



# Report summary for parents and carers on The Potteries

**Date of inspection: December 2024**

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

# Summary

The Potteries is a caring environment where all staff are committed to supporting the needs of their pupils. As a result, nearly all pupils feel safe at the school.

Most pupils who attend the Potteries transition into full time education once their placement has ended. This is a strength of the school.

The school offers a broad curriculum, which covers many aspects of the required areas of learning. However, there are currently limited opportunities for pupils to gain qualifications or accreditations at an appropriate level to their ability or for pupils to learn about an important range of subjects and themes, for example science, humanities, sex and relationship and careers.

Staff know their pupils' emotional needs well and have positive professional relationships. However, expectations of what pupils can achieve academically are not always sufficiently high. Further, there is limited capacity for the school to suitably teach a range of subjects to GCSE level.

The headteacher is provided support by the wider organisation. However, quality assurance processes have not ensured that the provision adapts effectively to meet the educational needs of its current pupils.

Leaders have made limited progress with addressing recommendations from previous visits.

There are no comments on pupils' learning, well-being or attitudes to learning. This is because the number of pupils present at the time of the inspection was too few to report on without identifying individual pupils.

The school does not comply with the Independent School Standards (Wales) 2024.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1** Comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024
- R2** Establish effective procedures for quality assurance and improvement planning that focus clearly on pupil progress and the standards they achieve
- R3** Establish ongoing and robust professional learning for staff to effectively deliver the curriculum and meet pupils' learning needs
- R4** Improve curriculum provision so that it covers all areas of learning and enables pupils to study a range of courses at an appropriate level

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. Welsh Government may then request Estyn to support the school through an improvement process.

## 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

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 proprietor should:

- Ensure that a written policy on the independent school's curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in subparagraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively [2(1)(a)]
- Ensure the written policy, plans and schemes of work take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an IDP or a statement, do not undermine the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and take into account the principles in Part 1 of the Convention [2(1)(b)]
- Ensure that full-time supervised education for all pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in the following areas: language, communication, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, health, well-being and expressive arts [2(2)(a)]
- Provide for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that is presented in an impartial manner, enables them to make informed

choices about a broad range of career options, and helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential [2(2)(e)]

- Ensure the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress, including providing differentiated opportunities where appropriate, and effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life [2(2)(h)]
- Enable pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught [2(3)(a)]
- Ensure well planned lessons, effective teaching methods, suitable activities and wise management of learning time [2 (3) (c)]
- Demonstrate that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and uses information from those assessments to plan teaching so that pupils can progress [2(3)(g)]

### **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 meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **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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