

**A report on**

**Homely Learning**

**Date of inspection: December 2024**

**by**

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

**and Training in Wales**

## About Homely Learning

Name of provider	Homely Learning
Proprietor status	Limited Company
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent Primary
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	6
Pupils of statutory school age	6
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	

### School context:

Homely Learning is an independent primary day school, which shares its premises with a family home in Llangorse, Powys.

The school is registered for fifteen pupils, aged 5 to 11 years old, and makes additional learning provision for pupils with mild or moderate learning needs such as dyslexia or autism.

There are currently six pupils on role between five and eight years of age. A very few pupils have individual development plans (IDPs) maintained by a local authority. However, no pupils are placed by a local authority. The school teaches pupils for three days each week across a 39-week academic year.

The proprietor has been in post as headteacher since the school was established in May 2024 and is supported by a team of two learning support assistants.

## Main findings

The headteacher is passionate about the successful development of the school and has a clear vision for the educational experience she wishes to offer: 'nurturing curious caring minds'.

Staff know their pupils very well. They take time to build positive working relationships with them, based on a sound understanding of their emotional and well-being needs. As a result, pupils, including those previously hard to engage in education, rapidly develop positive attitudes towards their learning. All staff put consideration for pupils' well-being at the centre of their working practice. As a result, pupils feel safe and secure in a nurturing environment.

Throughout the school, many pupils behave well, in both lessons and during unstructured time. They show interest in their learning and, in response to strong modelling from adults, foster positive working relationships with their peers and staff.

Across the curriculum, and in keeping with their age and ability, pupils make suitable progress in building their knowledge and understanding. Development of pupils' creative and crafting skills is particularly strong, and they engage in these activities with notable enthusiasm.

The school's curriculum policy and planning cover the areas of learning required by the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations. However, planning below these high-level policy intentions is limited to topic lists, with responsibility for short-term lesson planning and adapting planning in response to assessment lying with the classroom teacher. As a result, the school's planning for progressive development of pupils' skills is underdeveloped.

Across the areas of learning, wide ranges of learning contexts and resources are used, with many opportunities to develop skills in authentic contexts. However, within a few subjects, there is an over-reliance on proprietary worksheets, with limited responses expected from pupils. This limits the school's ability to adapt teaching activities and tasks, to fine tune levels of challenge. As a result, in these lessons pupils do not always make the progress of which they are capable.

The headteacher combines a full-time classroom teaching timetable with sole responsibility for the operational running of the school. This limits their capacity to plan strategically and to complete quality assurance processes, self-evaluation and plan for improvement.

## Recommended areas for action

Ensure that the school complies fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024

Build leadership capacity to enable leaders to plan strategically and undertake quality assurance activities to identify areas for improvement

Ensure that planning focuses sharply on progressively developing pupils' skills

## **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**

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

### **The spiritual, moral, social 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.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school does not fully 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 proprietor should:

- Ensure that admission and attendance registers are maintained in accordance with regulations made under section 434 of the 1996 Act(1) [3(17)]
- Ensure that policies and strategies required by the Part are reviewed regularly and updated when appropriate, and maintain a written record of when each policy and strategy has been reviewed and updated [3(18)]

### **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.

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

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect this standard.

### **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.

### **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 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 2024. 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.

## 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 (Wales) 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

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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