

# **Report summary for parents and carers on Ceredigion Pupil Referral Unit**

Date of inspection: 19/01/2026

# Summary

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Ceredigion Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provides a calm and supportive environment in which pupils feel known, valued and listened to. Leaders and staff place pupils' well-being at the centre of their work, establishing strong, trusting relationships that help pupils engage with learning and develop confidence. Most teaching is nurturing and purposeful, with staff acting as positive role models and managing behaviour and emotional regulation effectively. Many pupils make suitable progress from their starting points, develop important skills, and achieve meaningful qualifications that prepare them well for the next stage of their lives.

Many pupils have valuable opportunities to develop literacy, numeracy, digital skills, creativity, problem-solving, independence and practical skills through a wide range of lessons, projects and off-site activities. They benefit from exciting approaches, including virtual reality, woodland work, gym sessions, cookery, vocational courses and enrichment activities, which make learning engaging and relevant. Pupils learn about relationships, sexual health, online safety and consent, and are able to participate in a range of experiences through the school's reward scheme and external partnerships.

The PRU supports pupils to prepare for their next steps through strong links with local colleges, Careers Wales and other education providers. A few pupils complete work experience placements where appropriate.

Staff at the PRU provide individual support for pupils with additional learning needs, using strategies such as visual timetables, sensory diets and fidget tools, while encouraging pupils to participate in decisions about their learning.

The PRU is largely safe and caring. Staff use restorative approaches and emotional coaching effectively to help pupils manage behaviour, and safeguarding arrangements are robust. Nearly all staff demonstrate secure knowledge of safeguarding procedures, and concerns are reviewed systematically. Attendance remains a concern, and leaders continue to work closely with families to improve attendance.

Leadership is committed to pupils' well-being, and professional learning helps staff meet the complex needs of pupils. However, leadership capacity is limited by reliance on a small number of key individuals, which affects strategic planning and the consistent evaluation of the impact of initiatives. Leaders use a wide range of evidence to inform self-evaluation and improvement planning, which gives them a well-informed understanding of practice, but because they do not consistently evaluate the impact of actions over time, they are not always clear which strategies have the greatest effect on pupils' progress and standards.

The management committee is committed and actively engaged in the PRU, but over-reliance on leaders' information limits effective challenge, resulting in inconsistent strategic oversight, accountability and evaluation, and reducing its impact on improvement and value for money.

Across the PRU equity of offer for provision through the medium of Welsh is inconsistent.

Whilst leaders are investing in providing nurturing learning environments to promote pupils to feel safe and calm, the current accommodation arrangements do not support pupil well-being and learning opportunities well enough.

# Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Improve the consistency of the quality of teaching and strengthen the planning and the provision for skills
- R2 Improve attendance
- R3 Strengthen leaders' strategic and evaluative rigour at all levels, so that improvement planning focuses more sharply on impact
- R4 Strengthen the role of the management committee

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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