

Report summary for parents and carers on Bettws Lifehouse

**Date of inspection: September
2025**

Summary

Bettws Lifehouse is a caring and inclusive school where pupils' well-being is central to daily life. Staff model the school's values in their work, and pupils reflect these values in their behaviour and attitudes. The school's golden words 'respect, safe, learn' are evident in daily routines and relationships. This creates a calm and supportive environment where pupils feel ready to learn and succeed.

A notable strength is the 'Champion' system. Every pupil has a trusted adult who provides guidance and reassurance. This consistent support helps pupils feel secure and confident, and underpins the strong progress they make in resilience, independence and social skills.

Teaching is well matched to pupils' individual needs. Staff know their pupils well and plan lessons that are both engaging and appropriately challenging. Teaching approaches encourage pupils to be curious, reflective and willing to try new things. Pupils learn to overcome challenges, build resilience and take pride in their achievements. Relationships in classrooms are positive, and staff manage learning with sensitivity and high expectations. As a result, nearly all pupils make strong progress in their social, emotional and academic skills.

The curriculum is broad, balanced and practical. Activities such as gardening, beekeeping and outdoor numeracy give pupils meaningful real-life experiences and develop essential skills for the future. The school also provides valuable opportunities for pupils to think about adulthood and life beyond school. Careers advice has strengthened, and visits to external organisations broaden pupils' understanding of the world of work and further study. This important work is developing well, though it is not yet fully embedded.

The school has a strong safeguarding culture and works closely with families to ensure pupils are safe and well supported. Staff are trained in child development, trauma and well-being practices, which helps them to respond effectively to pupils' needs.

Leadership is highly effective and places pupils at the centre of decision-making. Leaders set clear strategic direction and foster a strong culture of collaboration across the staff team. They also place a high priority on staff development, with regular opportunities to share practice and learn together. However, links with other schools are in the early stages of development.

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 inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The provision of information

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

On the basis of this inspection, there is no evidence that the school does not comply with this Standard.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1. Strengthen and extend the school's work on preparation for adulthood to build on and embed emerging good practice
- R2. Extend partnership working with other schools to broaden collaboration and strengthen the sharing of knowledge and expertise

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.

Full Report

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the

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