



Report summary for parents and carers on Wyclif Independent Christian School

Date of inspection: September 2024

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

Summary

Wyclif Independent Christian School is a nurturing and happy community, whose members feel valued and respected as individuals. Strong working relationships among pupils, parents and staff are supported by a shared vision of 'learning through the lens of faith'. Pupils quickly develop a sense of belonging, and their positive behaviour and mutual respect contribute to the school's welcoming atmosphere and family feel.

On joining lower primary, nearly all pupils quickly begin to make sound progress in literacy and numeracy, demonstrating engagement and attentiveness in lessons. As they move through the school, upper primary pupils steadily build their skills and confidence in speaking, writing and mathematics. Most lower senior pupils build effectively on these foundations, alongside appropriate development of their IT (information technology) skills. Nearly all upper senior pupils are prepared appropriately for their public examinations during Years 11 to 13. Throughout the school, pupils of all ages make strong and regular use of their developing creative skills.

In the majority of lessons, teachers' strong subject knowledge and high expectations lead to effective learning and progress. However, the quality of teaching and learning across the school is too variable and, as a result, pupils in a minority of lessons do not make the progress of which they are capable.

The school's curriculum meets the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. However, provision for personal and social education, and for pupils' understanding of other faiths is underdeveloped.

Senior leaders embody the school's ethos and are well-respected by staff, pupils and parents. They provide effective operational management, but their capacity for self-evaluation and strategic planning is limited by factors including their substantial teaching commitments and unclear role definitions. The governing body focuses on operational oversight rather than strategic improvement, further limiting accountability. Leaders' limited quality assurance activities are insufficient to develop a strategic overview of the quality of teaching and resulting pupil progress.

Appropriate safeguarding policies are in place, and staff are trained to respond to concerns. However, the school's broader safeguarding culture requires strengthening and it must address identified concerns with related procedures.

The school is not fully compliant with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made five recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

- R1** Address the issues raised in the safeguarding letter
- R2** Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024
- R3** Strengthen the broader safeguarding culture of the school to ensure that all aspects of the school's activity are informed by best practice
- R4** Increase the rigour of self-evaluation and improvement planning to provide a clear strategic focus on the quality of provision and pupil progress
- R5** Improve consistency in the quality of teaching and assessment

Since the school does not meet the standards required for registration, the Welsh Government will require the proprietor to submit an action plan within a specified period of time. This plan will set out the steps that the school will take to meet the standards, and the timescale within which it will complete each step. The Welsh Government may then request Estyn to support the school through an improvement process.

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.

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 2024. 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 does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Although the school meets most of the regulatory requirements for this standard, in order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024 the school should:

- Prior to the appointment of any member of staff to work at the school, where the prospective member of staff is an individual in respect of whom the Secretary of State must issue a disclosure and barring certificate under section 113A of the Police Act 1997, the proprietor ensures that the individual has applied for an appropriate disclosure and barring certificate; and the individual makes the certificate available to the proprietor.
- Prior to the confirmation of the appointment of all staff, carry out appropriate checks to confirm their identity, medical fitness, previous employment history, character references and where appropriate qualifications and professional references and take into account information in determining whether their appointment will be confirmed.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

The school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Although the school meets almost all of the regulatory requirements for this standard, in order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024 the school should:

- Ensure effective security arrangements for all school buildings.
- Provide a legionella risk assessment.

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.

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).

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