difficulties. These include cerebral palsy, dysphagia, autistic spectrum condition and epilepsy.

The school's proprietor is Ambito Care and Education operating under the parent company Saludem Healthcare, which provides services for young people and adults with complex support needs. Many pupils at the school are placed by authorities in South Wales. A few pupils are placed by authorities in England.

The current headteacher took up her post in June 2024. The deputy headteacher joined the school in May 2024. The leadership team are supported by a team of three teachers, one HLTA, four teaching assistants, thirteen learning support assistants, a business manager, an assistive technology manager, a positive behaviour support assistant, two school nurses, a speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and physiotherapist.

At the time of the core inspection in March 2023, inspectors found that the school did not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. To comply fully with these requirements, the school was required to address the issues identified below for each standard:

The quality of education provided by the school

- Ensure that where pupils have a statement, the education provided fulfils its requirements [1(2)(e)]
- Provide a programme of activities appropriate to the needs of pupils above statutory school age [1(2)(h)(i)]
- Ensure the curriculum provides the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress [1(2)(i)]
- Ensure lessons are well planned, teaching methods effective and suitable activities used; ensure class time is managed wisely [1(3)(c)]
- Ensure teachers provide education which enables all pupils within a class to make progress, including pupils with statements and those for whom Welsh or English is an additional language [1(5)]

Following this visit, the school were asked to produce a post-inspection action plan. A team of inspectors visited the school in October 2023 and February 2024 to discuss the school's progress against their action plan. Subsequently, HMI visited the school in July 2024 to evaluate the school's compliance with the previously non-compliant standards. At the time of this visit, HMI evaluated compliance against the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

Main findings

Strengths

Since the time of the core inspection in 2023, the school has made appropriate progress in responding to the areas of non-compliance. The school is now fully compliant with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

Nearly all staff at Craig Y Parc school develop positive and nurturing relationships with pupils. They develop a strong understanding of pupil interests and work effectively to meet their physical and emotional needs.

Leaders have ensured that a therapeutic offer is in place to meet the needs of pupils. This is beginning to have a positive impact on the range of learning experiences pupils enjoy during the school day, as well as important skills development. For example, pupils develop physical and independence skills during wheelchair driving sessions.

Leaders have made suitable adjustments to the curriculum and learning experiences planned for pupils. For example, pupils regularly enjoy lessons in the school grounds, such as growing vegetables in the garden and polytunnel. Further, the school now provides opportunities for pupils to gain a range of appropriate accreditation. For example, as part of Duke of Edinburgh work pupils learn how to play the piano or practise 'jiu-jitsu'. New leaders have quickly established systems to assure the quality of teaching and learning. For example, planning is collated and reviewed centrally.

Many pupils make secure progress in developing important skills during their time at school. For example, a few pupils learn how to calculate best value when shopping for items, comparing single items with multipacks.

There have been further changes to the leadership at the school since the time of the core inspection. These include very recent changes of headteacher and deputy headteacher as well as oversight provided by the wider organisation. As a result of this period of instability, many processes to oversee the running of the school are very newly established.

Areas for action

- Ensure that target setting and curriculum planning consistently supports pupils to progressively achieve small steps in their learning
- Ensure that quality assurance activities, for example lesson observations, focus sharply on the progress pupils make as a result of teaching and planned activities
- Improve the consistency of all staff's use of communication strategies
- Strengthen professional learning for staff, ensuring a focus on teaching and learning in a specialist setting

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 this visit, Estyn did not inspect this standard

Standard 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect this standard

Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect this standard

Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect this standard

Standard 6: The provision of information

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect this standard

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

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect 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 2024

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 (<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 2024. 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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This document has been translated by Trosol (English to Welsh).