



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

A report on

Greenfields School

Date of inspection: February 2024

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Greenfields School

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 16 years who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). It caters for a mix of residential and day placements. There are nine teachers, including the acting headteacher and four learning support assistants. The school has five classrooms and two outside learning areas.

There are currently 15 pupils on the roll and nearly all are of secondary school age. Many pupils are looked-after by their local authority. Just under half have a statement of special educational needs (SEN), individual development plan (IDP) or an education health and care plan (EHCP).

Since that last annual monitoring visit there has been a significant change in staffing. The acting headteacher has been in post since September 2023 and a new additional learning needs co-ordinator started in January 2024.

The school had its last full inspection in May 2017. The last annual monitoring visit was in September 2022.

Main findings

Strengths

- Pupils benefit from a flexible and tailored curriculum, which allows them to access a wide range of relevant accredited qualifications.
- The school provides an appropriate range of learning experiences. These are well matched to pupils' interests and aspirations.
- Classrooms are welcoming and help to create a positive learning environment.
- The school has successfully engaged with other education providers and services. Staff that have accessed these have generally benefited from them.
- Staff have positive relationships with pupils and the culture of mutual respect is understood and followed by most pupils most of the time.
- Staff know their pupils well. They are skilled and compassionate in effectively managing pupils' behaviour in a non-confrontational way.
- Annual reports to parents are thorough and comprehensive. They provide parents with a very clear overview of the progress that pupils are making.

Areas for development

- The school has recently gone through significant changes to staffing and leadership. The leadership team is currently without a deputy headteacher. This places additional responsibility on the headteacher in managing the school on a day-to-day basis. This has limited leaders' ability to fully implement the recommendation from the last visit in a timely enough manner.
- The school is beginning to identify long and medium-term targets for pupils, including expected outcomes in relation to examination and destinations. However, target setting that informs day-to-day teaching is not always sufficiently specific. As a result, teachers' and pupils' own understanding of progress being made towards targets is underdeveloped.
- The school has recently introduced a system to celebrate what pupils have done well in their learning and to identify future improvements needed. However, pupils do not always understand what they need to do to improve. In addition, outcomes of formative assessments are not used consistently to inform planning.

Recommendations

The school should:

R1 Comply fully with the Independent Schools (Wales) Regulations 2003

R2 Increase leadership capacity

R3 Continue to develop a consistent and meaningful approach to the planning of teaching and assessment and ensure that pupils understand what they need to do to improve in their learning

Progress in addressing recommendations from previous visit or inspection report

R1. Strengthen pupil targets so that pupils have a better understanding of their individual areas for improvement and are more involved in assessing their own progress

The school has recently taken a number of broadly appropriate steps to address this recommendation. This includes revising relevant policies, developing a more consistent approach to the planning of lessons, the ongoing assessment of pupils and involving pupils in setting individual targets for improvement. The extent to which pupils are actively involved in assessing and understand the progress that they are making is developing slowly. Opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their skills progressively are inconsistent.

Compliance with the standards for registration

Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 1.

Standard 2: The spiritual, moral, 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

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

- Provide access to the admissions register, and any attendance register [6(6)(b)]

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 continued registration

When considering this school's registration the Welsh Government may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

The school does not currently meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. To comply fully with these requirements, the school should address the issues identified above for each standard.

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

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 Regulations 2003. 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 publication. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

Publications Section
Estyn
Anchor Court, Keen Road
Cardiff
CF24 5JW or by email to publications@estyn.gov.wales

This and other Estyn publications are available on our website:
<http://www.estyn.gov.wales>