

Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Special School

Date of inspection: 11/05/2026

Summary

The school is a calm, caring and welcoming place where pupils feel safe, respected and valued. The headteacher, her staff and governors work together well to create a positive environment that helps pupils build confidence, independence and important life skills. Staff know pupils extremely well and provide highly personalised support to meet their different needs. Relationships between staff and pupils are a particular strength of the school.

The curriculum is designed carefully to prepare pupils for adulthood. Pupils learn important communication, literacy, numeracy and independence skills through practical and meaningful activities. For example, pupils take part in shopping, cooking, enterprise projects and travel training. Older pupils benefit from valuable work experience opportunities in places such as cafés, farms and local schools. The school's travel training programme is especially strong and helps many pupils learn to travel safely and independently in the community.

Teachers and support staff provide purposeful and engaging lessons. They use practical, sensory and visual activities effectively to help pupils understand and remember their learning. Pupils benefit from calm routines, strong support and activities matched carefully to their needs. In a few lessons, however, activities are not adapted closely enough or rely too much on worksheets, which slow pupils' progress.

Nearly all pupils show positive attitudes to learning and behave well. Pupils are kind and respectful to each other and to adults. Many pupils develop strong social skills and learn how to keep themselves safe, including online. The school teaches relationships and sexuality education thoughtfully and sensitively to help pupils understand friendships, consent, personal safety and healthy relationships.

The school provides many opportunities for pupils to take responsibility and contribute to the wider community. Pupils take part in leadership groups, community events and local projects confidently. They are proud of their school and enjoy helping others.

Leaders provide strong and caring leadership and have created an inclusive culture where pupils' well-being and progress are central to the school's work. Governors support the school well and leaders use funding carefully to improve learning, safeguarding and support for families. Leaders know the school's strengths and areas for improvement, although improvement planning does not always focus sharply enough on measuring the impact of changes on pupils' progress and well-being.

Recommendations and next steps

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

- R1 Ensure that all policies are updated to reflect local and national guidance
- R2 Continue to develop improvement planning and ensure an appropriate focus on expected outcomes and impact on pupilsAdd in recommendations

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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