

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Hafod Lon

Date of inspection: 02/03/2026

Summary

Ysgol Hafod Lon is a lively, caring and welcoming community where pupils respond very positively to the school's inclusive and supportive ethos. As a result, most pupils make strong progress in a wide range of skills, which supports their personal development and prepares them effectively for future life. The school provides valuable opportunities for pupils to develop independent living skills and occupational experiences, which prepares them well for the next steps in education, training or employment. All pupils receive appropriate accreditations and move on to specialist colleges, day centres or the world of work. Staff also nurture a proud sense of Welshness and ensure that Welsh identity, language and culture are a prominent part of school life. The school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils are sound.

All pupils have additional learning needs and staff know these needs very well. They provide effective support and offer rich opportunities for pupils to work towards their personal targets. The school's resources are used extremely effectively, including the hydrotherapy pool, the rebound therapy room and the outdoor areas, to support pupils' learning and well-being. Sensory and therapeutic provision are a strong feature of the school's work and support pupils' engagement, well-being and progress effectively.

The school works very effectively with parents, health agencies, social services and other partners to ensure an inclusive approach to meeting learners' complex needs. Parents are supported to use strategies that help their children's development and there are strong links between the home and the school. Pupils are also given regular opportunities to visit local businesses and venues, developing important social and life skills in real-life contexts.

Teaching is effective across the school and is based on a sound understanding of pupils' needs. Staff plan practical and interesting activities that build on previous learning and focus on small steps in terms of progress. A variety of communication methods are used, including sign language and communication devices, to support the development of pupils' communication skills. Teaching assistants provide very effective support and encourage pupils to engage enthusiastically with their learning. Assessment and feedback are used successfully to track and improve learning.

The school plans the development of pupils' skills very effectively across the curriculum. Pupils make strong progress in their communication, social, independent, physical and creative skills. They develop valuable life skills through activities such as working in the cafe, taking care of allotments and taking part in business enterprises. Many are also given valuable work experience opportunities in the community. The school's sensory provision is a strong feature, with pupils benefitting from a variety of sensory and therapeutic experiences.

The curriculum is broad, balanced and planned carefully to meet the needs of all pupils. Pupils follow purposeful learning pathways that support their development and aspirations for the future. There are rich opportunities to broaden their experiences, including business enterprises, community activities and programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The school's leadership is robust and based on a clear vision for developing pupils. Leaders promote a strong culture of well-being, safeguarding and staff's professional development. Effective monitoring and evaluation processes help the school to identify strengths and plan for continuous improvement. Governors understand the school's work well and challenge and support leaders appropriately, while funding is managed effectively to support the quality of teaching and pupils' well-being.

As a result of effective provision and robust leadership, pupils make strong progress and are prepared well for their lives beyond the school.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made one recommendation to help the school continue to improve:

R1 Continue to disseminate the most effective practices across the school and beyond

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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