

**A report on  
Greenfields School**

**Graig Y Saeson  
Forge Road  
Baesleg  
Newport  
NP10 8AT**

**Date of inspection: March 2026**

**by**

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

**This report is also available in Welsh**

## About Greenfields School

Name of provider	Greenfields School
Proprietor status	CareTech Community Services Ltd
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent
Residential provision?	Yes
Number of pupils on roll	7
Pupils of statutory school age	7
Date of previous Estyn visit	17/02/2025
Start date of visit	18/03/2026

### School context

Greenfields is an independent special school located in a suburb of Newport. The school is owned and managed by CareTech Community Services Ltd, a private limited company. The proprietor owns children's homes across Wales, England and Scotland.

The school is registered to provide education for up to 30 pupils aged 9 to 18 years who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). It caters for a mix of residential and day placements. At the time of the inspection 7 pupils were on roll at the school.

At the inspection in February 2025 the school did not comply with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

The headteacher has been in post since September 2025 and is supported by a deputy headteacher appointed at the same time. The school employs four teachers, one learning support assistant and an administrative assistant. A regional director of education from the wider organisation, also appointed in September 2025, provides additional support.

The Welsh Government required the school to produce a post-inspection action plan (PIAP) to address the areas of non-compliance. To comply fully with these requirements, the school was required to address the following issues under each standard:

## **Standard 1: The Quality of Education Provided**

- Ensure that a written policy on the independent school's curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively [2(1)(a)]
- Ensure the written policy, plans and schemes of work take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an IDP or a statement, do not undermine the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and take into account the principles in Part 1 of the Convention [2(1)(b)]
- Ensure that full-time supervised education for all pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in the following areas: language, communication, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, health, well-being and expressive arts [2(2)(a)]
- Ensure that pupils acquire skills in speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy. [2(2)(b)]
- Provide personal, social, and health education which— i) reflects the independent school's aims and ethos, and ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act [2(2)(d)]
- Provide for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to date careers guidance that is presented in an impartial manner, enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options, and helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential [2(2)(e)]
- Ensure the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress, including providing differentiated opportunities where appropriate, and effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life [2(2)(h)]
- Enable pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught [2(3)(a)]
- Enable that the teaching fosters in pupils the application of intellectual, physical or creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves, [2(3)(b)]
- Ensure well planned lessons, effective teaching methods, suitable activities and wise management of learning time [2(3)(c)]
- Ensure that teaching demonstrates a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils and ensures these are taken into account in the planning of lessons, [2(3)(d)]
- Ensure that teaching demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught, [2(3)(e)]

- Ensure that the teaching uses effectively learning resources of a good quality, quantity and range, [2(3)(f)]
- Demonstrate that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and uses information from those assessments to plan teaching so that pupils can progress [2(3)(g)]
- Ensure effective strategies for managing behaviour and encouraging pupils to act responsibly, [2(3)(h)]
- Ensure that teaching does not discriminate against pupils contrary to Part 6 of the 2010 Act [2(3)(k)]
- Ensure that the independent school has a framework for pupil performance to be evaluated, by reference either to the independent school's own aims as provided to parents or national norms, or to both. [3]

## **Standard 2: The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which—
  - i) enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence,
  - ii) enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law,
  - iii) encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those within the independent school's community, those living and working in the locality in which the independent school is situated and to society more widely,
  - iv) encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act,
  - v) provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in Wales and the United Kingdom more widely, vi) assist pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions,
  - vii) encourage pupils to respect the fundamental values of democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, [4 (c)]

