

**A report on**  
**Wyclif Independent Christian School**

**Wyndham Street  
Machen  
Caerphilly  
Machen  
CF83 8PU**

**Date of inspection: November 2025**

**by**

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

## About Wyclif Independent Christian School

Name of provider	Wyclif Independent Christian School
Proprietor status	The school was founded in 1982 and is a registered charity with a board of governors.
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent all age
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	197
Pupils of statutory school age	184
Date of previous Estyn visit	23/09/2024
Start date of visit	26/11/2025

### School context

Wyclif Independent Christian School is an all-age, co-educational, independent day school operating from four sites in the village of Machen, near Caerphilly. The school was founded in 1982 and is a registered charity with a board of governors. The current headteacher has been in post since the school was founded.

Wyclif is a Christian school that bases its educational philosophy on mainstream evangelical principles and concepts. The school's practice is founded upon the belief that Christianity is relevant to every area of thought and life, with the Bible as the foundation for both curriculum and moral teaching. The school aims 'to enable each pupil to develop his or her own potential to the full as far as possible'.

The school is organised into four sections: lower primary from K5 (reception) to Year 3; upper primary from Year 4 to Year 6; lower seniors from Year 7 to Year 8; and upper seniors from Year 9 to Year 13. The total number of pupils across the school is 197.

Many pupils travel from a wide catchment around Machen including from Newport, Cardiff, Pontypridd, Pontypool and Merthyr. About 20% of pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds. Most pupils speak English as their first language. A very few pupils speak

English as an additional language. A very few pupils speak Welsh as their first language. The school does not aim to make pupils bilingual in English and Welsh.

The school operates an open admissions policy and does not select by ability.

At the time of the school's last inspection in September 2024 the school did not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. The Welsh Government asked the school to produce a post-inspection action plan to address the areas of non-compliance. To comply fully with these requirements, the school was required to address the issues identified below:

### **The suitability of proprietors and staff**

The proprietor should ensure that:

- all staff have a DBS check within the last three years [23(a)]
- all required pre-employment checks are completed ahead of a person's appointment [20(3)]

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

The proprietor should:

- ensure effective security arrangements for all school buildings [27(d)]
- provide a legionella risk assessment [27(a)]

An HMI and an Additional Inspector (AI) visited the school in November 2025 to discuss the school's progress against their action plan.

## **Main findings**

Since the core inspection in September 2024, the school has embedded a robust system to ensure that all required pre-employment checks are undertaken ahead of a person's appointment, and that ongoing checks are completed in accordance with statutory timescales. Significant improvements have been made to site security, including remotely controlled magnetic locks, intercom entry systems, and visibility panels in external doors. Furthermore, suitable legionella risk assessments have been drawn up for all school buildings, and all recommendations from these assessments have been actioned.

As a result, the school has implemented and embedded the actions detailed in their action plan successfully.

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to suggest that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements of both Part 4 (The suitability of proprietors and staff) and Part 5 (Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools) of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

## **Compliance with the standards 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**

This standard was not considered on this visit.

### **The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

This standard was not considered on this visit.

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

This standard was not considered on this visit.

### **The suitability of proprietors and staff**

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

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

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

### **The provision of information**

This standard was not considered on this visit.

### **The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

This standard was not considered on this visit.

## **Recommendation regarding continued registration**

When considering this school's registration, the Welsh Government may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

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 Act 1998.

Every possible care has been taken to ensure that the information in this document is accurate at the time of going to press. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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