



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

**Annual monitoring inspection report on
Birribi**

Date of inspection: February 2018

by

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

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Context

Birribi education is registered as an independent special school. It is located in the village of Haycastle, on the outskirts of Haverfordwest. The school provides education for up to two children aged 8 to 18 years resident in the company's children's homes. It operates in a classroom attached to one of the company's two children's homes. The school opened in April 2016.

The school provides full-time education for pupils who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and associated learning difficulties. There is currently one pupil on the school roll.

The headteacher was appointed in September 2017.

Main findings

Strengths

The school is committed to providing a calm and welcoming learning environment for pupils with a range of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The school offers a suitable range of learning experiences. These include valuable opportunities for pupils to achieve recognised qualifications in English and mathematics, and to develop important life skills such as cooking and managing money. There are beneficial arrangements in place for pupils to attend work experience placements and taster courses at a local training provider.

The school has worthwhile links with a range of specialist agencies such as counselling services and health professionals. These arrangements provide valuable support and guidance for pupils. For example, the links with the local police support community officer (PCSO) provide useful information about how pupils can keep themselves safe in the community and online.

The school provides valuable support and guidance about careers and further education options to assist pupils to make informed decisions about their future.

The classroom is well-maintained with colourful displays that help to provide a stimulating learning environment. Although the school has very limited external space, it makes good use of local facilities such as the leisure centre and swimming pool for physical education lessons and recreation activities.

Areas for development

The school has suitable schemes of work in place to support the delivery of specific courses such as English and mathematics GCSE. However, planning and schemes of work for other subjects such as science are at a very early stage of development.

The school carries out risk assessments for all off-site educational visits. Although these identify significant hazards and the actions needed to reduce the risk, they often lack sufficient detail and do not link well enough with the needs of the pupils.

The new headteacher has reviewed many of the school policies since his appointment in September 2017. However, a minority of documents in relation to the curriculum are too generic and do not reflect current practice at the school well enough.

The headteacher is beginning to put in place systems to evaluate a few aspects of the school's work. The self-evaluation report provides a useful overview of the school's main areas for improvement and links suitably with the development plan. However, the school does not use a broad range of first-hand evidence when evaluating pupils' standards or the quality of provision. For example, it does not use information from baseline and mid-term assessments to evaluate pupil progress from their entry point or against individual targets.

The school needs to apply for a material change to the category of need for which it is registered to include pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recommendations

- R1 Continue to develop appropriate schemes of work for subjects across the curriculum
- R2 Review off-site risk assessments to ensure that they include sufficient and detailed information about the visit
- R3 Update all policies regularly and ensure that they are specific to the school
- R4 Ensure that self-evaluation processes are based on a wide range of first-hand evidence and focus sufficiently on standards and pupil progress
- R5 Seek advice from the Welsh Government regarding admission of pupils with SEBD

Compliance with the standards for registration

Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school

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

Standard 2: 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.

Standard 3: 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.

Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 4.

Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 5.

Standard 6: The provision of information

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 6.

Standard 7: 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 registration

When considering this school's registration the National Assembly for Wales may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Inspectors' judgements on this annual monitoring inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

School information

School	Birribi
School number	6686020
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	05/02/2018
Proprietor	Birribi
Staff	1 x lead teacher, 1 teaching assistant
Number of pupils	1
Provision	Term time only for pupils resident in the company's children's homes
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school	ASD, specific learning needs and neurological development disorders
Last Section 163 inspection	n/a
Last annual monitoring inspection	02/02/2017
Last CSSIW inspection	