

# **Report summary for parents and carers on Aran Hall School**

**Date of inspection: November  
2025**

This report is also available in Welsh

# Summary

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Aran Hall School provides a calm, supportive environment where nearly all pupils feel safe, valued and respected. Strong, trusting relationships between staff and pupils underpin all aspects of school life and help pupils to re-engage with education after previous difficulties. Staff know each pupil well and use personalised approaches that build confidence, promote independence and encourage enjoyment in learning.

The curriculum is broad, relevant and designed around pupils' interests and future goals. It includes a range of accredited qualifications and practical, life-based learning such as budgeting, shopping and cooking. These experiences help pupils to apply knowledge authentically and develop the skills they need for adult life. Teachers and support staff plan learning together effectively, creating purposeful lessons that match individual needs well.

A distinctive feature of the school is its Achieve! programme, a well-established and inclusive framework that celebrates pupils' academic, social and personal progress effectively. It recognises effort, responsibility and success, helping pupils set goals, reflect on their achievements and take pride in their learning. The programme promotes self-discipline, motivation and teamwork and contributes strongly to the school's positive ethos and pupils' growing confidence.

Nearly all pupils make clear progress in developing their communication, literacy and numeracy skills. They become more confident in expressing their ideas, completing written work and applying numeracy in real-life contexts.

Safeguarding is a clear strength of the school. Staff share information promptly and act swiftly when concerns arise. Nearly all pupils say they feel listened to and well supported. Behaviour is managed fairly and consistently, and nearly all pupils show respect and kindness towards one another.

Leaders and governors provide strong strategic direction and ensure that education, care and therapy work together effectively. They know what the school does well and what still needs to improve. However, the school does not track pupils' progress in key skills such as literacy, numeracy and digital competence rigorously enough, making it difficult to measure progress over time. In addition, the personal and social education (PSE) curriculum is not yet planned and delivered consistently across year groups.

Overall, Aran Hall School is a caring, inclusive community where nearly all pupils thrive personally and socially and make meaningful progress in developing confidence, communication and independence.

# Compliance with the regulations for registration

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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

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

- R1 Establish robust systems to track and monitor pupils' progress in key skills, including literacy, numeracy and digital competence
- R2 Strengthen the coherence and progression of personal and social education (PSE) to ensure it meets pupils' needs and is planned and delivered consistently across the school

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 [full report](#)

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