### **Standard 3: The Welfare, Health and Safety of Pupils**

- Ensure arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the independent school, [6(a)]
- Ensure a written policy to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils is drawn up and effectively implemented [6(b)]
- Ensure the welfare of pupils at the independent school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy that includes assessment of activities undertaken outside of the independent school's premises [8(a)]
- Ensure all staff, supply staff, volunteers and pupils receive appropriate training in the independent school's safeguarding policy in accordance with any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers in relation to safeguarding [10(a)]
- Ensure a written record of that training is maintained. 10(b)]
- Ensure that a written behaviour policy is drawn up and effectively implemented that—
  - (i) encourages and rewards good behaviour,
  - (ii) sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupil misbehaviour,
  - (iii) has regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers [11(a)]
- Ensure a record is kept of the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour. [11(b)]
- Ensure that bullying at the independent school is prevented so far as reasonably practicable, by the drawing up and implementation of an effective anti-bullying strategy.[12]
- Ensure that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy that includes consideration of activities outside of the independent school's premises.[13]
- Ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005(1).[14]
- Ensure that pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of independent school staff. [16]
- Ensure that admission and attendance registers are maintained in accordance with regulations made under section 434 of the 1996 Act(1). [17]

#### **Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff**

- Ensure the proprietor carries out appropriate checks to confirm in respect of each such person—
  - (i) the person’s identity,
  - (ii) the person’s medical fitness,
  - (iii) the person’s right to work in the United Kingdom, and
  - (iv) where appropriate, the person’s qualifications, [20(2)(d)]
- Ensure in the case of any person for whom, by reason of that person living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining such a certificate is not sufficient to establish the person’s suitability to work in an independent school, such further checks are made as the proprietor considers appropriate, having regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers [20(2)(f)]
- Ensure the checks referred to in sub-paragraph (2) (except where sub-paragraph (4) applies) must be completed before a person’s appointment. [20(3)]
- Ensure
  - (i) where an individual is registered with the DBS up-date service if the proprietor checks the individual’s certificate status at least every three years;
  - (ii) where an individual is not registered with the DBS up-date service if the proprietor applies for a DBS certificate in respect of that individual at least every three years, and the proprietor, having considered the information from the check or application, considers that the individual remains suitable for the position to which the individual is appointed; [23(a)]
- Ensure for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (a) to (d), where a DBS up-date service check has not been made or a DBS certificate has not been applied for in respect of any individual within a period of 3 years ending with the date on which these Regulations come into force, the first such check or application must be made within a period of 180 days beginning with the date that these Regulations come into force. [23(e)]
- Ensure a register in accordance with the independent school’s policy on data retention which shows such of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (3) to (5) as is applicable to the independent school in question. [24(1)]
- Ensure the register referred to in sub-paragraph (1) may be kept in electronic form, provided that the information recorded is capable of being reproduced in legible form. [24(2)]
- Ensure in relation to each member of staff (“S”), whether—
  - (i) S’s identity was checked,
  - (ii) a check was made to establish whether S is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act,

- (iii) a check was made to establish whether S is subject to a prohibition order, an interim prohibition order, a suspension order or an interim suspension order,
- (iv) a check was made to establish whether S is subject to any direction made under section 142 or 167A of the 2002 Act, section 128 of the 2008 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction,
- (v) checks were made to ensure, where appropriate, that S had the relevant qualifications,
- (vi) a DBS certificate was obtained in respect of S (or where S is registered with the DBS up-date service a check made of S's certificate status),
- (vii) a check of S's right to work in the United Kingdom was made, and
- (viii) checks were made pursuant to paragraph 20(2)(f), including the date on which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained. [24 (3)(b)]

#### **Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

- Ensure the independent school buildings provide reasonable resistance to penetration by rain, snow, wind and moisture from the ground, [27(f)]
- Ensure classrooms allow effective teaching and do not compromise health and safety [27(j)]
- Ensure there is a satisfactory standard and adequate maintenance of decoration [27(q)]

#### **Standard 6: The provision of information**

- Ensure where a pupil with an individual development plan or statement is registered at the independent school, the independent school must provide such information to the local authority as may reasonably be required for the purpose of a statutory review of the individual development plan or statement. [28(8)]

#### **Standard 7: The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

- Ensure that written records to be kept, in accordance with the independent school's policy on data retention, of all complaints, including whether they are resolved at the preliminary stage or proceed to a panel hearing and any action taken by the independent school as a result of those complaints and whether they were upheld, [29(j)]

In July and November 2025, a team of inspectors visited the school to discuss progress against the PIAP. Subsequently, HMI visited the school in March 2026 to evaluate compliance with the previously non-compliant standards.

