

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn

**Date of inspection: November
2025**

This report is also available in Welsh.

Summary

Most pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn feel safe and supported and many demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. The school tailors its care, support and guidance effectively and provides a range of courses and pathways that meets the needs of most pupils. Although the school is working on improving attendance, the rates continue to be lower than expected.

Teachers and support staff foster positive working relationships with pupils and in many lessons, pupils engage with their learning and make secure progress. However, in a minority of lessons, pupils do not make as much progress as they could due to shortcomings in teaching. Teachers in these lessons do not always plan lessons that consistently challenge and meet the needs of all pupils. As a result, a minority of pupils are passive and do not engage fully in the learning.

There is a well-coordinated approach to improving pupils' literacy skills across the curriculum and a strong focus on developing a positive reading culture. Although at the early stages of development, there are useful opportunities for pupils to develop their numeracy, digital and Welsh language skills. The school also provides suitable opportunities for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities. However, opportunities for them to undertake leadership roles and whole school responsibilities are limited.

Leadership responsibilities are shared reasonably across the school. Senior and middle leaders carry out a range of activities to evaluate the school's work. However, these processes do not always focus sharply enough on aspects of that need improving, in particular in relation to teaching. The curriculum for Year 10 and 11 is suitably broad and balanced, although the cost of the curricular offer in the sixth form is not evaluated closely enough. The school has a significant deficit budget.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Work with the local authority to eliminate the budget deficit
- R2 Sharpen self-evaluation and improvement planning to focus precisely on the elements of teaching that need most improvement
- R3 Ensure that teaching consistently challenges pupils to make strong progress
- R4 Improve attendance
- R5 Increase the opportunities for pupils to undertake leadership roles and whole school responsibilities

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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