

# **Report summary for parents and carers on The Hollies Special School**

**Date of inspection: September  
2025**

This report is also available in Welsh.

# Summary

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The Hollies provides a caring and supportive environment where pupils are happy and safe and enjoy their learning. Staff know pupils very well and place a strong focus on well-being. Nearly all pupils feel listened to and valued.

Teaching is carefully planned around individual needs. Staff use clear systems to track progress in small steps, which helps pupils to celebrate their achievements and build confidence. Over time, pupils develop strong skills in communication, social interaction and independence, supported by consistent routines and high expectations. They engage positively in learning, take increasing responsibility for themselves and make steady progress that enhances their future opportunities. Pupils benefit from a wide range of creative and cultural opportunities, including music, drama and art. These experiences enrich learning and allow pupils to develop new skills and interests. Care, support and guidance are strong. Transitions into The Hollies and when pupils moved on to secondary education are managed effectively, with home and school visits helping new pupils to settle well. Families are regularly involved in understanding the curriculum and contributing ideas. Pupils also gain from positive community links, such as visits from local services and opportunities to perform in care homes and day centres.

Leadership has established a positive culture where staff feel supported to share ideas, try new approaches and learn from one another. This teamwork contributes to continued improvements in teaching and learning.

The condition of the building is an area of concern. Roof leaks, water damage and unrepaired outdoor shelters have reduced the amount of valuable learning space available. This limits some opportunities for pupils to play, explore and regulate their emotions. Leaders continue to raise these concerns with the local authority.

Overall, the school provides a safe, inclusive and engaging education, with strong teaching and care, though improvements to the site are still needed.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

R1 Clarify the roles and responsibilities of leaders across the school and ensure that these are well understood and not duplicated

R2 Refine systems so leaders at all levels can monitor teaching, learning and well-being effectively

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

## Full Report

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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