## Main findings

Since September 2025, the newly appointed leadership team have taken decisive and purposeful action to establish a new culture of learning at Greenfields School. Leaders and staff demonstrate a strong shared commitment to improving the life chances of pupils. As a result, they have successfully addressed many of the areas of non-compliance identified in the inspection of February 2025.

Across the school, staff foster respectful and supportive working relationships with pupils and ensure that the learning environment is both calm and welcoming. However, the quality of teaching remains inconsistent, and as a result, pupils do not make strong progress across the curriculum.. In the most effective sessions, teachers use purposeful questioning to support pupils to reflect on their learning and develop confidence, independence and practical skills. However, in many lessons, learning activities do not provide sufficient challenge and are not adapted effectively in response to pupils' needs. At times, weak subject knowledge and ineffective teaching strategies result in limited progress. Over-direction and excessive scaffolding further reduce opportunities for pupils to think independently and take ownership of their learning. In addition, inconsistencies in expectations and classroom routines, including pupils being off-task or not attending lessons, limit the continuity of learning. A minority of pupils are not educated on the school site. Overall, while a majority of pupils are generally willing to engage and work independently when given the opportunity, teaching does not consistently support them to make good progress.

During the inspection, pupils' behaviour was appropriate. They engaged positively with visitors and many were keen to discuss their work. Pupils benefit from a range of appropriate opportunities to develop their cultural awareness and wider understanding of the world. For example, through weekly assemblies, regular enrichment activities, working in the community and charitable activities.

The safeguarding of pupils is a high priority at the school. All staff receive appropriate safeguarding training and safeguarding issues are discussed regularly in staff meetings. There are appropriate policies in place to help consistency in dealing with any safeguarding concerns. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow should a pupil make a disclosure to them. Most staff members follow agreed guidelines for managing behaviour, which supports consistency across the school. The school maintains generally suitable risk assessments for the many off site activities.

Since the core inspection, there has been a significant turnover of staff. Leaders have implemented secure recruitment processes that meet safer recruitment requirements. All required vetting checks and records are completed and recorded in line with *Keeping*

*Learners Safe* and the Independent School Standards. As a result, all newly appointed staff are appropriately vetted and safeguarding arrangements are secure.

Leaders have improved the school premises so that pupils now learn in an attractive, secure and welcoming environment. The building is well maintained and suitably resourced.

Leaders have strengthened planning and processes for statutory reviews of individual development plans (IDP's) and education, health and care plans (EHCP's). Reviews are now completed within required timescales and documentation is timely and accurate.

The school now maintains detailed and securely stored digital records of complaints, including formal and informal concerns. The complaints policy provides clear guidance and supports effective oversight.

The school does not comply with 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**

The school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard

Although the school meets most of the regulatory requirements for this standard, in order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024 the school should:

- Ensure that full-time supervised education for all pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in the following areas: language, communication, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, health, well-being and expressive arts [2(2)(a)]
- Ensure the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress, including providing differentiated opportunities where appropriate, and effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life [2(2)(h)]
- Enable pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught [2(3)(a)]
- Ensure well planned lessons, effective teaching methods, suitable activities and wise management of learning time [2(3)(c)]
- Ensure that teaching demonstrates a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils and ensures these are taken into account in the planning of lessons, [2(3)(d)]
- Ensure that teaching demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught, [2(3)(e)]

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **The provision of information**

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

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

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

## **Recommendation regarding continued registration**

The school does not meet the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

## 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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