



**Report summary for parents and  
carers on  
Ysgol Hendrefelin Special School**

**Date of inspection: March 2024**

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

# Overview

Ysgol Hendrefelin is a happy school where pupils feel valued and safe. Pupils are polite, courteous, and welcoming to visitors. They show a strong awareness of cultural diversity and are proud members of the school's caring and inclusive community.

Pupils at the school communicate well with each other and with staff. They share their thoughts and feelings confidently and listen carefully to the views of others.

The curriculum is broad, balanced, and purposeful, with a clear rationale. Staff at the school plan a wide range of exciting and enjoyable learning opportunities for pupils which engages pupils well. The provision for pupils to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through outdoor learning is a notable strength of the school.

Staff have an extensive knowledge of the pupils and build strong working relationships with pupils. Across the school, teachers and support staff plan carefully to ensure that most pupils make strong progress from their starting points. Nearly all support staff are highly effective in adapting the learning to ensure that it is accessible for all pupils.

Leaders have embedded an inclusive ethos across Ysgol Hendrefelin. This is captured well in the school's vision, 'learning today for a better tomorrow'. Leaders model positive behaviours effectively and work well together. As a result, there is strong team collaboration. A notable strength of the school is the way in which leaders at all levels actively promote pupils' well-being.

# Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen the consistency and effectiveness of data analysis and the use of other available information to drive strategic priorities**
- R2 Continue to develop the staff's understanding of challenging behaviour in supporting pupils to regulate their emotions**
- R3 Continue to strengthen arrangements to improve attendance**

## What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

## School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Hendrefelin Special School
Local authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Maintained Special
Number of pupils on roll	154
Pupils of statutory school age	154
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Maintained Special is 46.8%)	51.1%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Maintained Special is 100.0%)	100.0%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	1%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	8%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/04/2020

Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	30/11/2015
Start date of inspection	11/03/2024
<p>Ysgol Hendrefelin is a local authority special school maintained by Neath Port Talbot local authority. In 2013, Ysgol Hendre and Velindre Community School were federated to become the federated special schools of Afan Nedd. In January 2015, these federated schools amalgamated with Bryncoch Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) to become Ysgol Hendrefelin. The school is situated on three sites, one in Bryncoch, Neath and two in Port Talbot.</p> <p>There are 169 pupils on roll, aged between 3 and 16 years, with a range of complex additional learning needs (ALN). These needs include moderate learning difficulties (MLD), autistic spectrum condition (ASC) and social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). Nearly all pupils have a local authority-maintained statement of special educational need (SEN) or an individual development plan (IDP).</p> <p>The school provides residential short stay placements for pupils aged 11 to 16 with a wide range of complex educational needs.</p> <p>Around half of pupils are eligible for free school meals. A very few pupils come from ethnic minority backgrounds. A few pupils are in the care of the local authority. English is the predominant language of nearly all pupils.</p> <p>The headteacher was seconded as acting headteacher in September 2019 and appointed as permanent headteacher in April 2020.</p>	

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